Committee report   SPT

Update on SPT's Real Time Passenger Information and Traffic Light Priority for Bus systems

Committee   Operations

Date of meeting   28 January 2022   **Date of report**   5 January 2022

Report by Chief Executive

1. Object of report

To update the Committee on the progress of Real Time Passenger Installations across the SPT area, and progress of the Traffic Light Priority for Bus projects.

2. Background

Members will recall a paper presented to the Operations Committee on 23 August 2019 updating on SPT's Transport Data Project[1]. In that paper an update was provided on SPT's regional Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) system, which commenced operation in 2016. This system generates predictions of bus journey arrivals at bus stops in real time, from the 4 main local bus operators, also linking to the Traveline Scotland online journey planner & Glasgow City Council's traffic control system. The system provides reassurance to waiting passengers that their bus journey is operating and the expected waiting time.

Since we last reported in 2019, the RTPI system has been expanded considerably, as follows:

- Additional displays have been installed in the Renfrewshire Council area on a corridor basis, including Glasgow Rd, Paisley, Paisley to Renfrew, and Paisley to Johnstone. This brings the total number of displays in Renfrewshire to 65;

- The first ten RTPI displays have recently been installed in the Inverclyde Council area, including Bridge of Weir, Port Glasgow, Greenock and Gourock;

- Considerable recent expansion of provision of RTPI displays has taken place in the East Dunbartonshire area, on a corridor basis, with additional provision being installed on Drymen Rd, Bearsden, Milngavie Rd, Bearsden, Auchinairn, Bishopbriggs, Lenzie and Kirkintilloch. It is expected that installations in Milngavie town centre will also be completed by March 2022, bringing the total number of displays in the East Dunbartonshire to 60;

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[1] https://www.spt.co.uk/media/hkjpyfzq/ops230819_agenda7.pdf

- Modest expansion of provision in the North Lanarkshire area, in Coatbridge and Airdrie, bringing the total in the North Lanarkshire area to 7 by the end of March 2022;

- Modest expansion of provision in the South Ayrshire area has also occurred, with 8 recent installations in the Troon area, bringing the total number of displays in South Ayrshire to 43;

- Modest expansion of provision in the Glasgow City Council area, including Renfield St, West George St, Stockwell Place, Pollok, Easterhouse, Shettleston, Shawlands and Springburn, and upgrading of older signs with new larger displays at various locations, bringing the total in the Glasgow City Council area to 374 by the end of March 2022;

- Upgrade of older signs with new larger signs at selected locations in East Renfrewshire; and

- 61 new displays have been installed in Buchanan Bus Station, allowing the removal of obsolete legacy systems at this flagship hub. In addition, it is expected that upgrade of displays at Greenock Kilblain St Bus Station will be complete within the current financial year.

With the above developments, by the end of March 2022, SPT's RTPI system will encompass over 800 electronic displays at key bus stops and bus stations across all 12 Local Authority areas in the SPT area. A map and list of the numbers of RTPI installations can be viewed in Appendix 1.

Traffic Light Priority for Bus (TLP)

SPT's RTPI system also hosts functionality to provide Traffic Light Priority for bus (TLP). The RTPI system communicates with buses as they progress along their route, calculating lateness, and via a series of data feeds and servers communicates with the host Local Authority's Urban Traffic Control (UTC) system. This in turn communicates with traffic signals equipped with suitable hardware, which can adjust their phasing to offer or extend the green time for a late running bus.

In recent years SPT has provided funding via the Capital Programme to Glasgow City Council to upgrade its UTC system to the latest standard to facilitate the TLP system, and for upgrades to traffic signal hardware to allow the onward extension of the TLP system. Working closely with colleagues from Glasgow City Council, bus operators, their ticket machine suppliers and SPT's RTPI system supplier, over 140 key junctions are now equipped and running the TLP system within the Glasgow City Council area.

In recent years SPT has also funded a project for the upgrading of traffic signal hardware in North Ayrshire, on the corridor between Irvine and Kilwinning, in order to allow TLP to function at these locations. This project is nearing completion.

SPT has also funded upgrade of traffic signal hardware in the Renfrewshire area, and is working with colleagues at the Council in this area to roll out TLP for bus at selected junctions in the Renfrewshire area.

3. **Outline of proposals**

SPT continues to work with local authority colleagues and internal partners in respect of delivery of further RTPI installations. It is anticipated that installations at the following locations will take place over the 2022/23 financial year:

- Renfrewshire Council – Neilston Road, Paisley;

- East Dunbartonshire Council – Milton of Campsie & Lennoxtown;

- North Lanarkshire Council – selected locations in Coatbridge, Airdrie, and Motherwell town centres;

- North Ayrshire – various locations

- Argyll & Bute in the Helensburgh area

- Further expansion of provision and upgrade of existing time-expired signs with newer larger signs within Glasgow; and

- Upgrade of East Kilbride and Hamilton bus stations thereby allowing the removal of obsolete legacy systems at these locations.

In addition, working with NHS colleagues, a project is underway to install RTPI signs at selected NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde sites, within hospital foyers or similar. These locations include the following:

- Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and Children's Hospital;

- Glasgow Royal Infirmary;

- Stobhill Hospital;

- Gartnavel Hospital; and

- The New Victoria Infirmary.

In respect of TLP, SPT envisages working with other Local Authority partners in order to provide TLP in other areas, where hardware permits. In particular, under the Scottish Government's Bus Partnership Fund (BPF), a sum of £135k has been allocated for the extension of TLP to the three town's area of North Ayrshire (Saltcoats, Stevenson & Ardrossan).

East Ayrshire Council has also shown recent interest in joining the TLP system, on a small scale initially at Crosshouse on the B7081. It is hoped that this is something that can be developed in due course.

Members should also note that SPT is currently tendering for the renewal of the Lot 3 RTPI sign supply contract and a future contract award paper will be presented to an appropriate committee for consideration. This contract expired on 26 November 2021 and the supplier under that contract was Ferrograph.

4. Conclusions

Good quality, accurate and timely public transport information is an essential prerequisite to encouraging public transport use and in planning the delivery of local bus services/networks. The RTPI system is a key part of that provision and the TLP for bus project is an important part of a wider suite of bus priority measures to assist in the punctuality of bus services.

5. Committee action

The Committee is recommended to:

- note the work being carried out to improve public transport information through the recent and planned expansions of RTPI across the Local Authority areas, SPT's bus stations and NHS estates; and

- note the work being done in respect of TLP for bus both executed and planned, to assist with creating conditions to improve the punctuality of bus services.

6. Consequences

Policy consequences	*In line with the Regional Transport Strategy.*
Legal consequences	*None directly.*
Financial consequences	*The purchase and installation of RTPI and TLP equipment is managed within existing capital budgets.*
Personnel consequences	*None directly.*
Equalities consequences	*Investment in transport information and bus priority enhances the attractiveness and reliability of bus services including for young people, people on low incomes, older people, disabled people and jobseekers who rely on them most.*
Risk consequences	*None directly.*

Name	Neil Wylie	**Name**	Valerie Davidson
Title	**Director of Finance**	**Title**	**Chief Executive**

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

APPENDIX 1

Update on SPT's Real Time Passenger Information and Traffic Light Priority for Bus systems

Figure 1. Number of RTPI displays by Local Authority Area/SPT site/NHS site

Council	RTPI at 2017	End March 22	Proposed 2022 to 2023
Argyll & Bute	4	4	0
East Ayrshire	52	71	11
East Dunbartonshire	0	60	7
East Renfrewshire	11	16	0
Glasgow	320	374	8
Inverclyde	0	10	0
North Ayrshire	20	20	0
North Lanarkshire	0	7	2
Renfrewshire	12	65	0
South Ayrshire	35	43	0
South Lanarkshire	24	28	0
West Dunbartonshire	7	11	0
SPT	20	86	30
NHS	0	7	0
Total	**505**	**802**	**58**

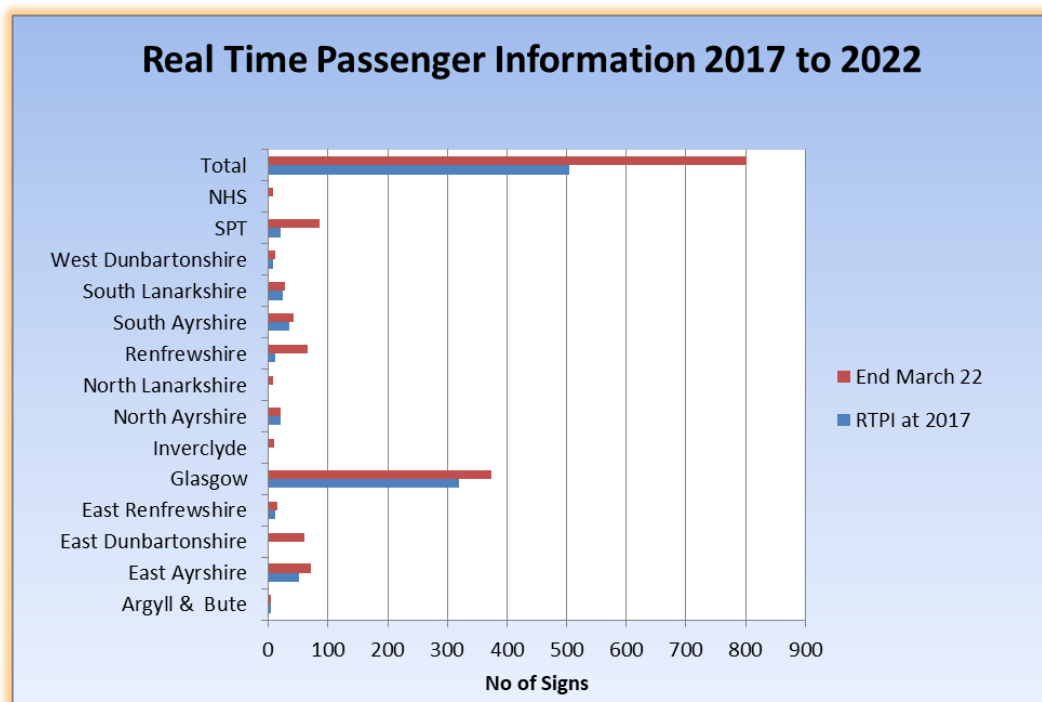**Figure 2. Number of RTPI displays by Local Authority Area, presented in graph format.**

Figure 3. Map of RTPI Display Locations

Real Time Information Signs to end March 2022

SPT Data
rtpi
- RTPI to be installed end March 2022
- RTPI Installed

Council	Act End March 2021	End March 2022
Argyll & Bute	4	4
East Ayrshire	62	71
East Dunbartonshire	53	60
East Renfrewshire	13	16
Glasgow	366	374
Inverclyde	10	10
North Ayrshire	20	20
North Lanarkshire	2	7
Renfrewshire	65	65
South Ayrshire	35	43
South Lanarkshire	28	28
West Dunbartonshire	11	11
SPT	78	86
NHS	0	7
Total	747	802