

DfT Transport Sector Transparency Board – Minutes

Great Minster House, London 14.00 – 16.00, Friday 13th March 2015

Attendees: Steve Gooding, DG Roads, Traffic and Local, DfT (Chair) [SG]
John Dowie, Director, Strategic Roads and Smart Ticketing [JD]
Prof. Jonathan Raper, CEO Placr [JR]
Andrew Stott, Public Sector Transparency Board [AS]
Johanna Walker, Open Data User Group [JW]
Nic Cary, Head of Digital Transformation [NC]
Fiona Douglas [FD]
Simon Harris, Information and Security [SH]
Liam Murphy, Cabinet Office [LM]
Helen Pattington, Digital and Open Data [HP]
Paul Baden, Network Condition and Geography Statistics [PB]

Introduction and Welcome

1. SG welcomed the attendees and advised that he would shortly be moving to a new job outside of the Civil Service, therefore this would be his last Transparency Board meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

2. The minutes from the last meeting were accepted, although JR mentioned that these did not appear to have been published. HP advised that these had been published on the gov.uk site before Christmas. [Post meeting note: minutes from previous meetings can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/dft-transport-sector-transparency-board>]

Update on project with OS to create digital road map data

3. PB gave an update on the OS project to create digital road map data called OS Open Roads, which has now been released. In the future the Open Roads product would be generated from the new OS MasterMap Highways Network when that is fully populated. The initial release was created using Ordnance Surveys ITN product.
4. JR raised the issue again that certain key useful elements of the OS data were still not due to be released, including the data that enables links to the additional streetworks data. Whilst the new project would enable more data to be available for PSMA users, this was not the same situation for open data users, many of whom were now putting in place alternative solutions to address its unavailability. He also mentioned that the OS terms and conditions, whilst making the data available, prohibited the building of digital products on top of it.

5. AS also mentioned that DfT was partially funding the new project, and wondered if this meant any additional levers were available to encourage the release of more OS data.

Action: NC and LM to contact Ordnance Survey to request additional data releases.

6. There was some discussion on what would happen to the version of the National Street Gazetteer without geometry, and JR asked if it GeoPlace had plans to publish this.

Action: NC to ask GeoPlace if the NSG data without geometry can be released.

7. PB mentioned that the new OS MasterMap Highways Network that combined ITN and NSG would be capable of including data such as speed limit information, although this would not be present at the outset. OS MasterMap Highways Network is due for release on 1st April 2015.

National Information Infrastructure (NII)

8. HP provided more background on the National Information Infrastructure, and put forward some ideas for the Transparency Board to consider. As a result of the discussions, a slightly revised set of datasets for inclusion was agreed (see Annex A)

9. Issues discussed and areas to be taken forward included:

- cycle routes should be included, although this should be from Cycle Streets, rather than the DfT dataset that is no longer maintained;
- for the rail network, the location of tracks as well as centre line data would be useful;
- TfL should be encouraged to release their detailed station accessibility data;
- it was agreed that live travel news should not be part of the NII, but that speed camera locations, publicly available electric vehicle charging points, petrol station locations and road toll data should be included;
- it was noted that speed limit information is published by local authorities in Traffic Orders, but this is only available in documents, rather than as data;
- two additional datasets were proposed for inclusion, these being taxi ranks and the Network Rail Corpus dataset on rail assets;
- it was noted that inclusion of some commercial datasets in the NII may act as an incentive for organisations to release some of their data for free;
- the geographic scope of the NII at present was England, although where data is held for Scotland, Wales and/or Northern Ireland, this will also be included and noted accordingly;

- although statistical datasets were not included in the NII, SG suggested that a performance NII might be set up in the future.

Action: NC to find out what data HS2 has published.

Future Plans

10. Board members were invited to put forward ideas for priority areas of open data work post-election.
11. JR mentioned public task around data, with a focus on the NII datasets, and JD suggested that a RAG assessment be carried out to identify the likelihood of release of these datasets.
12. AS suggested that we look at what local authorities do as part of their statutory responsibilities and what data publication arises from this. It was noted that DCLG is already working with local authorities on this.

Action: LM to advise who within the Cabinet Office is working with DCLG on release of local authority data.

13. Another potential area to explore would be to try to standardise data across the UK, and potentially the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey. It was noted in particular that Northern Ireland has not yet published a great amount of data.
14. It was also suggested that more be done to share the benefits of open data, and potentially identify which datasets are likely to be the key economic drivers. It was noted that some private companies (such as traveline) have embraced the concept of open data, whilst some, including many in the rail industry, are still not releasing as much data as they could.

AOB

15. JR proposed a vote of thanks to SG and said that he had made a significant contribution to advancing the transparency agenda. It was noted that he had made time to attend and chair transparency board meetings, demonstrating a commitment at the highest level within the Department.

Secretariat
25/03/2015

Annex A - List of proposed transport datasets for inclusion in the National Information Infrastructure

Air
Air Timetables
Air Fares Data (note this does not currently exist openly and in a nationally consistent format)
Minor Airports
Public Transport (non-rail)
National Coach Service database
Bus / Coach fares (note this does not currently exist openly and in a nationally consistent format)
Tram/Light rail networks
National Public Transport Access Nodes (NaPTAN – details of all bus stops, rail stations, airports, ferry terminals and light rail / tram stations in Great Britain)
National Public Transport Gazetteer (NPTG – names and locations of all villages, towns and cities in Great Britain)
National Public Transport Dataset (traveline’s public transport timetables)
Real time bus running
Accessibility data (data maintained within DfT on accessible stops and services)
Accessibility data (data collected for ATOC and TfL on the accessibility of their stations)
Taxi rank locations
Rail
High Speed 2 route map
Rail Timetables
Rail Engineering Works
Rail Network
Rail Fares
Real-time train running data
Rail asset locations
Road
Road Network
Bulk Vehicle Data
Live Traffic Information
Streetworks
Anonymised MoT Data
Integrated Transport Network
Road Speed Limits
Highways Agency journey time and data flow
Speed Camera Locations
Road Tolls
Electric Vehicle Charging Points
Petrol Station Locations
Car Parks
Walking Paths/routes
Cycle routes

Water
Hydrographic Data
Ferry fares (note this does not currently exist openly and in a nationally consistent format)
Canal Network
River Maps
Port Locations
Ferry Routes