

Minutes of the 38th meeting of the UK Bridges Board held at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation on 13 June 2012

Mike Winter	ADEPT/ Dorset County Council (Chairman)
Brian Bell	Network Rail
Steve Berry	DfT
Graham Bessant	London Underground
Graham Cole	ADEPT
Jason Hibbert	Welsh Government
Rod Howe	British Waterways
Colin Jenkins (substituting for Stuart Molyneux)	Metropolitan Councils
Willie Kerr	Northern Ireland Roads Service
Liz Kirkham	ADEPT/Gloucestershire County Council
Neil Garton Jones	CSS Wales
David Mackenzie	SCOTS/ Highland Council
Stephen Pottle	TfL (Vice Chairman)
Ben Sadka (substituting for Neil Loudon)	Highways Agency
Paul Williams	LOBEG/London Borough of Brent
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

1. Introduction

Mike Winter welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Neil Loudon, Satbir Gil, Stuart Molyneux, Paul Hearsey and David Yeowell.

2. Notes of last meeting

The Board confirmed the accuracy of the note of the meeting apart from a small correction: the BRBR will be transferring to the Highways Agency in 2013 not 2014. Justin Ward to correct the minute.

Action: Justin Ward to correct the last minute of the UKBB on the BRBR

Matters arising

The majority of the actions had been completed apart from the following items:

- **Stephen Pottle to provide an update on the TfL risk assessment work carried out following the M1 fire incident**
- **Rod Howe to pick up the liaison between the Canal & Rivers Trust and ADEPT at the October UKBB meeting**

3. UK Roads Liaison Group meeting

Mike provided an update on the following:

- SatNav summit issue, Mike confirmed that the UK Network Management Board was leading on the initiative of SatNav routing for HGV but was involving the UKBB on bridge strike issues;
- Identification, Inspection and Management of Hidden Components – Mike explained that there was felt to be a lot of existing research on hidden components in bridges

(particularly by the Highways Agency and Network Rail) and that he had raised the possibility of some work to bring together the existing research to provide guidance to practitioners on inspection of hidden components;

Action: Graham Cole to circulate ADEPT submission for hidden components research seeking comments from UK Bridges Board members to ensure that the proposal contains the most relevant information

- Strategic risk on bridge stock – Mike explained that this was raised by John Dowie;
- Boston Manor Viaduct weld cracks update was discussed at the UKRLG meeting and Ben Sadka provided an update on the situation.

Action: Neil Loudon to provide a brief update for other Board members to disseminate within their own organisations to raise awareness of the specific issues and problems with the M4 Boston Manor. There should be a recommendation to review their bridge management system to identify if they have a similar structure.

- Tunnels Owners Forum – Jason Hibbert confirmed that the group was actually called the UK Road Tunnel Operator Forum and said that he would attend the forum on behalf of the UKBB. Details at: <http://www.rtoa.org.uk/>
- World Road Association – Justin Ward said there was further information at www.piarc.co.uk and that the list of Technical Committee representatives was included on the website.

4. Membership

Mike Winter provided an update on recent changes in membership:

- Network Rail – Mike said that Richard Frost would be the representative following Brian Bell's last meeting in October 2012;
- ADEPT representative – following Bob Flitcroft's departure, Mike confirmed that Neil Beasley of Derby City Council was confirmed as the future representative;
- Welsh Government – Mike said that Jason Hibbert had replaced Andy Phillips;
- Transport Scotland – a replacement for Bill Valentine is still to be identified.

Large bridge representative

The Board discussed the possibility of representation from owners of large bridges in the UK.

Action: David Mackenzie to identify the Chairman of the large bridges group and seek options for attendance at future UKBB meetings

5. ADEPT/NR Liaison

Action: Liz Kirkham to email ADEPT Bridges Group members to identify an "English Authorities" representative for liaison with Network Rail

Action: Brian Bell to provide a diagram of the new regional structure of Network Rail for UK Bridges Board members

The Board agreed that liaison between local highway authorities and Network Rail was very important and that the new structure at Network Rail based around 10 autonomous routes could make this more complicated in the future.

David confirmed that SCOTS Bridges Group and Network Rail Scotland still meet twice a year and that this process works well.

The Board agreed that the liaison between ADEPT and Network Rail was to pick up national policy issues and not to address specific issues with particular bridges or authorities.

Action: Neil Garton-Jones to confirm the liaison arrangements between CSS Wales and Network Rail

6. Bridge strikes

Paul Williams said that the under-reporting of bridge strikes by Local Authorities was an ongoing problem.

Action: Liz Kirkham to encourage ADEPT members to report bridge strikes

Mike said that he gave a presentation on bridge strikes at the SatNav summit. Also at the summit there was a discussion about open data and updating data in 'real-time'. A report on the summit is available here: http://www.its-uk.org.uk/filelibrary/file/Satnav_summit_3-12_report.pdf

Action: Justin Ward to draft news release for Surveyor Magazine saying that UK Bridges Board calls for action on Bridge Strikes [completed]

7. Oxshott RAIB report recommendations

Steve Berry said that he had asked Chris Capps to review the RAIB report. The Board agreed to:

- a. Review the ADEPT Research Proposal to supplement the Local Highways Road Restraint System Document with more bridge related guidance (start on this work is on hold pending publication of the Masonry Parapet Guidance) with a view to the scope of it being widened, and part funded by DfT, to incorporate the Oxshott RAIB report recommendations.
- b. Steve Berry to facilitate a meeting between Graham Cole, Rod Howe and Atkins to consider the above.

8. Vehicle Incursions Programme

Following a discussion on progress with vehicle incursions the Board agreed:

Action: Brian Bell to provide the data to Steve Berry by July on vehicle incursions

Action: Mike Winter and Steve Berry to agree next steps to address the need to make progress with the vehicle incursions programme

9. UKRLG document: Provision of road restraint systems

Action: Brian Bell to confirm that Network Rail is content with the option put forward by the UKBB to amend the document

10. Code of Practice Update

Mike Winter proposed a slight amendment to the update to the Structures Code of Practice which the Board agreed with.

Action: Justin Ward to feedback text change to Atkins for the update to the Structures Code of Practice

Inspection issues

The Board supported the proposal put forward by Graham Cole to address the lack of reference to bridges within highway safety inspections. The recommendations from Graham were:

- Update paragraph 9.19 of the Highways Code to reflect the publication of, and subsequent amendment to, the Structures Code.
- Insert an additional section within the Highways Code to discuss Safety Inspection of Highway Structures. This could draw substantially on paragraph 6.4.3 of the Structures Code.
- This additional section within the Highways Code should specifically cover the recommendations made by the RAIB report.
- This additional section within the Highways Code should specifically discuss the competency of highway inspectors to carry out the safety / surveillance inspection of structures and recommend that agreement be reached as to the respective responsibilities of the highway and bridge manager.

Action: Justin Ward to send Graham Cole's paper on the inspection issue for consideration at the UK Roads Board [completed]

11. National Highway Bridge Stock Condition

Mike said that the name would be corrected as agreed in the last meeting. The Board highlighted a concern on general progress with reporting for Whole of Government accounts particularly given that a number of authorities did not reply to the survey.

- The Board agreed that the process was worth repeating and that the information would be a valuable input for the Spending Review process;
- There was some discussion on the frequency of carrying out the survey, with some members suggesting every four years would work, others suggesting an annual update and others suggesting every two years. The decision on frequency was not agreed.

Steve Berry said that work was already underway for planning for the next Spending Review period. Mike Winter said that a combined UK report would be useful but initially there should be separate reports for Wales, England and Scotland and Northern Ireland. There was some discussion on comparability of the calculation for the BCI.

Action: Neil Loudon and Steve Berry to confirm the algorithm to calculate BCI for the Highways Agency was comparable (i.e. the same approach was used) to that used for Local Highway Authorities

The Board agreed that if an authority has a Bridge Management System (BMS) then the process of running a standard query should mean that the reporting for the bridge stock condition should not be difficult.

12. Block funding

Action: Steve Berry to send an update on block funding to the UKBB

13. Strategic Bridge Risk

Mike presented his paper on strategic bridge risk which the Board agreed provided a good starting point for work on the subject and highlighted that the UKRLG Highways Asset Management Quickstart Guidance does contain advice about establishing risk registers [available here: <http://www.ukroadsliasongroup.org/en/utilities/document-summary.cfm?docid=371E63ED-62FF-4CD4-B37E57DB4787DCF1>]

Graham Bessant said that London Underground had a very advanced risk management system and Brian Bell said that Network Rail had an industry wide risk register (which did have a few identified risks for bridges). The Board agreed that inclusion of risks for all bridges (road and rail) was required and that it was important to consider the relationship with other structures.

The Board agreed that the language was important and the technical definition of a 'bridge failure' was probably different from the general public understanding of 'bridge failure', with the latter probably considering a failure to be a bridge collapse.

Ben Sadka said that Neil Loudon was looking at work on network resilience for the Highways Agency.

Action: Mike Winter to add a risk on mechanical failure of moving bridges to the risk register

Action: Liz Kirkham to circulate the document on Strategic Bridge Risk by Mike Winter to seek views through ADEPT

Action: Steve Berry to send the Strategic Bridge Risk document to John Dowie for comment

14. PTSI reviews

The Board agreed with Mike Winter's suggestion that authorities should review their PTSI reports in light of the Hammersmith Flyover situation. Mike said that he highlighted the issue of PTSI at the Bridge Conference 2012 and reported that the PTSI's were likely to be 15 to 20 years old now and that it would be useful for LHA to see if their PTSI findings were still valid. Mike also said that a paper on the 'Management of post tensioned bridges' - part authored by Stephen Pottle - was a very good reflection on the experiences of Hammersmith Flyover.

Action: Stephen Pottle to provide a note for Mike Winter on the lessons learnt from Hammersmith for possible inclusion as an appendix to a letter from the UK Bridges Board to be sent to Chief Executives of Local Highway Authorities. Mike Winter/Stephen Pottle/Graham Cole to draft letter for agreement by UKBB

15. Bridge Owners Forum

The UK Bridges Board supported the principles within the draft BOF constitution that had been developed by Mike Winter and was currently being revised by Richard Fish, the Technical Secretary of BOF. This included the Technical Secretary becoming a member of the UKBB to act as the link between the two groups. Mike Winter and Steve Berry to prepare a proposal to UKRLG on the use of BOF when the revised constitution and associated covering information is received from Richard Fish.

Action: Mike Winter and Steve Berry to propose to UKRLG a formalised role for BOF and an associated funding contribution from DfT

16. Research

The Board considered a Research Position Statement prepared by Mike Winter. The Board noted potential future research projects including work on hidden components.

Steve Berry said that John Dowie was considering writing to the UKRLG Board Chairmen asking each Board what its needs are with regard to research, highlighting that the DfT would be looking for funding contributors for research projects. Any UKRLG research project would require a pro-forma to be completed.

The Board noted that in 'research and development' terms most of its currently identified needs were focused on the development of practitioner guidance.

17. UKBB update to Business Plan

Mike Winter led a discussion on updates to the UKBB Business Plan.

Action: Justin Ward to publish update to UKBB online

Action: Steve Berry to provide an update on Queens University Bridge Deck Slabs research

18. Adaptation to climate change

Steve Berry said that Andy Bailey was doing work that was feeding into Defra about what Local Highway Authorities were undertaking in regards to adaptation to climate change. The results from this survey were agreed to be a suitable focus for a future meeting of the UKBB.

Action: Justin Ward and Steve Berry to include an agenda item on adaptation to climate change at the next UKBB meeting

19. Any other business

- **HMEP**

Action: Steve Berry to provide an update to Liz Kirkham on the proposal put forward to the HMEP for workshops on COP implementation

- **World Road Association**

Mike Winter highlighted the World Road Association report [available here: <http://www.ciht.org.uk/en/wra/activities/road-maintenance-review-international-comparison.cfm>] and said that highlighting the Swedish Bridge and Tunnels Management System (BaTMan) was interesting and was perhaps something that HMEP should consider reviewing, particularly given the economy of having a single web based system to use for local highway authorities to manage and report their bridge conditions.

Paul Williams said that the adoption of Bridge Station across London (and by some other authorities) showed that such a model is already underway within part of the UK i.e. a single, web-based bridge management system.

- **BIM**

Stephen Pottle asked if anyone was using BIM.

Action: Willie to provide details to Stephen Pottle on a presentation he attended on BIM

- **Structures Toolkit**

Stephen Pottle said that the project was unlikely to be delivered in time for the planned deadline of July.

20. Date of next meeting

3 October 2012