



SIG MEMBERS MEETING

Update: September 2024

There have been 17 Service Improvement Group meetings plus a SIG Chairs meeting since the stand-in coordinators began their work in early 2024. We continue to have excellent levels of attendance and participation from group members across the MHA Plus region.

Agendas, minutes and presentation slides from all SIG meetings are available on the [MHA+ SIG members site](#) along with benchmarking exercises and online discussion boards. Summary of the latest SIG meetings:

Highways Asset Management - presentation from LiveLabs2 on [Live Labs Expo 2024](#) and pertinent topics. Giles Perkins provided an update on the progress of LiveLabs2 Decarbonising Local Roads programme/projects ; which included the outcomes from Year 1 (of the 3 year deployment period); emphasis on a 5 year evaluation phase in order to ascertain the degree that 'adoption' becomes business as usual. The majority of projects using FHRG (Proving Services Ltd) product for carbon-baseline measurement was noted and the need to ensure that verification and citation of products, used as part of the projects, was accepted. SIG acknowledged that the scope of the projects under LiveLabs2 is going to be of significant benefit. SIG advised [LiveLabs2 web-based information](#) is both useful and accessible.

SIG Chairs – Eight chairs provided feedback on key outcomes from their SIG meetings. AR advised on the interim MHA+ support to be provided until a new SIG Co-ordinator is appointed. AR was warmly thanked for all the support provided to SIG (since 2015). Chairs were requested to provide content for MHA+ business plan update and 2023/24 Annual report. MHA+ Framework learning content; YouTube® and project description sheets links were advised to the Chairs. 2024 MHA+ Annual Event tentative date was advised

Casualty reduction - members of the group provided updates on authority activities to support casualty reduction, including provision of metrics on KSI and discussion of the respective data management systems and processes in place. Members provided insight on initiatives being undertaken including School Streets; updating road safety strategies; active school strategies; speed camera upgrade programmes. SIG members elected to undertake analysis of casualty and collision analysis, in two tranches, County and City – presentation providing key insights of 2023 (17 Counties) casualty and collision data was provided to the SIG

Civil parking enforcement: agenda topic included perspectives of those authorities who have joined / joining / considering / interested in joining the National Parking Platform. SIG members provided updates on projects and programmes and parking strategies including progress of being part of Moving Traffic Enforcement (MTE) designation order "tranches" ; School Streets enforcement; Blue Badge Day. Members advised of an increase of vexatious complainants; harassment of enforcement officers issuing penalty charge notices; progress in Parking and Traffic regulations outside London (PATROL) <https://www.patrol-uk.info/>

Development Management – topics included discussion on the potential for SIG members to provide data to support price evaluation model and benchmarking of specific highways related data that augment the NHA/CQC surveys. SIG members were advised on content from [MHA+ digital workshop](#). SIG members feedback on impacts from 2023/24 winter season given significant rainfall. Meeting attended by DfT and group discussed prospective 2024/25 LTF, Network North and speculation on ‘pothole’, funding.

Traffic Signals – presentations from two system suppliers on access to system data using vehicle SIM cards; and use of AI to optimize traffic signal functions. Need for rigour in lone working was exemplified by health & safety issues. SIG advised on update of RLG code of practice - lead is TS Chair. Successful challenge by SIG members on unannounced BT line rental costs. Methods of reducing costs and net zero solutions advised. SIG updated on project (review of pedestrian crossing) working group. Recruitment of experienced engineers using the DfT funding – positive feedback on post FE/HE recruitment. Advised on the rigour in Active Travel site assessments to secure funding

Flood Water Management - SIG co chair gave a presentation on authority action to review, refresh and publish new set of guidance for flood investigations and ordinary water course management, including the Communication Strategy and considerations that ensured wide consultation and review, prior to guidance drafting – the content elicited a range of questions from SIG members. SIG members were advised of the use of [Love Clean Streets](#) app. SIG discussed and provided guidance on query on Land Drainage Consent and members were asked to provide information to support engagement with national ‘bodies’ including ADEPT, Environment Agency and Defra. MHA+ Property Flood resilience (PFR) task and finish group convened.

Transportation Data & Analysis – Hybrid meeting held at County Hall Matlock. Presentation from two product suppliers on technology providing real-time data (via sensors and mobile phone) to support Active Travel schemes; transport planning, modelling and evidence-based data needed for project briefs. Data and analysis being used to predicate decision being made prior to the creation of EMCCA and potential to prepare EMCCA capital project bids

Highways Records & Searches – List of Streets best practice document working group making good progress in considering the ‘development’ survey responses; working group membership augmented to ensure broader geographic spread and representation from local authority ‘tiers. Good SIG representation on the County Council Land Charges Group and updates provides’. Good progress in work to migrate local land charges paper-based data to a digital online platform

Street Lighting - topics included EV and the acknowledgment of content provided by (the SIG platform) on best practice and discussion board posts. SIG members were advised on [health & safety updates now posted](#) on MHA+ website. Active discussion on how MHA+ has the potential to develop “protocol” for commuted sums following [ADEPT guidance](#) to ensure consistency. Continued discussion on Distribution Network Operators (DNO) and the support from Institution of Lighting professionals (IOP) technical committee. SIG members agreed to participate in total energy kwh benchmarking/units.

Term maintenance: topics included discussion of SIG members participation in the Price Evaluation Model and the potential to provide this information, using the secure SIG members site (benchmarking tag). SIG members shared insights on managing 2023/24 season and their use of physical resources to maximise capital outlay. Representative from DfT advised on the impact of a new government administration and the consequent uncertainty in advising on ‘announcements’ for funding allocation(s), confirming any funding that will be ‘ring-fenced’ and priorities. Prospective MHA+ project was discussed and SIG members participation in national surveys; prospective NEC 4 learning content was advised

Highway Structures – presentation from Network Rail lead on asset protection. Safety moment highlighted unsanctioned work being noticed during site visit on unrelated A38 scheme. Presentation included use of Asset Protection Customer Experience (ACE) system that is designed to improve communication, information storage and retrieval and end to end support for projects and schemes. Presentation elicited questions from SIG on Network Rail Agreements; Delivering Work within a Possession (DWPP and Public Liability Insurance Levels).

Winter Services – presentations on National Winter Service Research Group (NWSRG) and the planned guidance review; NWSRG Technical Advisory Group roadshow (April 2024) and planned content for Cold Comfort 2024; sustainable salt piles and CO2e benefits from Eurodome. SIG advised on the work of World Roads Association (PIARC) SIG chair is a representative. SIG members were encouraged to be part of the Practical Guide for Winter services update. SIG members provided updates of their post-season analysis – and planned 2024 activities including, fleet, resourcing, maintenance; and potential for shared procurement.

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 [SIG co-ordinators](#)