



SIG MEMBERS MEETING

Update: November 2024

There have been 26 Service Improvement Group meetings plus a SIG Chairs meeting since the stand-in coordinators began their work in early 2024. We have increased levels of attendance (65%) and meetings include active participation and contributions from SIG group members who provide subject matter expertise and feedback from their membership of national organisations.

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

Highways Asset Management: meeting agenda included presentations from National Audit Office vfm director on condition and maintenance of local roads report – providing context to key findings, funding and use of data by DfT; and Derby City Council engagement with the supply chain on de-carbonisation. Both presentation elicited a range of questions, perspectives and next steps. HAM SIG member provided an update on road condition monitoring comparing PAS 2161 including data on comparators and discussion on DfT requirements that resonate with local authority. Members provided potential subject content for future SIG meetings.

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: (third meeting of 2024) members provided updates on authority road safety education, engineering activities, funding priorities and data management. Awaiting DfT road safety plan priorities for next five years. SIG interest in supporting mature drivers to build confidence and skills; ascertaining whether the spike in older motorcycle rsi /fatalities is significant. Collaborative working to include analysis of from city authorities. SIG terms of reference was considered and will be augmented to include the need to reflect the road safety engineering and education remit of group members. Agreed to schedule face-to –face meeting in June 2025, with agenda topics to be submitted by SIG members

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 MHA+ to support East Midlands Development Control Forum using the MHA+ SIG site functionality to encourage engagement for practitioners with technical enquiries and operational issues. SIG members provided perspectives and feedback on NPPF consultation; dna by selected interview candidates; shared 'appeals of interest' and discussed discernible increase in Class Q submissions and legislation change (7/23).

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: members were updated on the outcome of the PFR(G) task & finish group, with an agreed action to prepare 'lessons learned' letter on the scheme, as there was broad consensus on key issues/grievances and need to lobby to ensure subsequent schemes are fit for purpose. SIG members discussion on Land Drainage Consents appeals process and best practice on watercourse regulation and culvert policy shared. Useful updates from local and national organisations, ADEPT, Flownet, Trent Regional Flood & Coastal C'tee. Members advised on upcoming conferences and events; and potential to prepare a technical Q&A session on consenting and enforcement activity

Transportation Data & Analysis: meeting agenda included presentation from Clearview Intelligence and the scope provided by their Insights suite of modules/applications. Matters arising from previous meeting included feedback on efficacy of new products and potential for MHA+ member authorities to either provide pilot sites for new products; or access MHA+ project funding to support test bed sites in MHA+ member authority. Breakout rooms were used to facilitate smaller group discussion on challenges and opportunities including apprentice offer for data analyst to support/enable other teams use of intelligence in programmes

Highways Records & Searches: meeting agenda included SIG member updates on their work to support development of Best Practice in the List of Streets; Highway Terms (updating 2008 publication); feedback from the County Council Local Land Charges Group. It was agreed that the SIG meeting should include subject matter expertise updates from MK Council (Redways) Land Registry and National Highways, and topics to generate discussion will be provided. SIG members provided useful update on content to support SIG efficiencies and benefits log; use of MHA+ products and platforms to support learning, training and development

Street Lighting: (third meeting in 2024) with a face-to-face meeting held in Leicestershire, which included presentations from Telensa & Clearview; an update on meetings with Ofgem (DNO). Other items included asbestos in street lighting and other equipment issues; Health & Safety updates; EV update and third-party lighting column attachment during seasonal periods and costs reimbursement for rectification of vandalism. SIG members provided update from other meetings, including Live Labs2, London Lighting Engineers, Institution of Lighting Professional and Highway Electrical Association

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: meeting identified key areas for better engagement with Network Rail, such as possessions to support maintenance; public liability insurance, use of ACE system; accessing documents from NR NEST system. Chair provide feedback on 2024 MHA+ event programme. Other agenda topics included group “knowledge-share” on inspection of walls and boundaries; closed churchyards and agreement on the need to share contemporary case studies. Training on water discussed, request to register interest in joint event. Discussion on the protocol for abnormal loads and need for consistency across highway authorities

Winter Services: : agenda topics included SIG members being part of/nominated to be part of the NWSRG practical guidance review working groups and progress of chapters rewrite. Cold Comfort 2024 was discussed and specific topics, that were part of the two-day event, that could be progressed as part of the SIG group. This included use of AI to assists decision making in winter services – and MHA+ member authorities inclusion in any trials taking place. SIG members provided update on authority readiness for winter 2024/25

Streetworks & Temporary Activity: face-to-face meeting hosted at Leicester City Council: agenda items included updates from regional and other groups including East Midlands Highways & Utilities Committee (HAUC), Severn Trent Water and Materials Group and recent Streetworks National Conference. Agenda items prompting discussion included statutory undertaker, HAUC materials and future benchmarking to be undertaken: fees and charges - fpn, defects; tro. Supervisor role (in managing performance) and their professional development; how forward planning/co-ordination can lead to cost-effective effective collaboration of suppliers on schemes and identification of future topics for SIG discussion

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](#)