

Media release

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Highways experts talk future and forthcoming challenges

Over 100 construction and engineering professionals attended the Midlands Highway Alliance (MHA)'s fourth annual event at Derby's Roundhouse on 1 July. Representatives of over 30 organisations learnt about the future challenges facing the highways and transport industry.

The event, also supported by the Midlands Service Improvement Group (MSIG), allowed industry experts to network and learn from other projects, while also showcasing the work of the Midlands Highway Alliance and its members.

Phil Crossland, Chairman of the MHA said: "On behalf of the MHA, I was delighted so many industry leaders came together to explore working more collaboratively.

"The MHA continues to overcome industry challenges and promote efficient working through collaboration and the number of attendees at the event is a testament to the MHA's ability to support and care for its members."

Keynote speaker for the event, Sir John Armitt, President of ICE (Institute of Civil Engineers) outlined the importance of collaboration across the supply chain and the challenges the industry now faces following government changes.

As an alliance, its members are also provided with access to frameworks for both construction and professional services which allows them to make significant savings while being innovative with their solutions. The framework providers AECOM, Aggregate Industries, Balfour Beatty, Tarmac, Carillion, Eurovia and Galliford Try all supported the event

Other topics discussed at the event included Driverless Cars, Building Information Modelling (BIM) and the ICE State of Nation report, which was published on 30 June.

For more information on the MHA visit www.mhaweb.org.uk

Ends

Notes to editors

About the MHA

The Midlands Highways Alliance was formed in July 2007 and was the first partnership of its kind in the UK. It has gone from strength to strength. Seen as an exemplar by the National Audit Office in 2010, the MHA is now being used as the model for regional alliances being set up across the country. Membership for the Midlands Highways Alliance has more than doubled from the original 10 authorities to the present 21 (July 2016). Initially its work was supported by a grant from the Department for Transport (DfT) but it is now fully self-funded from a mixture of member subscriptions and levies on the use of our frameworks. The MHA's objective aims are to work together to improve performance, share best practice and make efficiency savings in the delivery of highway services. Over the last seven years it estimates its activities in developing collaborative frameworks have saved MHA member authorities an estimated £4 million a year. It works under five work streams: Medium Schemes, Term Maintenance, Professional Services, Assets, Standards and Commodities and Skills Academy. These work streams are looking at innovative projects and sharing best practice that will help contribute to generating more efficient working in the industry. The MHA recognises the value in collaborative working, both between authorities, and with the whole of the highway sector, and look to develop close relationships with both contractors and suppliers. Leicestershire County Council acts as the host authority for the alliance, providing financial management support, communications support and by employing four MHA staff.

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