

**Future Transport inquiry proposal:
The impact of data on transport**

Overview: Transport authorities have access to more data sources than ever, whether through the use of connected vehicles, transport location apps, ticketing services or freight movements. Both historic and real-time data can be used to introduce and plan new transport services and help the public make more informed choices around if, how and when they travel. It can help to reduce carbon, improve safety, make more efficient use of the network and support the continuous improvement of transport services. However, often data is siloed, whether for commercial reasons, due to a lack of digital infrastructure through which to publish it or a lack of skills in how to use it.

Intelligent Transport Systems UK is suggesting an inquiry into the use of untapped data across all transport, focusing on what government – national, devolved and local – can do to open up data sources for more effective use. This is a key issue for future transport policy and will become increasingly pertinent over the coming years, as transport services become increasingly connected in real-time and more data becomes available.

What the future of transport policy might look like: The DfT's Data Strategy, setting out the Government's approach to digital services, is around two years overdue. Government should be setting out the regulatory framework for data services and bringing together partners to collaborate, such as on the Bus Open Data Service.¹ Much more could be done to utilise the data from connected vehicle services, maritime and freight and to digitalise traffic regulation orders (TROs), to name a few.

Why we should look at this future transport issue: The use of data will be pivotal in determining how our transport system develops. It is vital for the UK's ambitions on Mobility as a Service, demand responsive transport, smart ticketing and connected and automated vehicles, as well as ensuring the cybersecurity of our infrastructure. It could help businesses in the UK develop a competitive advantage from which to export abroad, supporting the economy in the process.

Why it would benefit from scrutiny by the Committee: The regulatory and policy environment can struggle to keep up with rapid technological developments in the sector. Government policy often feels as if it is 'playing catch up' rather than looking ahead and enabling technological advancement. The Committee's cross-party role can help set a more forward-looking approach.

Why it's important to look at it now: With the Department's Data Strategy overdue and uncertainty over whether a Transport Bill will be included in the King's Speech, this is a critical time for this issue.

Why the Government needs to take action: The Government is in the sole position of being able to co-ordinate businesses, local and regional government and transport authorities to create the right frameworks. There has been progress in making better use of data, for example on the National Parking Platform, but there are also areas where much more can be done. There are a number of applications for data services, including with eCall, public transport concessions, freight movements and traffic management.

ITS UK would be happy to brief the Committee further on this issue.

**Intelligent Transport Systems UK
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¹ <https://www.bus-data.dft.gov.uk/>