



Transport Data Project Phase 2 – Update

Date of meeting 8 November 2024

Date of report 22 October 2024

Report by Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery

1. Object of report

To update the Committee in relation to progress with the Transport Data Project Phase 2.

2. Background to report

Robust, rich, and up-to-date data is essential for the effective planning of local bus services, the provision of high-quality information to passengers and in the delivery of bus priority on the roads network. Used effectively in these ways data should improve passenger experience and support demand for local bus services.

Members will recall that phase 1 of SPT's Transport Data Project¹ delivered the following key elements in support of the above elements, namely:

- Introduction and mainstreaming of the new SPT Corporate Database of Local Bus Services (i.e. Trapeze Novus FX).
- Update to SPT Bus Information Standards and roll out of compliant Roadside Bus information panels across Strathclyde (i.e. Utilising Novus FX Publishing Suite).
- Expansion of the network of RTPI displays across Strathclyde (now circa 900) at key bus stops and bus stations.
- Expansion of the coverage of the regional RTPI system (i.e. majority of operators large and small now participate) and improve the functionality of the system (e.g. introduction of bus cancellation, capacity data, and increasing the capability for bus signal priority requests).

The success of the above approach was recognised at the 2023 Scottish Transport Awards with SPT winning the following award - "Excellence in Travel Information & Marketing: Strathclyde Partnership for Transport: Delivering a Step-Change in Bus Passenger Information and Standards".

Noting the above success, SPT officers are tasked with taking forward the next phase in the Transport Data Project. Scoping of this next phase has now been formally incorporated into the SPT Corporate plan, building on the previous work to date.

3. Outline of proposals

The focus of the actions is on the effective use of data to further improve the planning, promotion and delivery of local bus services for the benefit of the travelling public.

¹ https://www.spt.co.uk/media/vg1lady4/ops280423_agenda7.pdf

Importantly, phase 2 of the Transport Data Project (TDP2) must align with SPT's plans and aspirations outlined in our work on the Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy and Clyde Metro.

The following objectives will be built into the phase two of the project to further enhance the current service level:

- (i) Further expand and improve upon SPT's capability for the planning of local bus services;
- (ii) Further expand and improve upon SPT's capability for the scheduling of local bus services;
- (iii) Further expand and improve upon SPT's capability for the performance monitoring of local bus services;
- (iv) Further improve the quality of bus service information available in printed, digital and audio formats;
- (v) Further improve the provision of high-quality bus service information to passengers at key stops, interchanges and bus stations;
- (vi) Ensuring suitable systems and funding arrangements are in place to support both roadside and digital bus information delivery;
- (vii) Support further delivery of bus priority on the roads network; and.
- (viii) Support and inform partners of the performance of the local bus network to drive service improvements and improvements to the road network to support efficient operations.

The overall goal of the project remains the effective use of data to improve the passenger experience, deliver better bus services and support demand.

Actions will follow each of these objectives, to provide the following deliverables as part of the project:

- (i) Deliver a plan for the expansion of RTPI displays across the network.
- (ii) Complete trial(s) of new digital displays as potential replacement for paper timetables at BBS.
- (iii) Deliver a plan for expansion of Bus Traffic Light Priority.
- (iv) Deliver a plan for expansion of other Bus Priority measures.
- (v) Mainstreaming of SPT Bus Infrastructure Assets within Hexagon Asset Management System.
- (vi) Develop a procurement specification for the renewal of the RTPI system contracts.
- (vii) Reach agreement in principle with local authorities on the renewal of the RTPI system contracts.
- (viii) Complete a review of SPT bus scheduling capabilities and develop action plan for improvements.
- (ix) Complete a review of bus network planning tools and provide recommendations on next steps.
- (x) Complete a review of bus service performance monitoring tools and provide recommendations on next steps.

In terms of project governance, a Working Group has been formed, the remit of which is to take forward the scoping and delivery of the above, including technical, geographical and operational aspects of the above actions. This group is led by the Bus Development Manager, reporting into the project Steering Group, chaired by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery.

An outline programme had been developed covering the key project elements to be taken forward during 2024 and 2025. Anticipated key milestones and dates are set out in Appendix 1.

4. Committee action

The Committee is recommended to note the progress in scoping and developing Phase 2 of the Transport Data project and that further updates will be provided to the Committee in due

course.

5. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>In line with the Regional Transport Strategy and Strathclyde Bus Strategy and Clyde Metro aspirations. It also aligns with the Digital Strategy.</i>
Legal consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>Funding from within agreed approved budgets for 2024/2025. Any capital or revenue funding required for the project in 2025/2026 will be covered during the budget setting process.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None directly as the project will be managed from within exiting staffing.</i>
Equalities consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Climate Change, Adaptation & Carbon consequences	<i>None directly.</i>

Name Gordon Dickson

Title **Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery**

Name Valerie Davidson

Title **Chief Executive**

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

APPENDIX 1 Transport Data Project Phase 2

Anticipated key milestones for this project are as follows:

1. Undertake review of bus network planning tools and provide recommendations on next steps, in respect of assessing SPT's capability for the planning of local bus services.
Anticipated completion date December 2024.
2. Undertake review of SPT capability of scheduling of local bus services and develop action plan for improvements.
Anticipated completion date December 2024.
3. Further expand and improve upon SPT's capability for performance monitoring of local bus services. Undertake review of bus service performance monitoring tools and provide recommendations on next steps.
Anticipated completion date December 2024.
4. Develop an evidence-based plan for the expansion of RTPI displays across the network, including funding ask.
Anticipated completion date March 2025.
5. Arrange and evaluate trial(s) of new digital displays as potential replacement for paper timetables at SPT Bus station(s), to improve the provision of high-quality bus service information to passengers at key stops, interchanges and bus stations.
Anticipated completion date March 2025.
6. Ensuring suitable systems and funding arrangements are in place to support both Roadside and Digital bus information delivery. Work to secure agreement in principle from Local Authorities on the renewal of the RTPI system contracts, including associated funding.
Anticipated completion date Summer 2025.
7. Review the performance of the local bus network to drive service improvements and improvements to the road network (bus priority) to support efficient operations.
Anticipated completion date March 2025.
8. Support further delivery of bus priority on the roads network, by developing an evidence-based plan for the expansion of other bus priority measures (i.e. bus lanes, bus gates, junction cut throughs, traffic light priority for bus etc) at key locations across Strathclyde.
Anticipated completion date Summer 2025.