

Minutes of the 44 meeting of the UK Bridges Board held at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation on 26 June 2014

Mike Winter	ADEPT/ Dorset County Council (Chairman)
Nick Burgess	Transport for London
Robert Dean	Network Rail
Kevin Dentith	ADEPT
Rod Howe	Canal and Rivers Trust
Richard Fish	Bridge Owners Forum
Liz Kirkham	ADEPT
Neil Loudon	Highways Agency
Willie Kerr	Northern Ireland Roads Service
David Mackenzie	SCOTS, Highland Council
Stephen Pottle	Transport for London (Vice Chairman)
Elfyn Williams (for Neil Garton-Jones)	CSS Wales
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

In attendance for item 1 to 3

Lila Tachtsi	Atkins
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Items to note by UKRLG

Bridge inspector accreditation – note UKBB disappointment at lack of bids for the sector scheme

Vehicle incursions – issue of perpendicular sites combined with parallel sites and need to revise guidance (as per RAIB Aspatria report – see minutes). How is progress with DfT monitoring of the provision of mitigation measures at high risk sites going?

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

Mike Winter welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were recorded for Barry Colford, Satbir Gill, Graham Cole, Wayne Hindshaw and Jason Hibbert.

2. Membership changes

Mike said that a number of changes in membership had taken place recently.

- Neil Garton-Jones has stepped down as the CSS Wales representative due to change in his role at his employers. Bob Humphries would take over the representation. The Board recorded their thanks to Neil for his work on the Board.
- Nick Burgess was welcomed to the Board as the new representative from London Underground following the retirement of Graham Bessant.
- The LoBEG representative was still outstanding following Paul Williams retirement.

- The Board agreed to remove David Yeoell from the circulation list as he had not attended for a long period of time.
- The meeting would be the last for Willie Kerr from Transport Northern Ireland.

Action: Justin Ward to update circulation list and UK Bridges Board website page with membership changes

3. Code of Practice/HAMFIG Support

Lila Tachtsi from Atkins gave an update on the HAMFIG support work that was helping authorities implement Asset Management and compile valuations of their bridges stocks.

HAMFIG support

There was a discussion on the accreditation of bridge management system software incorporating the structures toolkit functionality. The Board discussed convening a workshop in the autumn for suppliers. The aim would be to engage with them, encouraging them to incorporate the structures toolkit in their software, informing them of Whole of Government Accounting timetables and discuss plans for software accreditation.

Action: Lila Tachtsi to draft a letter on workshop for software supplier accreditation for Mike Winter, Stephen Pottle and Paul Hersey to review/approve

Code of Practice

Lila provided an update on the future review of the Code. Lila highlighted that the issue of risk and resilience, as identified by the Board, was going to be covered in the review of all the Codes.

Action: Mike Winter to send information on risk and resilience to Lila that will be helpful for the Codes Review [completed]

Mike Winter said that there was a policy framework for street lighting but not for roads and bridges and said this could be a useful inclusion for these codes.

Lila said that the DfT would be writing to the Chairman of the Boards seeking representation for the Steering Groups.

Action: DfT to write to UKBB Chairman seeking a representative for the Codes of Practice project Steering Group.

4. Minutes of last meeting

There was a minor note of accuracy change: removed 'highlighted' at the top of page four, correct spelling to Alastair Soane. Amended minutes available here:

<http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/en/utilities/document-summary.cfm?docid=C34C4651-60E8-4678-A076562F3C8ED000>

The current agenda picked up the majority of the matters arising.

Action: Elfyn Williams to send minutes of CSS Wales/ADEPT liaison [completed]

5. UK Roads Liaison Group meeting

The Board noted a few changes in the Group with Mike Wilson (Highways Agency), Sheena Hague (Welsh Government) and Rob Gillispie (TAG) now represented. It was noted that the DfT now had extra resource with Gary Kemp joining the Highways section.

The Board noted the item on BIM and requested information on that.

Action: Justin Ward to send the papers on BIM to UKBB members (as circulated to the UKRLG) [completed]

There was a brief discussion on the issues arising from the Away Day.

6. Transport Resilience Review

Action: Presentation given by Miles Gidlow at the UKRLG Away Day on the Transport Resilience Review to be circulated to UKBB members – DfT to assist

7. Liaison between Network Rail and Local Highways

ADEPT/Network Rail

Rob Dean said he thought that regular meetings were now set up.

Kevin Dentith highlighted issues with BAPAs in the South-west region.

Action: Rob Dean and Kevin Dentith to look at how BAPA's are being implemented in the South-west

Stephen Pottle said that an understanding by local Highway Authorities on which Network Rail departments are responsible for approving highway structures over and adjacent to rail was important.

Action: Stephen Pottle to provide Rob Dean with examples of the TfL approval process that had led to difficulties

SCOTS/Network Rail

David Mackenzie said that the bi-annual liaison meetings are going generally well with issues such as Level '0' Assessments, Bridge Guard 3 and vehicle incursions being usefully discussed.

CSS Wales/Network Rail

The issues and progress were similar to Scotland.

8. Vehicle Incursions

The Board noted that DfT were now treating the recommendations for action within the RAIB Oxshott report as a priority.

The Board noted that today (26 June 2014) the RAIB had released its report into a road vehicle incursion onto the railway at Aspatria, Cumbria, 26 October 2013. RAIB has made two recommendations:

1. *The intent of the recommendation is to reduce road vehicle incursion risk by ensuring that the risk of vehicles from side roads, including running downhill onto the railway, is properly taken into account when sites are risk ranked.*

The Department for Transport, in liaison with highway authorities and railway infrastructure managers, should review and amend the current guidance 'Managing the accidental obstruction of the railway by road vehicles' published in 2003 so that it adequately takes into account in the risk ranking process for neighbouring sites the risk of road vehicles on side roads, including those that are unattended, running downhill onto a railway. The guidance, when amended, should clearly describe how this risk should be derived and included in the overall risk ranking score (paragraph 62).

2. *The intent of the recommendation is to provide additional mitigation against road vehicle incursions from side roads, including where vehicles may run downhill onto the railway.*

Following the completion of Recommendation 1 above, railway infrastructure managers, with highway authorities, should use the new guidance to implement a time-bound plan to review the risk ranking scores for sites where there is a significant risk from side roads, in particular with respect to road vehicles running downhill onto a railway. Additional risk mitigation measures justified by increased risk ranking scores should be considered and implemented (paragraph 62).

RAIB report on Aspatia:

http://www.raib.gov.uk/publications/investigation_reports/reports_2014/report142014.cfm

Action: Paul Hersey to review what Graham Cole has drafted as a scoping document for the preparation of some guidance to local highway authorities following the Oxshott incursion.

9. Bridge Strike Protocol

Post meeting note: the Protocol has now been published, for UKRLG news item and link to the Protocol : <http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/en/news/index.cfm/bridge-strike-protocol-out-now>

10. ADEPT – Canal & Rivers Trust

Work on mitigation measures to reduce the frequency of impacts on steel parapets was reviewed in recent liaison meetings.

11. Bridge Inspector Training

Paul Hersey said that no bids were received following the OJEU tender for a Bridge Inspector Training scheme administrator. The Board noted their disappointment at the lack of bids to the scheme and again highlighted the importance of the scheme, particularly with regard to collecting reliable condition data upon which asset management decisions can be made.

Action: Paul Hersey to get feedback from interested parties to understand why they did not bid for the work

12. Boundary issue

Paul Hersey said that the boundary issue was with the DfT legal team. Mike Winter reinforced the importance of progressing this to avoid it being “lost” as HA is converted into a Government owned Company.

Action: Paul Hersey to provide an update on the boundary issue

13. Strong winds

Kevin Dentith highlighted the issue of high sided vehicles being blow over in high winds and the possible issues with insurance claims for liability on the highway authority. The Board noted that this was something for the UK Network Management to explore:

Action: Justin Ward to highlight to the UK Network Management Board the issue of guidance /or otherwise on appropriate traffic signs/VMS/ wind socks for the risks posed to high sided vehicles in high winds

14. Bridge Owners Forum

Action: Add Justin Ward to the BOF mailing list – Richard Fish to arrange

The Board noted the work in Transport Scotland on surfacing options.

Action: Richard Fish to highlight the work by Transport Scotland on road surfacing options to Steve Child who is responsible for the ADEPT project to provide guidance on the selection of surfacing materials, including on bridge decks.

15. Eurocode Update

The Board noted a recent update on Eurocodes.

16. Business Plan

Mike Winter provided a brief update on Business Plan.

Action: Justin Ward to update Business Plan online

17. UK Bridges Board Chairmanship

Mike Winter said that he was leaving Dorset County Council at the end of September and that he would therefore have to stand down as Chairman of the UKBB. Mike said that he had spoken with Parvis Khansari, who is chair of the ADEPT Engineering Board and fellow member of UKRLG, on a successor for his position as Chairman of the ADEPT Bridges Group. Mike said this would be the first step to ADEPT making a recommendation on the appointment of the next UKBB Chairman for UKRLG’s consideration.

18. Conferences

5 November 2014 – WRA UK Congress on Resilient Networks. Further information here: www.piarc.co.uk

19. AOB

Richard Fish highlighted that local transport received a D minus in the recently published ICE State of the Nation Report.

Willie Kerr highlighted work by John McRobert (from Transport Northern Ireland) on slope stability.

The Board thanked Mike Winter for all his work on the UK Bridges Board.

20. Date of next meeting

2 October 2014