

Travel Information Highway (www.tih.org.uk)

HIGHWAYS AGENCY



The TIH Community is a group of local authorities, broadcasters, network operators (including the Highways Agency) and public transport companies. They came together to share data, both for informing travellers and improving how events are managed across local boundaries. TIH is an agreed framework for joining many systems together over the Internet and sets out the rules for key areas of data exchange. The TIH Community currently stands in excess of 500 members drawn from both the public and private sector.

The objective of TIH is to support the Traffic and Travel Information Industry to exchange data in order to enhance the information available to both operators and travellers.

The Travel Information Highway uses a common practice approach to exchange travel information, only adopting practices that are both relevant to all members and conform to international standards. These common practices are collectively known as the TIH Principles, which have been developed by independent members within a series of Working Groups.

TIH PRINCIPLES:

- Location references should follow international standards
- The format of the data should be described adequately
- Data should be published using XML (eXtensible Markup Language)
- Security levels should match the value of the data

Following the TIH Principles ensures data is available in a common format by using common standards for locations and event types.

The key outputs are TIH Principles that provide:-

- Advice on Compliance
- Usage Agreement
- Expert Guidance

TIH is not a system it is the agreed framework for joining systems together via the Internet. It simply sets out rules for data exchange.

BENEFITS OF TIH

The benefit of using TIH is it can help your organisation to make its travel data available to operational partners, suppliers and the general public. It pools together travel information and make it available between providers to give a joined-up view of the transport network.

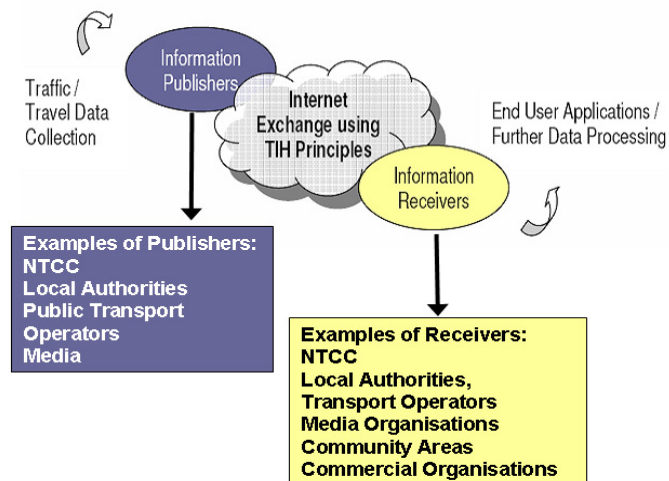
The TIH approach will: -

- Saves you time and money by using the hard won experience of others
- Offers business and software toolkits to speed up development
- Embraces existing common practices by bringing practitioners together
- Make data available in a common format by using common standards for locations and event types.

The benefits of sharing data are clear, both for informing travellers and improving how events are managed across local boundaries

HOW DOES IT WORK?

With the TIH specification, if your traffic data is packaged by your own system and made available on a web-server, then everyone who you give permission to, can see it and use it. Each person who accesses your data has the power to format the data for themselves, without altering the data on your system. Subsequently, if someone can use your data service, then you can probably use theirs. This is beneficial as the Traffic Management Act of 2004 has created a statutory duty for Local Highways Authorities to share their traffic data with neighbouring authorities.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on TIH is available at www.tih.org.uk.

Alternatively please contact Ben Catchesides at the Highways Agency (Ben.Catchesides@highways.gsi.gov.uk), Phil Rowley at WSP (Philip.Rowley@wpsgroup.com) or Nitu Sharma at WSP (Nitu.Sharma@wpsgroup.com)