



Transport Data Project – progress update

Committee Operations

Date of meeting 28 April 2023

Date of report 11 April 2023

Report by Chief Executive

1. Object of report

To update the Committee on progress on SPT's Transport Data Project.

2. Background

An update paper to the Partnership in June 2021¹ highlighted SPT's role in setting bus information standards as per the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001, works underway to modernise SPT's corporate database of local bus services, ongoing deployment of Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI), and engagement with local operators to improve information provision at bus stops across Strathclyde.

Further to the above, the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 also included provisions mandating the supply of real time passenger information (including live vehicle locations). At the time of writing, regulations and guidance on utilisations of the provisions in practice remains outstanding. However, in advance of the formal consultation on and establishment of the regulations and guidance, SPT continues to further develop the regional RTPI system as detailed later in this report.

SPT's Bus Information Standards set the framework for roadside bus stop information provision for over 560 registered local bus services - both commercial and supported - delivered by 44 operators across Strathclyde. There are c.11,500 bus stops and c.14,000 bus information display cabinets across the region. Details on the standards can be found at: https://www.spt.co.uk/media/ovydni32/ops051121_agenda6.pdf.

3. Outline of proposals

3.1 Bus Information Standards

SPT has coordinated a project with operators who are members of the Glasgow Bus Alliance (GBA) in order to roll out updated roadside publicity. Participating members of the GBA are detailed at: <https://glasgowbusalliance.com/>. This project commenced in October 2022 and brought to fruition a consolidated style of roadside information provision for the benefit of the travelling public - a significant improvement on the previous varied provision in operators' own individual corporate styles. A number of participating members of the GBA have funded the project, which SPT has managed in partnership with a distribution company who printed and posted the information panels.

¹ https://www.spt.co.uk/media/ih4lrz0u/p180621_agenda8.pdf

Phase 1 of the project delivered nearly 13,000 updated information panels at over 9,400 bus stops across the region. Phase 2 of the project is currently underway and consists of c.360 multi-operator cases at c.260 bus stops in Renfrewshire and c.80 multi-operator panels at c.40 bus stops in Inverclyde. Thereafter, as service changes are received information panels will be updated by operators in the normal manner as per SPT's Bus Information Standards.

In addition to bringing in the consistent and consolidated style of bus information to bus users, the project has provided efficiency savings to operators through removing the need for multiple visits by different operators to update information at stops. The panels are produced on high quality recycled paper and include QR codes linking to operator websites and Traveline Scotland.

The map at Appendix 1 shows the distribution of sites updated and those currently outstanding.

3.2 Deployment of Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI)

SPT's regional RTPI system rollout commenced operation in 2016. Since then, approximately 400 new signs have been installed across the region, bringing the total number of electronic signs in place to 850 providing live service departure information for the four main local bus operators, four smaller operators and two Community Transport operators, while also linking to the Traveline Scotland online journey planner and Glasgow City Council's traffic control system. Notable amongst recent expansions of on-street RTPI installations have been Renfrewshire (now totalling 65 signs), East Dunbartonshire (60 signs), the first 6 on-street RTPI installations in North Lanarkshire and the first 10 on-street RTPI signs in Inverclyde. Further expansions during 2023 will take place in East Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire.

Following successful roll-out of RTPI at Govan and Partick Bus Stations, RTPI provision at Buchanan Bus Station was upgraded in 2021. RTPI at Greenock and Hamilton Bus Stations was upgraded during 2022/23 and similar improvements at East Kilbride Bus Station are currently underway.

Appendix 2 shows a table and map of RTPI installations across the SPT area.

In addition, SPT officers have been working with the bus operators in order to allow service information on whether a service has been cancelled to be displayed on the RTPI screens. This project has recently launched, providing additional information for the travelling public should a journey be cancelled for any reason. This has been particularly useful during the recent and ongoing driver shortage affecting the bus industry which has had an impact on service provision.

SPT's RTPI system continues to provide live bus capacity information to Traveline Scotland for their online journey planner and app, to assist the public in planning their journey.

Work continues with Glasgow City Council's Traffcom team to deliver traffic light signal priority (TLP), with bus priority requests facilitated by the regional RTPI system. Around 140 junctions in Glasgow are now enabled to provide TLP for bus. Similarly, historical outputs from the system have been used to highlight average bus running speeds and traffic hotspots across the city which have been utilised as part of the Glasgow City Region bid to Transport Scotland's £500m Bus Partnership Fund (BPF).

SPT has in recent years provided capital funding to enable TLP to be rolled out across other Local Authority areas. To this end, 12 junctions in North Ayrshire between Irvine and Kilwinning have been enabled for TLP and are now in operation. Twelve junctions in the Renfrewshire Council area are now active, with more to follow. One junction in East Ayrshire has been enabled, and SPT officers are currently working with South Lanarkshire Council in

respect of enabling c.40 junctions in the Hamilton, Blantyre, Cambuslang and Rutherglen areas.

4. Conclusion

Good quality, accurate and timely public transport information is an essential part of encouraging use of local bus services and in planning the efficient delivery of bus networks.

Substantial progress has been made to information at the majority of bus stops across Strathclyde and an extensive Real Time Passenger information network has been deployed across the region. The RTPI system has been extended to cover cancellation, capacity information and Traffic Light Priority across key sites and junctions. Officers will continue to progress SPT's Transport Information Data Project and keep members informed in this regard.

5. Committee action

The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report.

6. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Legal consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Equalities consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Climate Change, Adaptation & Carbon consequences	<i>None directly.</i>

Name Neil Wylie
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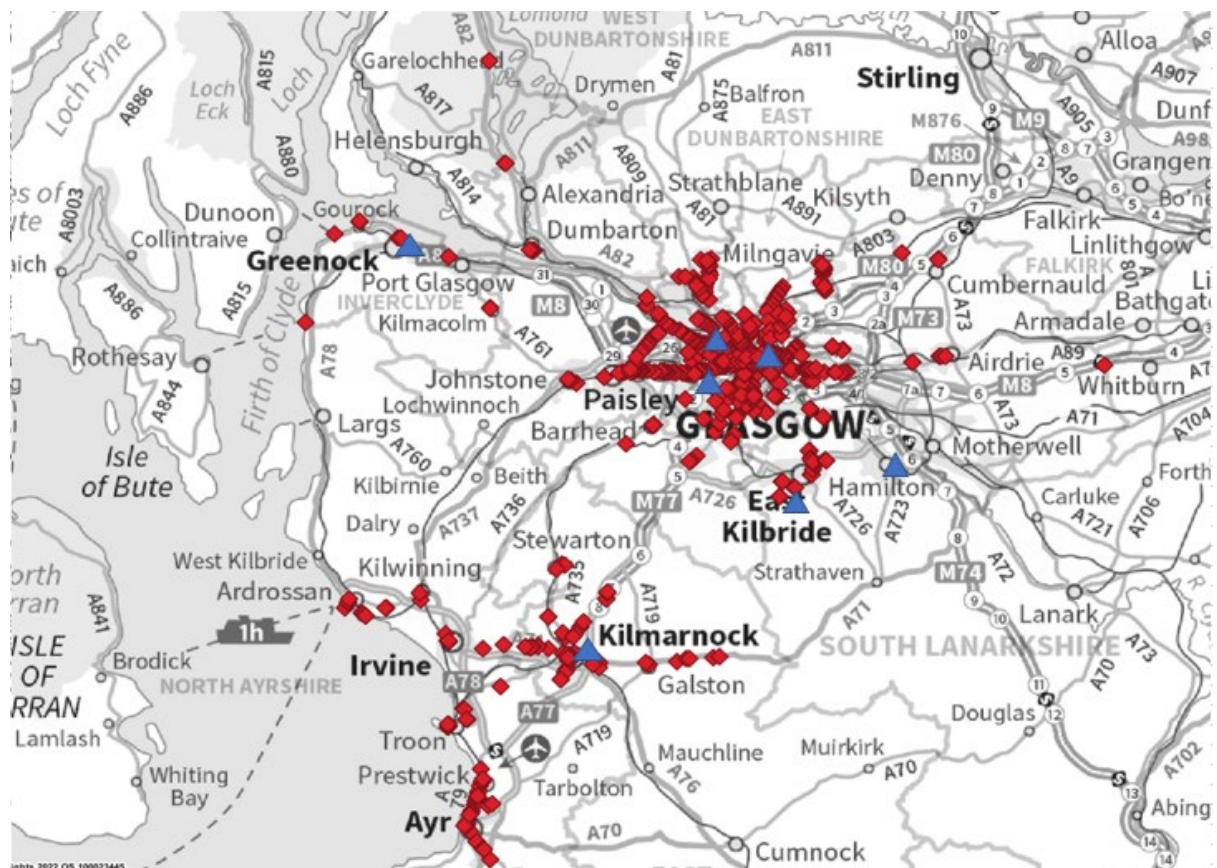
Name Valerie Davidson
Title **Chief Executive**

For further information, please contact *Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy and Delivery on 0141 333 3407.*

APPENDIX 1

Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) Installations across the SPT Area

REAL TIME INSTALLATIONS IN THE SPT AREA																				
	EK Bus Stn	Govan Bus Stn	Hamilton Bus Stb	Greenock Bus Stn	Partick Bus Stn	Silverburn	BBS	AB	EA	ED	ER	GL	IN	NA	NL	RE	SA	SL	WD	Grand Total
Pre SPT						8		4	60	4		301		15			35	19	6	452
2017																10				10
2018		11			6					16		16				19		4		72
2019					2				1	16	3	21			2	20		1		71
2020							29		6	10	4	20	10	5		16		4	4	108
2021							24		2	7		6			4		8		1	52
2022				8						7	10	15			1		2			43
2023	15		13							3	8	10			1			4		54
Grand Total	15	11	13	8	8	8	58	4	69	63	25	389	10	20	8	65	45	32	11	862
Total SPT funded installations to end March 2023	15	11	13	8	8	0	58		9	59	25	88	10	5	8	65	10	13	5	395



Bus Stations ▲
 On Street Infrastructure ◆

(green = complete and compliant, red = to be completed/non-compliant)

