

Minutes of 62th meeting of the UK Roads Board meeting held on 24 May 2019 at CIHT, 119 Britannia Walk, N1 7JE

Present:

James Bailey
John Hunter (for Amanda Richards)

Carol Valentine (for Chris Cranston)

Douglas Hill (by phone)
David Kinsey

Martin McMahon
Justin Ward

Representing:

Chair, Staffordshire & ADEPT
Surrey County Council, representing the
Road Condition Management Group (RCMG)
Devon County Council, representing the
National Winter Service Research Group
Angus Council, representing SCOTS
Derby City Council, representing the
Footways & Cycleways Group (FCMG)
TfL
CIHT (Secretariat)

In attendance Richard Hayes (item 1-2)

1. Introduction, welcome and apologies

James Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were recorded for Richard Morgan, Rob Gillespie, Simon Richardson, Ramesh Sinhal, Donald Morrison, Steve Berry, Satbir Gill, and Jason Jenkins.

2. IHE -

Richard Hayes said they are looking to seek support from the UK Roads Board for a couple of new competency schemes. One on streetworks inspections and one on high speed road safety inspections.

Streetworks inspections - following concerns from local authorities that they are unable to challenge streetworks standards. Richard said that IHE training scheme and certification scheme for those that are able to direct utilities. Richard said they are also aware of the permit scheme that is being rolled-out.

Richard said the aim would be to ultimately assist the utility side to improve reinstatements.

High speed road safety inspections – looking for consistency of interpretation of the results. Richard said this would most likely affect Highways England. Richard said this would be similar to the current inspection process it would be a five-year process. There would be no cost to the organisation, the only income that IHE get is from approving the training provider.

James Bailey said that the UKRLG has changed in recent years with the establishment of the Asset Management Board. James said this was a pan-asset Board and had recently been working on competency schemes through the UKRLG research programme. One on Asset Management Competency and one on Inspection Competency.

Richard said that IHE has been invited to session on the two above research projects: but did have some concerns around these. Richard said that there is now a process of agreeing the form of wording to address these issues.

Richard said they have issued the Asset Management Competency Framework. Richard said that the Board has not yet issued the Inspection Competency Framework and added that having two schemes could lead to confusion in the sector.

Action: Justin Ward to put Richard Hayes in contact with Infrastructure NI regarding amendments to the Highway Risk & Liability Guidance

Carol Valentine said that in Kent they have their own dedicated safety inspection team.

David Kinsey said work with HAUK and Streetworks UK should all be aligned to improving the quality of the asset.

Martin said the benefits of the permitting scheme result in delays on the network and also quality of reinstatement. The benefits of the permitting scheme are more the benefits to the economy.

David added the issue of research funding and the FCMG meeting will consider cycleway risk guidance

Action: David Kinsey to raise at FCMG to consider cycleways risk guidance to be extended to utilities inspection

David said that cycleways can often be an afterthought, Richard Hayes said that inspections in this regard need to be flexible and dynamic and that the risk-based approach helps to improve service to identify what you do.

James Bailey noted that Highways England engagement on the work on high speed road inspections but asked what inspection process they have in place already. Richard Hayes said that he felt that Highways England has not got inspections quite right and that with the bringing asset management in-house there was an issue here.

Richard explained that technology was providing additional evidence in terms of the developments of inspections going forward. Richard Hayes noted Scotland and Wales (with a lot of single carriageway high speed roads) including local authority roads with similar characteristics.

John Hunter cautioned against some of the developments with road condition monitoring systems would not be able to pick up the same level of detail as SCANNER surveys. Richard said that we are talking about safety inspections.

Carol highlighted the developments with data analytics and James Bailey said that the ADEPT Live Labs research projects should help the industry make informed judgements.

Richard said the next step would be to develop both competency schemes and then seek training providers to take the scheme forward. A trial in the states of Jersey has already been put in place.

John Hunter asked if the streetworks scheme would involve both sides – from the highways and from the utilities – and Richard said the scheme was more for the highway inspector side.

Action: UKRB noted support for the proposal but noted the following: Richard Hayes to engage with Ramesh Sinhal for a Highways England perspective; and to seek support from the Asset Management Board and Network Management Board

Douglas Hill said the new Transport Bill going through the Scottish Parliament Roads and Streetworks Legislation going through in Scotland makes the situation a bit different.

Scotland has a RAMP process that moves the 32 authorities in Scotland and that this will be supported by a central quality process.

3. Drainage

James Bailey sought agreement that the UK Roads Board was best placed to take on UK Roads Board. The Board agreed that the first step would be to explore the issues of drainage drawing in some experts into a future meeting. James noted concerns about establishing another sub-group.

John Hunter highlighted that the issue of flooding has gained momentum over more recent years. Carol said just understanding the drainage asset was a challenge and this view was supported by Martin, but added drainage was a key issue as a fully integral road system needed drainage assets. James added the range of different drainage assets – from open drainage, to run-off meant the issue was quite significant.

Action: A future agenda item to focus on drainage assets – bringing in external people – James Bailey/Justin Ward

Carol highlighted the NWRSG bid on research around frequent weather events.

Martin noted that Satbir had previously raised the issue of the impact of standing water on the network.

Action: Justin Ward to raise the issue that Satbir Gill had noted on standing water and the impact on the road network for NWSRG to consider adding into the NWRSG research bid on severe winter

4. Trees

David Kinsey said the issue has become more important given the issues in Sheffield. David asked if the issue could sit within footways.

James noted that Chris Cranston had raised the issue of Ash Dieback and this had noted an issue. Carol Valentine said most authorities are likely to have a soft landscaping team and the team within Kent has good knowledge of the issues so might be useful for drawing in.

John Hunter asked about what the duties are in the code.

Action: David Kinsey to invite an Arboriculturalist from his authority to explain how inspections are undertaken at the next meeting

Action: Justin Ward to contact Sue James regarding TDAG's work to provide an update at the next UK Roads Board in written form

Action: James Bailey to keep the Board updated regarding the Live Labs

5. Research

Current research

Unclassified SCANNER – this has been awarded to Jacobs through Transport Scotland.

Update NWSRG guidance in light of Well-managed Highways Infrastructure publication and promote use amongst practitioners. – Five sections have been

published and additional sections are being developed currently. Carol said they are aiming for the publication in advance of winter.

Cycle Risk Assessment Guidance for Defect and Safety Inspections – the view from FCMG that this work could be added as an appendix to the work by the Asset Management Board on Safety Inspections

Future research

Action: David Kinsey said that the FCMG was

The Board noted the views provided by DfT on the research project from Steve Berry that recommended delaying all research projects related to SCANNER due to a wider call for evidence to take place in the future.

John Hunter said RCMG have reviewed the previous unfunded research bids are proposing to submit the 4 bids detailed below to the 2019/20 round of bidding pending UKRB approval.

1. Improving local authority asset management tools via the validation of new weighting sets – revision of previous bid 010_UKRLG
2. Providing a multimedia toolkit to help local authorities optimise the collection and application of condition data – amalgamation and review of previous bids 011 & 017-UKRLG
3. Enhancements in analysis of change in pavement condition over time – revision of previous bid 013-UKRLG
4. Development of skid resistance investigatory levels and crash model for the local road network – new bid

John proposed that the skid resistance would be a priority and David Kinsey offered support from cycleways. Martin highlighted prioritising users in London so there would be a keen interest in this (footways, cycleways, bus users).

Martin said you have three assets – cycleway (segregated – either physically or not physically) and the investigatory levels for these might need separated out.

James Bailey said that they have a skid management strategy at Staffordshire and asked what the research would offer. John said this would propose an alternative classification more appropriate to local roads as the current approaches would be based against DMRB. John said as an authorities will be provided with a tool to better make decisions.

Action: Board agreed to propose the development of skid resistance investigatory levels and crash model for the local road network – new bid

Martin did raise some concerns around commercial issues with the project that sought to raise the awareness of the use of SCANNER.

NWSRG

Carol Valentine highlighted two projects

- 1) 'Development of guidance for severe weather event response' and including scope for flooding would be useful.
- 2) To provide good practice guidance on treatment longevity and timings

James asked if the project on residual salt was to use technology to measure the levels or is this more about developing a theoretical methodology. The Board noted that the research might solve a long-standing issue for the industry.

Martin noted support for both but said the timescales for the research would mean that the findings would be related to 2020 release.

FCMG

David Kinsey noted they were due to finalise a research proposal on Guidance and training materials for inspectors to identify safety risks both on cycleways and on carriageways and on dedicated footways.

David noted Tree roots and footways – guidance for designing and maintaining highways to determine an approach to footways

Action: Justin Ward to contact Sue James regarding the work by TDAG with David Kinsey on the guidance for

FNS survey – whether this meets the current requirements for the sector – to consider the development of a new survey.

Agreed – top three research proposals

- 1) To provide good practice guidance on salting treatment longevity and timings**
- 2) Guidance and training materials for inspectors to identify safety risks both on cycleways and on carriageways and on dedicated footways.**
- 3) Development of skid resistance investigatory levels and crash model for the local road network – new bid**

James Bailey asked if there was a merit for a literature review on community self-help. Carol Valentine asked about work for graduates in this area and suggested Deborah Sims at Greenwich University might be an appropriate contact for this.

Sandwell and North Yorkshire have both undertaken good work with Snow Wardens.

Action: Justin Ward to explore option for a case study on community self-help by working with Chris Cranston for a case study on community self-help in Devon for highways maintenance and Carol Valentine for a case study on winter help – covering the liability issues that have been addressed through the process – and Sandwell (David Kinsey) and James Bailey (highways your way) for publication on UKRB website and referenced in Transportation Professional

6. Sub-group updates

Asset management board update

The Board noted the update submitted by Donald Morrison.

National Winter Service Research Group (NWSRG)

Carol Valentine provide an update on the NWSRG work noting that the Group was pleased with the efforts of all the volunteers and was pleased that the Winter Guidance has been published.

Action: Carol Valentine to email Justin Ward regarding a NWRSG workshop in the West Midlands

Footways & Cycleways Management Group (FCMG)

David Kinsey provided an update noting that the UK is now fully represented on the Group. The Group is looking for permanent representation from Living Streets.

Road Condition Management Group (RCMG)

John Hunter noted that the single data that includes amber and red. The Board noted that there was still a need to identify a Chair for the Visual Survey Sub-Group.

7. Communication

Agreed to consider inclusion on the following:

Action: John Hunter to provide some text on the Single data list expansion to be included

8. UK Roads Board

The minutes were approved.

9. UK Roads Liaison Group

James Bailey provide an update from Amanda Richards feeding back on the meeting as Amanda had attended on behalf of the UK Roads Board. James noted the work on Wales on ash dieback and would be worth picking up this on the session on trees.

10. Any other business

Funding challenges – James Bailey noted the significant pressures on local revenue funding, how this is impacting in capital (asset life adding) operations and the general a lack of future visibility of funding preventing good asset management, innovation, succession planning and efficient delivery. David Kinsey said the reporting of amber and green might help make more of a case for funding through highlighting issues of road condition. The Board supported the view provided by James.

Hammersmith Flyover – Martin provided an update on the bridge.

11. Date of next meeting

20 September 2019