

Minutes of 59th meeting of the UK Roads Board meeting held on 8 June 2018 at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation

Present:

James Bailey
Amanda Richards

Donald Morrison

Simon Richardson
Gary Kemp
Satbir Gill (for Rob Gillespie)
Martin McMahon
Jason Jenkins
Stuart Giddings

Ramesh Sinhal
Justin Ward

Representing:

Chair, Staffordshire & ADEPT
Surrey County Council, representing the Road Condition Management Group (RCMG)
Transport Scotland, representing the Asset Management Board
Infrastructure Northern Ireland
Department for Transport
Hounslow Highways representing TAG
TfL
CSS Wales
Hampshire County Council, representing the Footways & Cycleways Group (FCMG)
Highways England
CIHT (Secretariat)

In attendance:

James Wallis – Chair of Visual Survey Group

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

Apologies Anthony-Radford Foley, Richard Morgan, Chris Cranston, Ian Hawthorn and Douglas Hill. James introduced the agenda and agreed to add research under the agenda.

2. Update on Visual Survey

James Wallis reported that two new visual surveys have been developed following a period of consultation with highway authorities. At the moment they are called CVI (Core Visual Inspections) and AEI (Annual Engineers Inspection).

The Visual Survey Group is responsible for updating UKPMS Visual Survey Manuals. They also manage the DCD and inspector accreditation with TRL.

CVI update:

With changes in IT and technology there was a desire for the group to update the UKPMS Visual Survey Manuals. To help address a range of aspects such as: local authorities wanted better information for scheme selection, for WGA, for the Incentive and Challenge Fund and also to support the new Code of Practice from the UKRLG.

DVI update:

James clarified that this survey is engineer driven and about treatment selection (therefore requires experience on materials and treatment selection). This means that this is better for lifecycle analysis. This is now more accurate for cost estimates, means that multiple visits to sites is not required, authorities have a better understanding of the maintenance need and the process is more accurate for WGA.

New AEI Manual – Treatments

This has a range of locally defined treatments: as new, up to standard, maintenance patch etc...thereby providing a better understanding of the lifecycle stages.

The next stage involves discussions with developers on how to implement the new surveys into UKPMS, to finalise the manuals, to produce the documentation and DCD accreditation and then promote the new surveys.

Post summer the aim is to promote the new surveys to local authorities and contractors with the aim for implementation of the new surveys in April 2019.

Satbir Gill asked about the correlation between the current and the new surveys. James said that this has been trialled in Derbyshire and the only issues were related to training but in data terms there was consistency of the results.

Amanda Richards noted that the industry does want consistency and that backwards comparability has been a strong requirement of any new changes in surveys and inspections.

James said that a range of surveys have been produced for reporting and for site identification.

Ramesh asked about correlation with SCANNER. James said this was not there and Ramesh replied that this was a concern. James replied that the use of the new surveys from the Visual Surveys Group was to give authorities choice and allow as many options as possible – SCANNER, DVI, CVI – to conduct surveys.

Ramesh then asked about Amanda about SCANNER. Amanda said that SCANNER was used to give an overall picture of the network, but that the detail was not there at the outset. Amanda said that some of the UKRLG research projects submitted were to provide more detail to authorities. Ramesh said that Highways England was looking at updating the TRACS 5 surveys.

Donald asked about the use of video was being considered as that is now very good. Donald said that video surveys taken at traffic speed can now identify fine cracks. James said that in the old manuals not to use videos, but for the new surveys the use of video is being encouraged. James said that two passes might be useful (due to light conditions), but that as long as the data was put into a standard. DCI is being extracted from video material.

James concluded by saying that the aim was just to ensure that authorities had enough tools in their toolbox to address their challenges.

3. Notes of last meeting

Minor correction to surname for Martin McMahon.

The actions were all completed aside from:

12th July – HMEP meeting to be held – update following this meeting

James Bailey and Justin Ward to finalise to publish UKRB Business Plan.

Amanda Richards reported that she will continue to be the Chair of the RCMG.

Justin Ward to share the overview of Highways England research programme as provided by Ramesh Sinhal

Following an overview by Ramesh on the research programme by Highways England. Amanda Richards reported that Steven Child had been tasked with looking at what RCMG is doing and what Highways England is doing in regards to research to ensure that the two

benefit each other. Ramesh said that Highways England works internationally via CEDR to ensure that the trans-European network is compatible.

Jason said on DMRB that engagement via CSS Wales had happened through Steve Davy from Highways England, and Donald Morrison said that the same had happened with SCOTS. James Bailey highlighted the issue of DMRB as reported in the local annexes as reported in the last UKRLG meeting. There was a discussion on research and coordination between various bodies. For instance Highways England programme for next year will be happening in October.

4. UKRLG minutes

James noted that the FCMG work was very well supported by the UKRLG. There was brief notice of the illumination sign guidance. There was also a discussion on the growing focus on the UK Network Management Board regarding construction traffic. There was a discussion on diversions and impacts on local road networks from major maintenance works by Highways England (i.e. via overnight closures and therefore the impact of diversions through smaller roads and impact on local communities). One item of clarity was sought:

Action: Trees on Code of Practice - amendment 5.4.4 - not clear in the minutes if this was agreed – Justin Ward to confirm

Research

There was a discussion on the research programme by UKRLG.

Action: Justin Ward to share provisionally agreed research programme by UKRLG members for comment and review the proposals to ensure links for specific opportunities or coordination opportunities

Action: James Wallis to review the ‘Code of Practice competence training’ in light of the work by the Visual Survey Group

There was a discussion on competence training and James Bailey said the aim of the project was to bring together the various initiatives. Satbir noted the need for engagement with neighbouring authorities was important and the need for consistency was highlighted. Amanda Richards said that Southeast seven have regular meetings about the implementation of the Code.

5. Sub groups

RCMG

Amanda reported on the last meeting in May. Amanda said that Steve Berry from DfT had attended the last meeting. The Spending Review is coming up and RCMG offered support to this process. The amber data in SCANNER was noted as an issue for investigation. The red appears to be looking better but if the amber rates increase then that might highlight impending future problems.

NWSRG

The report was noted.

FCMG

Stuart Giddings noted that the focus of the last activity was on working on the new research reports.

Asset Management

The meeting has been postponed to the 21st June, but the focus was on developing research proposals.

Action: Agreed to keep Asset Management as a standing item on the agenda

6. FCMG Chair

There has been one nomination for the position. Dave Kinsey nominations was strongly supported by the UK Roads Board.

Action: Justin Ward to write to Dave Kinsey to inform him of his appointment to take on the Chair role of FCMG

7. Communication

Code of Practice – further workshops on the implementation

Action: Coverage of the UKRLG research programme in Transportation Professional

Action: Coverage of the Code of Practice

Action: Justin Ward to work with Amanda on potential podcast with South East 7

Action: Contact MJ editor about potential article on the Code

8. AOB

Simon Richardson raised an issue for Northern Ireland as currently noted in the Highway Risk and Liability Guidance document. Simon said that in Northern Ireland has its own accreditation programme but that the Guidance document was causing some concern to lawyers as the document seems to (under 5.5.2) require accreditation through IHE's scheme for road inspectors.

Action: John Irvine to produce a paper for discussion and agreement on the Highway Risk and Liability Guidance document to exempt NI from the requirement for the IHE road inspections scheme accreditation

Jason Jenkins raised the boundary issue.

Action: Justin Ward to write to Jason Jenkins putting him in contact with Freda Rashdi, Neil Loudon and Liz Kirkham on the work that Highways England is doing on boundary issues

Action: Donald Morrison to share the work in Scotland on boundary issues with Jason Jenkins

Action: Justin Ward share results of the Code of Practice survey with UKRLG members

9. Date of next meeting

5th October in Scotland

Action: 15th February 2019 meeting to be planned