

Minutes of the 56th meeting of the UK Roads Board meeting held on 3 July at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT)

Board members:

Present:

James Bailey

Chris Cranston

Rob Gillespie

Anthony Radford-Foley

Stuart Giddings

Jason Jenkins

John Hunter (for Amanda Richards)

Alexis Tregenza (for Steve Berry)

Justin Ward

Representing:

Chair, Staffordshire, representing the Asset Management Group

Devon County Council representing the National Winter Service Research Group (NWSRG)

Hounslow Highways representing TAG

Bracknell Council representing TAG

Hampshire County Council, representing the Footways & Cycleways Group (FCMG)

Bridgend County Borough Council, representing CSS Wales

Norfolk County Council, representing the Road Condition Management Group (RCMG)

(RCMG)

Department for Transport

CIHT (Secretariat)

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

James Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted for Amanda Richards, Simon Richardson, Ramesh Sinhal, Garry Warner, Steve Berry, Richard Morgan, Donald Morrison and Douglas Hill.

2. Notes of last meeting and matters arising

The Board approved the accuracy of the last minutes.

The Board said that an update on BIM would be useful.

Action: Andy Best to arrange an update from TfL on BIM for the next meeting

There was a discussion on HMEP and the Board just noted that the current uncertainty should be raised at UKRLG

Action: James Bailey to note the Board's concerns over the current uncertainty around the future of HMEP

There was a brief discussion around Whole of Government Accounts and Anthony Radford-Foley said that this was required for local authorities to submit returns on.

UK Roads Liaison Group update

The Board noted the minutes and request that the legal advice from TfL was shared with Board members.

Action: Justin Ward to check if TfL legal advice on boundary issues could be shared with UK Roads Board members (and circulate if this is the case)

James Bailey noted that following a discussion with Atkins there was now a proposal for a survey to monitor progress with implementing the Code 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure'. The Board welcomed this proposal and said that the survey should be circulated shortly as the results should be made available by October. Justin Ward noted that Steven Conway, a lawyer from Keystone Law had undertaken some work on supporting implementation of the new Code and that this could be useful to share.

Action: James Bailey to feedback to Atkins that the Board was supportive of the survey to review progress for implementation of the Code

Action: Justin Ward to contact Steven Conway to find out if his checklist requirements for implementing the Code was available to share.

3. UK Roads Liaison Group Business Plan

The Board suggested a slight amendment to the diagram showing the Board structure.

Action: Justin Ward to amend the diagram on the draft UKRLG Business Plan [completed]

James Bailey said that he would work with the chair of the new Asset Management Board in helping to draft the terms of reference of that Board. Justin Ward suggested that (given Dana Skelley had championed broadening the focus of the Asset Management Board to consider the wide range of highway assets and that this was, in part, due to work TfL had undertaken on cross asset decision making) one element of the terms of reference could be to look to scale up and share more widely the decision making approach that TfL has implemented. [See: <http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/en/utilities/document-summary.cfm?docid=23349FEC-D17F-489B-B0D7AE725FE5C2DC>].

James Bailey asked what was next for Asset Management and the following suggestions were given:

- How to build in customer and end user requirements in a better way
- Synergies across different groups
- Bringing together modes – not just cars and buses
- How to prioritise investment given limited resources
- Risk-based approach
- Any training

James Bailey noted the current Asset Management plan was focused on four areas: 1) knowledge, skills, competencies; 2) public engagement; 3) durability of materials; 4) funding. The Board agreed that items 1, 2 and 4 were still highly relevant and that for item 3 they should ensure close links with the ADEPT Soils & Materials Group.

James noted the importance of digital and data and also on implementing the Code. The above points would serve as a useful input to helping shape the future work of the Asset Management Board.

4. UK Roads Board Business Plan

The Board welcomed the draft UKRLG Business Plan and said that this served as a good starting point for developing their own Business Plan. It was agreed that the current UK Roads Board business plan would be useful to consider from theme areas but that the UKRLG plan should provide the real focus going forward. The members noted the importance of linking work they were undertaking e.g. on risk-modelling by the RCMG and

apply this to the wider aims of the UKRLG (on implementing the Code). Regional groups and HMEP were also noted as important links to make for the Board. Safety should be a focus also as should be skills for the sector. Community self-help was also noted as an area of interest from the Board.

Action: Justin Ward to draft a UK Roads Board Business Plan for consideration

5. DfT update

Alexis provided a brief overview of the work of the DfT and noted the focus on technology and innovation and recent changes given the General Election.

6. Research update

The Board noted the proposal from DfT on top-slicing some of the Highway Maintenance Block Funding and were supportive of this suggestion, but noted that the delivery mechanism and detail of this would be crucial to its success.

7. Updates from the sub-groups

Asset Management - James Bailey provide an overview of the last meeting.

Road Condition Management Group – John Hunter noted the RCMG's wish to see that the SCANNER research could be taken forward to implementation but that this was dependent on further funding.

There was a discussion on a levy on CVI and James Bailey suggested this could be considered under the top-slicing proposal under item 6 on the research update noted above.

National Winter Service Research Group – Chris noted a lot of work has been undertaken recently but a combination of changes and funding constraints were putting pressure on the work of the Group. Justin Ward thanked Chris for the assistance with a reply to a coroner's report recently. Chris did note that the NWSRG was looking to collaborate with the Met Office and this was a good opportunity for the Group.

Footways and Cycleways Management Group – although there has been a bit of turnover in the members on the group the research work was progressing well.

Action: Justin Ward to explore representation from Transport Scotland with Stuart Giddings on the FCMG

There was a discussion on sponsorship and funding of groups from the private sector.

Action: James Bailey to raise at UKRLG issues of private sector working with UKRLG and its boards in regards to sponsorship and funding of work

8. Any other business

Justin Ward noted that a letter had been sent to the Chair, James Bailey on implementation of the Code but that the Board meeting had covered the key points raised

Action: James Bailey to reply to letter on implementation of the Code

James thanked everyone for attending.