

Wednesday 23 September 2026

MHA+ Annual Event and Awards Highways and Transport: The Future

Holywell Park Conference Centre, Loughborough. LE11 3GR

Speaker	Pen portrait
Ann Carruthers  Chair: Midlands Highway Alliance Plus	Ann is Director of Growth, Environment and Transport for Leicestershire County Council responsible for highways, transport, growth, planning, environment and waste services. She leads a team of 1,000 people operating a predominantly in-house delivery model. Prior to this Ann worked with local authorities across Scotland and England and spent a number of years with Transit New Zealand responsible for introducing sustainable transport options across New Zealand's state highway system. Ann is a Past President of ADEPT (Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport), a Fellow of the CIHT, Chair of Midlands Highway Alliance+ and a member of the Highways Sector Council.
Karen Notman  Manager: Midlands Highway Alliance Plus	As manager of Midlands Highway Alliance (MHA+), Karen brings together its 38 members from across England into a collaborative member-led alliance for sharing and developing expertise and best practice and for collaborative procurement. A Chartered Civil Engineer with more than 35 years of experience in the construction industry and across most local authority highway specialisms, she is a past chair of the ICE East Midlands region and currently sits on the East Midlands Infrastructure Partnership Steering Group. She specialises in local authority highway project and service delivery, contract management and public sector procurement, having successfully led public and private sector multidisciplinary teams on highway schemes and programmes across the East and West Midlands. Karen played a key role in both the development and management of MHA+ £960mn Professional Services Partnership (PSP) and billion-pound Medium Schemes (MSF) Frameworks, overseeing the strategic direction of the frameworks and the broader alliance, supporting its public sector member authorities to deliver high-quality projects and services and providing value for money outcomes.

Keynote speakers	Pen portrait
Adrian Coy  Chair, East Midlands Infrastructure Partnership	East Midlands Infrastructure Partnership aims to be the voice of infrastructure in the region, drawing together the knowledge and expertise of infrastructure professionals. Adrian has worked in both the public and private sectors as client and consultant. His roles with Scott Wilson included Framework Director for the 3 Counties Alliance Partnership, a forerunner of the MHA Professional Services Partnership and was Strategic Director on the MHA PSP1 Professional Services Board. Throughout his career Adrian has been active within the ICE at branch, region and national/ international levels. He has served on Council, the Executive Board and a number of ICE Committees, Panels and Steering Groups. He chairs the ICE Further Learning Examinations Panel that includes MEng level examination for BEng graduates, particularly those in Hong Kong, wishing to sit the Chartered Professional Review.
Darren Capes  Head of Road Infrastructure Technology, Department for Transport	Darren is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the IET and IHE; his career has encompassed most areas of municipal engineering with particular emphasis on design, construction and evaluation, transport planning, and technology development and implementation. He has a particular interest in emerging transport technologies and the readiness of local highway authorities for the challenges that new vehicle and data technologies will bring. His previous role as Transport Systems Manager for City of York Council focussed on this area as does his current role . Darren is President of the Institute of Highway Engineers (IHE), and past Chair of the Transport Policy Panel of the Institution of Engineering and technology (IET). He manages the DfT Transport Technology Forum and advises on the challenges of emerging transport technology both in the UK and internationally, including at many ITS World Congresses, House of Commons Transport Select Committee and House of Lords Science Select Committee.
Workshop presenters	
Nick Henstock  West Northamptonshire Council	Nick was appointed Assistant Director of Highways and Transport in 2022. He has over 30 years' experience working in, or for local government; the majority of which has been in highways and transportation related areas. Prior to working for West Northamptonshire he has worked for Northamptonshire County Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, Ringway Jacobs, Babbie and Hyder.

Workshop presenters	Pen portrait
Lidia Derossi  Associate Director Aecom	Lidia is a Chartered Civil Engineer with over a decade of experience in sustainable transport, place-making and urban regeneration. She is a recognised expert in the development of Mobility Hubs across the UK and Ireland, helping local authorities turn policy ambitions into deliverable, people-centred transport solutions. Her work focuses on integrating public transport, active travel, shared mobility and high-quality public spaces to improve connectivity, support decarbonisation and create more liveable communities. Through collaboration with local authorities, transport providers and multidisciplinary teams, she has helped shape Mobility Hub strategies and projects that respond to the needs of diverse places and communities. Alongside her Mobility Hub work, Lidia has led a range of sustainable transport and public realm projects, promoting healthier, more attractive and people-focused places.
Ian Pulford  Smart City Communications	Ian is a senior telecommunication professional and has filled executive roles in the UK and overseas. Since leaving BT (British Telecommunications), he has led SME businesses, focused on smart city initiatives, and worked with central and local governments to deliver large scale programmes on behalf of corporates, councils, and universities. Bringing drive and ambition, leading the deployment of core connectivity and data-centric projects, delivering sector specific pilots in health, energy, water, transport, and citizen engagement. Ian has a background in electrical engineering and holds an MBA from Temple University (Tokyo campus), attaining the Dean's Award for excellence.
Joe Mundy  Milton Keynes Council	Joe is a senior transport planner and is the transport lead for innovation projects. He is the strategic lead for electric vehicle infrastructure, data and UTC implementation. Over the last 4 years, Joe has been involved in numerous self-driving vehicle, robot and drone projects. On the StreetCAV projects, almost 2,000 people have used self-driving shuttles, in mixed-use traffic, seeking to unlock a first-of-a-kind, first/last mile service offering. In the most recent, RoboPASS, Joe led on the creation of a licensing framework which allows local authorities to permit the deployment of robots in public spaces.
Dean Sargeant  Director for Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services Telford & Wrekin Council	Dean manages a diverse portfolio that includes highways, transport, strategic regeneration, environmental services, community safety and enforcement. With more than 24 years' experience across local government and consultancy, Dean has worked with a number of local authorities, as well as a professional engineering and design consultancy, and is passionate about the role of innovation, technology and partnership working in shaping the future of highways and transportation services. A Chartered Engineer and Fellow of both the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Institute of Highway Engineers, Dean has delivered major infrastructure, transportation and regeneration programmes throughout his career. His experience spans service transformation, strategic transport planning, highway asset management and the delivery of nationally significant infrastructure projects. Dean also serves as Deputy Chair of the ADEPT Engineering Board and is committed to supporting and developing others, nurturing talent and helping shape the next generation of engineering and infrastructure professionals.

Workshop presenters	Pen portrait
Gurpreet Gill  Project Director and Civil Engineering Practice Lead (Midlands), Amey Consulting	Gurpreet leads multidisciplinary teams delivering transportation and infrastructure projects across the UK. With extensive experience spanning highways, active travel, public realm and major infrastructure projects, his work has supported local authorities, national agencies and public sector organisations in transforming transport networks and improving connectivity for communities. Alongside his project delivery role, Gurpreet is passionate about developing the next generation of engineering professionals and creating pathways for long-term career success. As a Chartered Civil Engineer, mentor and leader, he has supported apprentices, graduates and experienced practitioners through professional development, ICE progression and professional review preparation. Through mentoring programmes, industry collaboration and talent development initiatives, he champions professional growth, helping engineers build the skills, confidence and qualifications needed to succeed in the profession
Tosin Oloruntoba  Learning & Development Partner, Galliford Try	Tosin has a proven track record of designing, delivering, and evaluating impactful training and development programmes across the construction, logistics, and corporate sectors. With strong expertise in learning facilitation, stakeholder engagement, talent development, and early careers programmes, Tosin is passionate about developing people and building organisational capability. Tosin supports Galliford Try workforce development initiatives and drives early careers programmes across the UK. He works closely with business leaders, managers, and stakeholders to deliver innovative learning solutions that enhance employee performance, support talent pipelines, and contribute to long-term organisational success.
Darren Thrupp  Transport for West Midlands	Darren is Traffic and Network Coordination Manager for Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), responsible for coordinating activities and driving performance across the West Midlands Key Route Network. Passionate about reducing disruption and improving customer experience, he works closely with partners to maintain network resilience amid growing demand, incidents, events, streetworks, and major infrastructure schemes. Drawing on extensive operational experience, Darren combines practical delivery with strategic thinking to address the challenges facing modern highway networks. He is a strong advocate for collaboration, innovation, and proactive planning to help keep road users moving safely and efficiently.
Adam Holland  Transport for West Midlands	Adam is the Regional Transport Coordination Centre (RTCC) Manager at Transport for West Midlands, leading a multi-agency team responsible for coordinating regional transport operations, resilience, and incident response. With over 15 years' experience across transport, security, and policing, he has played key roles in the delivery of major events including the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Adam is passionate about partnership working, operational leadership, and developing innovative approaches to transport coordination and network resilience

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Steve Birdsall  Chief Executive Officer, Gaist Solutions Ltd.	Since establishing Gaist in 2007, Steve has led the development of innovative survey and asset intelligence solutions that are now used by highway authorities across the UK and internationally. Steve focuses on how advanced imaging, artificial intelligence and large-scale infrastructure data can transform how highway networks are understood and managed. Under his leadership, Gaist has pioneered repeatable network-level surveys, AI-assisted asset assessment and the creation of detailed digital records of roads, footways and associated infrastructure. The company increasingly works with governments and highway authorities to demonstrate how consistent national datasets can support better investment decisions, preventative maintenance and more efficient public services. Steve is a member of the Highways Sector Council and strongly advocates for innovation, collaboration and the practical adoption of new technology across the highways sector.
Andrew McKinlay  UK & Ireland Sales Manager for Government & Municipality JCB	Andrew is responsible for supporting public sector organisations and municipal customers across the UK and Ireland. With experience in the automotive, construction materials, and construction equipment industries, Andrew provides a solution focused and customer first perspective to the challenges and opportunities facing public infrastructure. In his role at JCB, Andrew works closely with local authorities, highways teams, contractors, and government bodies to help deliver more efficient, sustainable, and productive solutions for the public sector. JCB is committed to helping customers embrace new technologies and lower-emission equipment as the sector continues to evolve. The presentation to MHA+ members will provide insights on how innovation and emerging technologies are helping shape the future of highways maintenance and public infrastructure delivery.
Paul Binks  Highways Asset Manager, Lancashire County Council	Paul has worked for Local Government for more than 30 years, predominately in the Highways Sector. He has worked in Asset Management for the last 10 years with previous roles including Performance and Business Manager and Road Safety Manager. He is currently the chair of the Midlands Highway Alliance+ Asset Management Service Improvement Group (SIG) and the North West LCRIG (Local Council Regional Innovation Group) Benchmarking Group.
Emily See  President LGTAG	Emily is Amey's Highway Market Director focusing on working with Local Authorities and National Highways to achieve their strategic objectives. With 13 years of experience in the sector, Emily is passionate about supporting the sector with key priorities such as decarbonisation, asset management and innovation. She is also actively engaged in the sector and is the immediate Local Government Technical AG President focusing on rebuilding the foundations of asset management across our sector.