



Network Resilience Live Lab bi-monthly newsletter Issue 3 – August 2021

What is the Network Resilience Live Lab

With a few months to go before the November project deadline, Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) is leading a pilot project in partnership with Birmingham City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, laying the foundations for a smarter, better-connected transport network in the region.

[The Network Resilience Live Lab](#) was awarded a £2.65m grant from the Department of Transport as part of the £22.9m [ADEPT SMART Places Live Labs Programme](#).

The pilot project will contribute to developing the operational capability of the [Regional Transport Coordination Centre](#) (RTCC) and its evolution through innovation. This bi-monthly newsletter will provide regular updates on the progress of the Live Lab.

Government Minister finds out how big data is making people's journeys faster

A visit by Government transport minister Rachel Maclean on 17 June, presented the NR Live Lab with an opportunity to showcase its work and the operational capabilities of the Regional Transport Coordination Centre as she was shown how more than three million pieces of data a day gathered from the region's roads network is helping to reduce traffic congestion and keep people moving.

Rachel Maclean, who is Redditch MP as well as Department for Transport Minister toured the £22 million Regional Transport Coordination Centre (RTCC), the information gathering nerve centre in Birmingham, where the data is received, along with live information from public transport operators, and analysed.

Transport Minister Rachel Maclean said: “The UK is paving the way when it comes to the future of transport and the development of cutting edge technology and I’m delighted to see this being embedded in the West Midlands Area through the Adept Live Labs project.”

For more information about the context for the visit and information presented to the Minister, [click here](#).

Fixed Assets targets met to Date

From the fixed assets workstream, the installation of the Static Automated Traffic Counters (SATCs) are complete for the planned 12 key route networks, and the next phase is to understand the maintenance of the SATCs. A maintenance levy was incorporated into the cost of the counters and this will continue beyond the life of the programme.

Recognition for Improving Utilisation of Data Through Partnership

The Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT) have recognised the Network Resilience Live Lab nationally in its CIHT Autodesk Innovation of the Year Award for its contribution to innovation covering research, technology, products, processes and services that have impacted the organisation, industry and/or society positively.

The work of the NR Live Lab was shortlisted and awarded a Commended recognition because of its collaboration with West Midlands Police and the innovative use of Static Automated Traffic Counters and the way data is used to monitor and manage traffic flow around the West Midlands.

You can view the CIHT shortlist [here](#).

Network Resilience Live Lab Evaluation Progression

Since January 2020, the NR Live Lab has undertaken a quarterly assessment against a range of criteria to evaluate its progress. Under two main categories of attractiveness and achievability, we are pleased to report that the NR Live Lab has scored well in its June 2021 assessment, achieving ‘excellent’ in 3 out of 15 criteria, and ‘good’ in the other 12.

Lewis Kelly, Implementation Manager for the Network Resilience Live Lab, said: “We are pleased that the Live Lab continues to progress well, and is demonstrating strong performance against the stated criteria. As we move into the final few months of the programme, we be seeking to maximise our opportunities in sharing our processes and outcomes as widely as possible.”

Report on the Transport Practitioners Meeting

On 7 & 8 July, the 19th Annual Transport Practitioners' Meeting took place online, enabling lively debates, networking and the dissemination of the latest thinking across the profession. The NR Live Lab sessions were chaired by Hannah Bartram, Chief Operating Officer at ADEPT. The two-hour session saw four colleagues from TfWM present and field questions from an audience of over 30 people.

The presentations and papers are available publicly and can be found in the list: Day One, Session One – Travel Demand Management – Network Resilience Live Lab. They can be viewed [here](#).

Market Research Society opens up discussion on traveller personas

Sarah Bayliss, Human Intelligence Manager for TfWM and Mike Cooper, Research Director at Trinity McQueen, will be joining forces at the MRS Behavioural Science Summit on Day 1 (22nd September at 2.10pm), to explain the behaviour influencing strategies and how traveller personas have enabled the design and communication of products and services which, through behaviour change campaigns, will reduce network disruption and improve passenger experience.

The Summit, which takes place on the 22nd and 23rd September, proposes that delegates will gain immediately actionable insight to support you in launching new propositions, generating large scale shifts in behaviour, developing personalised drivers of behaviour change and optimising customer journeys.

You can visit the website and sign up to book on the conference [here](#).

Transport Data Initiative (TDI) Live Lab Collaboration

On 23rd September at 11am, Stuart Lester – TfWM's Strategic Lead for Transport Intelligence, will present as part of a Live Lab collaboration at a TDI webinar. The short talk entitled "Using existing assets and new agreements and large-scale data to deliver operational outcomes" is part of the TDI Webinar #9 – ADEPT Live Labs, Innovation in the Local Roads Sector series.

You can register for the event [here](#) and the link will be sent to attendees on the morning of the live webinar. For a precursor to the talk, please read the article on in September's TDI newsletter entitled "Harnessing Technology and Collaborative Working for a Better Experience on the West Midlands' Roads" which can be found [here](#).

ADEPT represents local authority, county, unitary and metropolitan Directors. The ADEPT SMART Places Live Labs programme is a two-year £22.9 million project funded by the Department for Transport and supported by project partners SNC-Lavalin's Atkins business, EY, Kier, O2, Ringway and WSP. Nine local authorities are working on projects to introduce digital innovation across SMART mobility, transport, highways, maintenance,



data, energy and communications. Live Labs is part of ADEPT's SMART Places programme to support the use of digital technology in place-based services.