

Minutes of the 37th meeting of the UK Bridges Board held at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation on 8 February 2012

Present:

Mike Winter	ADEPT, Dorset County Council (Chairman)
Brian Bell	Network Rail
Steve Berry	DfT
Graham Bessant	London Underground
Graeme Brown	Northern Ireland Roads Service
Graham Cole	ADEPT, Surrey County Council
Rod Howe	British Waterways
Paul Hersey	DfT
Liz Kirkham	ADEPT/Gloucestershire County Council
Neil Garton Jones	CSS Wales
Neil Loudon	Highways Agency
Satbir Gil	LOTAG/London Borough of Hounslow
David Mackenzie	SCOTS, Highland Council
Stephen Pottle	TfL (Vice Chairman)
Bill Valentine	Transport Scotland
Paul Williams	LOBEG/London Borough of Brent
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

In attendance (for item 1-2)

Clive Melbourne	Masonry Arch Assessment Research
Alastair Soane	SCOSS/CROSS

Apologies were received from Jason Hibbert, David Yeoell and Stuart Molyneux.

1. Masonry Arch Assessment Research

Clive Melbourne gave a presentation on the research on Masonry Arch Assessment Research. Clive said there was three years of the research project to go.

Action: UK Bridges Board members to provide comments on the project to Justin Ward

2. CROSS/SCOSS presentation

Alastair Soane provided an update on the work of the Standing Committee on Structural Safety (SCOSS) and (CROSS) Confidential Reporting on Structural Safety.

SCOSS takes a view on the state of structural safety across the UK. The information used is collected from public sources and change is influenced through reports.

CROSS take confidential reports from individuals and firms and independent experts provide commentary on the reports.

Action: Alastair Soane to write a short article on SCOSS/CROSS for the UKRLG pages within Transportation Professional

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved subject to a couple of amendments:

- Matters arising - it is the British Railways Board (Residuary) not the British Rail Residuary Board and correction to spelling of the name – should be Alastair Soane
- Item 4 – amend to ‘Neil said that the HA subsequent actions would focus...’
- Item 6 – the action should be for Bob Flitcroft not for Rod Howe

Matters arising

The Board noted the following updates

- The action on the TAP site was progressing.
- Mike Winter said that he had raised the boundary issue at the UK Roads Liaison Group and that HA had undertaken to investigate it during 2012/13.
- The BRB (Residuary) issue had been raised at the UKRLG meeting. Neil Loudon confirmed that the transfer of BRB to the Highways Agency was delayed and due to take place in 2014. HA had confirmed at the UK Roads Liaison Group meeting that there would be a single HA representative on the UK Bridges Board who would also deal with BRB (Residuary) issues.
- Mike Winter said that he had contacted the National Winter Service Research Group via the UK Roads Board Chairman about the de-icing issue and was waiting for a response.

Action: Justin Ward to contact David Yeoll to get a copy of the briefing work from London on HMEP.

Action: Stephen Pottle to circulate risk assessment work

Action: Steve Berry to speak with Atkins with a view to them producing some short guidance, primarily of a traffic engineering nature, to cover the RAIB recommendations and subsequently provide reference to it in the Code of Practice (COP).

Steve Berry confirmed that the UK Bridges Board will own the Structures toolkit and any updates to the document will be funded through the ongoing contract for the updates to the COP.

4. Minutes of the UK Roads Liaison Group

The Board noted the minutes of the last UKRLG meeting.

5. UK Bridges Board membership

The Board noted that Bob Flitcroft was leaving Lancashire County Council in April and recorded their thanks to Bob for his excellent contributions to the Board. The Board noted that Paul Williams was taking over from Bob’s responsibilities for liaison between ADEPT and Network Rail on an interim basis.

Andy Phillips replacement from the Welsh Assembly Government was confirmed to be Jason Hibbert. Bill Valentine said he was leaving Transport Scotland in April. The Board recorded their thanks to Bill and Bill said he valued the working relationships formed with members' of the Board.

Action: Mike Winter/Justin Ward to identify a replacement at Transport Scotland for the UK Bridges Board.

The Board discussed representation from Network Rail and Mike Winter said that, although Ian Bucknall was the official representative from Network Rail, Ian had never attended a meeting whilst he had been a member. Brian Bell, who often substitutes for Ian Bucknall explained the staffing situation at Network Rail and said that Richard Frost, Head of Asset Management, would be the best person to clarify the situation of representation from Network Rail on the UK Bridges Board. Brian also said he was leaving Network Rail this year and that the following UK Bridges Board meeting was likely to be his last.

Action: Brian Bell to raise the issue with Richard Frost on representation from Network Rail on the UK Bridges Board to identify a representative for the Board

6. ADEPT and Network Rail Liaison

Action: Brian Bell to raise the issue with Richard Frost on representation from Network Rail liaison with ADEPT

The Board requested an update on road over rail incursions.

Action: Steve Berry and Brian Bell to meet to discuss progress with the road over rail incursions program and update Board members.

7. ADEPT and British Waterways Liaison

The Board agreed that the liaison between Network Rail and British Waterways should be put on hold until the re-designation of British Waterways to the Canal and River Trust was completed.

Action: Rod Howe to talk with Paul Williams about Canal and River Trust liaison with ADEPT meetings

8. Bridge strikes

Mike Winter said that he was going to attend the satnav summit as he wanted to establish what bridge restriction data was being used in HGV satnav systems. Stephen Pottle made the suggestion that the data from ESDAL could be provided for a charge to the satnav providers and the money could be ring-fenced to maintain the data.

9. Code of Practice update

The Board agreed the updates to the Code. The Board agreed that the suggestion for a slight amendment in the Code on the relationship between bridge and highway inspection regimes – as highlighted by Graham Cole – should be included.

Action: Graham Cole to draft a paragraph to clarify the issue he raised on inspections. Atkins to include the new paragraph(s) in the update to the Code that will be sent to the UKRLG meeting in April for approval

The Board agreed that future updates for the Code should include:

- An update following the M1 fire
- Scour assessment – BA74 update
- Update following the Oxshott incident

10. Hammersmith Flyover

Stephen Pottle provided an update following the Hammersmith Flyover incident. Stephen highlighted a couple of lessons that had been learnt:

- Post Tension Structural Inspections need to be carried out on an ongoing basis.
- Involving the press is very useful, by explaining the issues and inviting the press to understand the situation helped the situation in London.
- Having an independent viewpoint, in the case of Hammersmith where they involved Chris Burgoyne from Cambridge University, is helpful in providing support to actions taken by an organisation.

Action: Stephen Pottle to draft an article for Transportation Professional on the wider lessons learnt from Hammersmith Flyover closure

11. National Bridge Stock Condition

Mike Winter provided an overview of the findings and Brian Bell said that it should be renamed as it only applied to Highways Bridges.

Action: Mike Winter to rename the National Bridge Stock Condition to the Survey for Local Authority Bridge Condition.

Action: Neil Loudon to seek inclusion of Highways Agency data for the survey

12. Highway Maintenance Block Funding

Paul Hersey provided an update on the review of the Highways Maintenance Block Funding review and said that from 2015/16 it would take an asset management/valuation approach.

13. CIRIA bridge scour

The Board agreed that the current CIRIA document on scour is fit for purpose and questioned the value that any update would provide.

14. UKRLG document 'Provision of road restraint systems on local authority roads'

Brian Bell raised concerns over certain inaccuracies in the UKRLG document.

Action: Brian Bell to outline the particular concerns about the UKRLG document with Steve Berry.

15. Bridge Owners' Forum (BOF)

Mike Winter said that liaison with BOF about future linkage between the two groups was still in progress.

16. Research

There was a discussion on updates to current research projects:

a) Bridge Inspector Competence & Training

Stephen Pottle said that they were seeking a training provider to run the scheme on a self-funded basis.

Action: Any comments on the papers on the Bridge Inspector Competence & Training toolkit to provide comments to Stephen Pottle.

b) Asset Management Toolkit

Paul Williams said that LoBEG was concerned about the resource implications, particularly for smaller authorities, resulting for the asset management data collection and evaluation requirements from the Whole of Government Accounts. Mike Winter said that the toolkit aimed to support authorities in collecting data for asset management purposes.

Action: Mike Winter asked UKBB to note the request from Atkins for organisations to sign-up in support of the Asset Management Toolkit

c) Bridge Deck Slabs

Graeme Brown said that the research by Queens University would have the final report presented at the next BOF meeting at the end of February 2012.

d) Masonry Parapet Guidance

Brian Bell said that a speaker was to be identified to talk about the guidance at the Surveyor Bridges Conference. Brian said he was unable to attend.

e) FRP Herriot Watt University

Brian Bell said the research was progressing well.

f) Automated Bridge Inspections

The Board noted that approval for funding rested with DfT.

Action: Paul Hersey to confirm the funding position

g) Hidden Components Guidance

The Board noted that this would be a useful area of focus for future guidance.

h) Future research

Action: Mike Winter to contact BOF to ask that they identify and prioritise future research needs

17. Business Plan

Mike Winter said that he was required to provide an update with progress on the Bridges Board Business Plan to be submitted to the UK Roads Liaison Group.

Action: Mike Winter to send updated monitoring on the UKBB Business Plan to Justin Ward for wider circulation and agreement.