

June 2022

Annual Event Round-up

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the MHA+ Annual Event 2022, on Wednesday 22 June, an enjoyable and informative day.

With the 2021 event not held until October, it was perhaps ambitious to hold this year's event in June around several themed sessions. Ann Carruthers welcomed delegates, setting the scene for an informal day exploring Carbon Reduction and Value initiatives and best practice from right across the Alliance.



There were 18 presentations throughout the day:

Julie Cartwright, represented Women in Transport, drawing attention to the need to 'Keep Gender on the Agenda' and the progress made in construction compared to the engineering sector overall. She asked for support for the Women in Transport Midlands Hub, and she asked us to consider what small actions we can all introduce to make a big change.

Owen Jenkins, Chair of the Medium Schemes Framework Board, launched the new Medium Schemes framework, MSF 4. Announcing the list of successful bidders, he welcomed John Sisk & Son (Holdings) Ltd, alongside existing framework suppliers Balfour Beatty, Eurovia and Galliford Try. He strongly encouraged all local authority framework members to get involved to make the framework a success. The existing

framework, MSF 3, will continue to be available until mid-July and its activities will continue until the completion of the current live schemes.

Karen Farquharson and Simon Wilson explained the work of Proving Services Limited and the Future Highways research Group (FHRG), outlining the scoring and structure of local authority value for money assessments and the characteristics of success, which include being actively involved in collaborative alliances. The FHRG and MHA+ have similar key areas of interest so there is an opportunity to work together, for example in delivering the FHRG carbon reduction route map and in 'human capital' (skills) research and initiatives.

Asset Modelling for Carbon and Value session:

The BIM Working Group gave a presentation summarising the group's findings on compliance, using props as well as examples. Philip Reid, Eurovia; Ben McGrath, Leicestershire/Waterman; John Monk, Lincolnshire; Tom Scholes, Oxfordshire; Michala Medcalf, Derby City; and Jonathon Simons, AECOM gave a summary from different viewpoints.

Paul Binks outlined Lancashire County Council's whole life modelling approach to highway maintenance and opportunities for CO₂ reduction. Using a decarbonising strategy based on sustainability through durability and design, a 'Carbon Dashboard' has been developed to monitor progress.

Andy Jackson summarised Leicestershire County Council's work with ADEPT on developing a decision-making toolkit for evaluating the 'Value of Trees', weighing the challenges of tree planting near the highway with the benefits. The next stage will be testing on a live highway scheme with potential to develop a 'Tree Charter', supporting software and additional research.

Supply Chain Carbon and Value session:

Stuart McLeod, Balfour Beatty's Energy Manager for Operations gave a summary of initiatives in use across construction sites focused on demand management and alternative fuels.

Dave Allen presented Waterman's story so far on their route to net zero using science-based targets and reduction roadmaps for Scopes 1 & 2 and Scope 3.

Phil Reid, Eurovia's Digital Construction Manager, showcased their work in the public realm and the role of robots in town centre construction.

Environmental Carbon and Value session:

Seb Corby and Will Shipley, Amey, outlined Staffordshire's Live Lab programme and the lessons learned. Based on SME innovations, with projects ranging from e-scooter trials through to green walls and intelligent traffic systems for future mobility and ecosystem solutions.

Lucie Hoelmer highlighted the value of roadside verges and Leicestershire County Council's approach to Urban Wildlife verges for improved biodiversity involving community participation.

Scott Tompkins outlined Warwickshire County Council's challenge to plant 566,000 trees by 2030, one for every resident, by using their own tree nursery and new verge maintenance policies.

Valuing People session:

Jamie Missenden explained the national picture on mental health, what Cognitive Behavioural Therapy is and how it can support mental health, what Galliford Try have achieved so far and the potential to do more to improve access to psychological therapies by working together.

He also presented 'Exceptional Lift', a health and safety initiative introduced by Galliford Try to reduce the potential for injuries in lifting bridge beams into place and the impact it has had.

Julie Cartwright, Chair of the Social Value Working Group and Eurovia's social value lead, asked what 'social value' is, how it differs from corporate responsibility, and what it means to MHA+ through a look at the 'social value model' themes, such as tackling inequality and fighting climate change.

Client Specification for Carbon and Value session:

Eoin Harris, AECOM, looked at carbon management plans, with key learning around data availability, consistency with climate emergency pledges, programme level plans, targets, and user emissions; asking whether we need MHA+-wide targets?

Jessica Tuck, AECOM, looked at the performance of warm mix asphalt on England's strategic road network, providing a wide range of benefits and CO₂ reductions in the order of 10-15% for a 40° reduction in temperature, without compromising performance.

Mark Baptist, Head of Carbon and Sustainability at Amey Consulting, looked at the need for systemic cultural change in delivering infrastructure for life, based on changing complex systems through experimentation. He proposed that MHA+ have a role as pathfinders, leading the way to a new way of working.

MHA+ would like to extend its thanks to all the speakers who gave their time to share their ideas, as well as the session facilitators, organising team, and the event sponsors. They would also like to thank those who attended, representing some 13 different local authorities and all the suppliers. Many changed their travel plans or braved the train in a week of rail strikes to take part.



MSF 4

MSF 3 will close to new contracts in July it will be replaced by MSF 4. The new suppliers were announced by Owen Jenkins, Chair of the Framework Board, at the MHA+ annual conference in June. Following an extensive development and procurement process the MHA+ is pleased to announce that the new framework has been awarded to:

- Galliford Try Infrastructure Ltd
- Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering
- Eurovia Infrastructure Ltd
- John Sisk & Son (Holdings) Ltd

Owen Jenkins said “We are all aware that this is a turbulent and challenging time for local highway authorities and the construction sector. We are therefore very pleased to be announcing MSF 4 and this embeds the need for the whole sector to work together to meet the challenges of the future.”

MSF 4 was first published on the government’s Find a Tender service in April 2021 with an estimated total value of one billion pounds and a maximum term of eight years. MSF 4 is now available to all MHA+ member authorities following the completion of over two years work by colleagues from 12 different authorities. If your authority is considering using MSF 4 as a potential delivery route, please contact John Hooper, MHA+ Framework Manager, for an initial discussion about your prospective pipeline of work.

PSP 4 Procurement Process – we need your views

The procurement of PSP 4, the new Professional Services Partnership Framework to follow on from PSP 3 in April 2023 is underway but to make key decision on what the new framework will look like, we need the views of those who are currently using PSP3.

Please ensure that you take part in our [MHA+ Professional Services Framework – Improvement Survey](#) which closes at the end of July 2022.

As with MSF 4, we will be seeking the support and engagement of current users of the framework to help in decision-making, compiling contract documentation and in tender assessment to ensure that the new framework is appropriate and effective.

If you are interested in being part of the working group, then please contact Karen Notman: karen.notman@leics.gov.uk.

New MHA+ Carbon Steering Group

The MHA+ has set up a new Carbon Steering Group for members. It is going to be chaired by Chris Green from Leicestershire County Council. The purpose of the group is to provide a focus for the MHA+ in relation to all matters regarding the Carbon Reduction agenda, in the Highways sector. Its work will include ensuring members are aware of the work being completed by Government and various organisations, such as the Future Highways Research Group (FHRG), ADEPT and the National Association of Construction Frameworks (NACF) etc. Alongside this, the group will make sure that on behalf of members, the MHA+ influences how the carbon agenda is shaped and developed. The Group will also seek to find and provide good examples of best practice in this rapidly developing area.

Importantly, a key issue will also be ensuring we do not duplicate effort and learn from existing work being completed.

If you are interested in joining the Group, please contact MHA+ Support, Ian Bamforth at: ian.bamforth@leics.gov.uk or give him a ring on **07842 034616**.

Service Improvement Group Update

Six Service Improvement Group meetings have taken place during May and June. Thanks again to all those who have taken the time to attend, use the online discussion boards and share data.

Three of our long-serving group chairs Richard Lovell (Derbyshire), Karen Seabright (Worcestershire) and Keith Davenport (Warwickshire) are all retiring, and we would like to express our appreciation for their involvement and commitment over many years and wish them well for the future.

Winter Services – Here is a brief review of the 2021/22 winter season across the region. Salt costs are increasing, and long lead times have been reported for orders of new gritting vehicles. There will be a meeting with some group members to discuss issues they have experienced with forecasting service providers over the last winter season.

Low Carbon Travel & Transport - Group members have shared information about E-bike schemes and navigating various funding streams including BSIPS, Capability Fund, LEVI, Active Travel England, and crowd/community funding. Further meetings of the EV Charging and Section 106 Travel Plan Monitoring Subgroups will be planned for July 2022.

Flood Water Management - Group members have shared updated and streamlined Local Flood Risk Management Strategies, discussed procuring works to implement natural flood management in rural areas and how they are dealing with surface water flooding issues at new developments.

Highways Records & Searches - The new group chair will be Andrew Kelly from Cheshire East. Terms of reference are to be updated and the group will focus on engaging with more member authorities within the MHA Plus region. An 'in person' meeting in Warwick is planned for October 2022.

Casualty Reduction - Presentation from Swarco on location and operation of moveable VAS and SIDs, sharing information about 20mph schemes across the MHA Plus region and presentation from Leicestershire CC on their Community Speed Management Initiative.

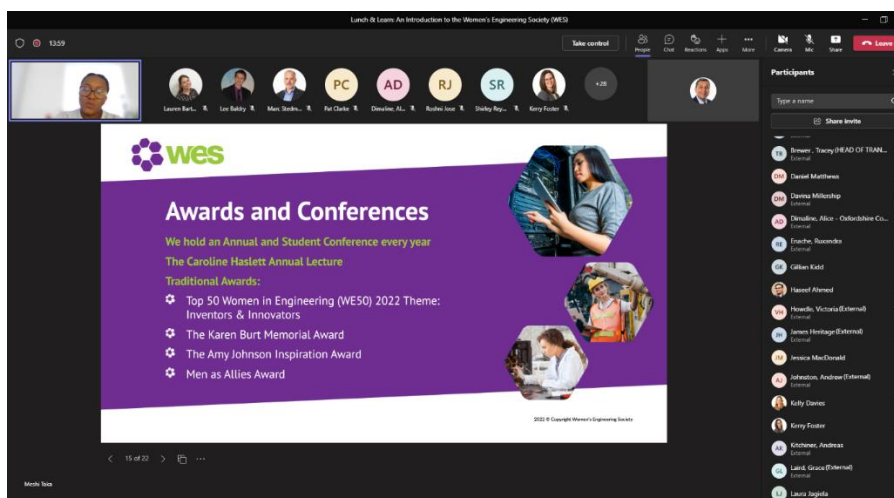
Traffic Engineering – There is a continuous discussion and sharing of good practice around the introduction of Moving Traffic Enforcement in the MHA Plus region.

Details of all upcoming Service Improvement Group meetings are available on the [MHA+ Calendar](#) and further information on each service improvement group is available from Alice Russell: Alice.Russell@derbyshire.gov.uk

Skills & Development Update

On 25 May Meshi Taka, from Waterman Aspen, gave a presentation on the Women's Engineering Society. It covered their awards and conferences, mentoring scheme and International Women in Engineering Day (IWIED). The presentation was open to the whole MHA+ community and proved successful with a high attendance.

If you missed it, you can access the presentation [here](#) and find out more information on the [Learning Gateway](#) page of our website.



Our framework suppliers have a broad range of learning content for members to access and build upon their knowledge base. Please find a list of webinars and content as part of our MHA+ skills community offer on the [MHA Suppliers – Learning Content page](#).

Members can access a range of learning, training and development opportunities provided by the MHA skills community, sector partners and MHA+ members through the [Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#).

Detailed information on all MHA+ events is available on the [MHA+ calendar](#).

Horizon Scanning & Industry Updates

New ADEPT and FHRG guidance on Carbon (sponsored by Atkins and Ringway):

New guidance has been issued aimed at tackling one of the most pressing issues faced by local highways authorities (LHAs) - consistent carbon measurement and reporting. Find out more via the link: [ADEPT and Future Highways Research Group publish new guidance for GHG emissions | ADEPT \(adeptnet.org.uk\)](#)

E-Scooters and Road Safety:

In parallel with the launch of public, regulated trials of e-scooters across England, private, and currently illegal, e-scooter use on our roads and in other public spaces has increased. Find out more via the link: [The safety of private e-scooters in the UK - PACTS research - PACTS](#)

Street Manager and Permit Scheme Changes – Consultation Outcome:

Proposals for further reforms to legislation covering utility street and highway authority road works including changes to permit schemes and to the data that needs to be provided to Street Manager. Find out more via the link: [Street manager and permit scheme changes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

New National Future of Freight Plan:

A campaign has launched to kickstart careers in logistics and create a more environmentally friendly and resilient haulage sector. Find out more via the link: [Boost for freight as government unveils major new plan to bolster supply chain - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

CIHT Masterclass – Updated Manual for Streets, 1 July:

The revised Manual for Streets will update and bring together the existing Manual for Streets and Manual for Streets 2 under the name 'Manual for Streets'. Find out more via the link: [Manual for Streets | CIHT](#)

LCRIG Innovation Festival, 6 and 7 July:

This summer's Innovation Festival will be a first of its kind for the highways sector. The new event has been established to 'make the case for innovation' and will bring together local authorities, central government, the supply chain, associations, and academia. Find out more via the link: [Events Portal \(lcrig.org.uk\)](#)

EMMA

The annual East Midlands Merit Awards (EMMAs) provide an opportunity for civil engineers in the region to celebrate their achievements, whether project or people related. Karen Notman, Midlands Highway Alliance Plus Manager, attended the event on 10 June. Commended in the Team Achievement Award category was the new Woodville to Swadlincote Regeneration Road, we'd like to offer a huge congratulations. The MHA+ are extremely proud to have played a part.



For enquiries about this bulletin or to suggest any future articles please contact Jacqui Wooldridge/
Karen Notman. If you have colleagues who may not have received this email please share it with them,
so that they can contact us directly to confirm that they wish to receive our bulletin, alternatively if you
wish to unsubscribe from this bulletin email MidlandsHighwayAlliancePlus@leics.gov.uk

 @MHAPlus  Midlands Highway Alliance Plus