

Minutes of the UK Roads Liaison Group meeting held on 11 July 2018 at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transport

Graham Pendlebury (Chair)	Department for Transport
James Bailey (by phone)	Staffordshire County Council, representing the UK Roads Board
Steve Berry	Department for Transport
Anthony Boucher	Department for Transport
Satbir Gill (for Rob Gillespie)	Hounslow Highways, representing TAG
Hugh Gillies	Transport Scotland
John Irvine	Transport NI
Rob Dean (for Liz Kirkham)	Network Rail representing the UK Bridges Board
Parvis Khansari	Wiltshire County Council, representing ADEPT
Dave Johnson	Transport for London, representing UK Lighting Board
Richard Morgan (for Sheena Hague)	Welsh Government
Garry Sterritt	Transport for London, representing the UK Asset Management Board
Darren Thomas	Pembrokeshire representing CSS Wales
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

1. Introduction

The Group noted that John Irvine had temporarily changed roles and would therefore temporarily stand down from the Group and would inform the Group on the representative from Northern Ireland. Apologies were recorded from Bill Barker, Nicola Debnam, Mark Kemp

2. Illumination of sign guidance

Dave Johnson noted that at the last meeting the version circulated was not complete as some example case studies were not included. Since the last meeting the document has been updated and the document is awaiting approval.

Anthony reported that Wayne Duerden from the DfT traffic signs and regulations team (as referenced in the UK Network Management Board minutes) had noted an issue with safety critical signs.

Dave noted that the UK Lighting Board wanted to put out consistent guidance on the application of a risk-based approach. Anthony said that there was a difference in legal opinion and that as such, the Department was unable to endorse the guidance as drafted. Hugh Gillies said that the current legal advice from Scotland agreed with the DfT position and meant that Scotland could not endorse the document either.

Graham Pendlebury said that this should not be gathering dust, it should be used, and that there is a lot of valuable material and case studies in the document. Graham also noted that custom and practice was moving apace and there was a need for this to be done. Graham added that there are real costs associated with this, that this influences investments decisions. Dave Johnson said that the costs for this were £100m per year – involving initial installation, lamp changes, traffic management, and so on.

Parvis said there is a cost to the initial installation, and getting the electricity to that point. Parvis said this issue was initially raised at an ADEPT meeting in 2011. Anthony explained that TSRGD, and specifically the question about the illumination of a subset of safety critical signs had been considered by three Ministers who all took a consistent view.

Graham said that highway authorities are doing things differently to what the DfT thinks they should be doing. Graham said that there were legal issues associated with this and at the worst case it would only be decided at a coroners' court.

Dave Johnson said that if you are spending money on something that is unnecessary then money could be allocated elsewhere. John said that external illumination is used in Northern Ireland and that they are proactively dealing with this through use of retroreflective bollards.

Action: Justin Ward to invite a subset of members of UKRLG along with the DfT Traffic Signs team – as Chair of UKRLG – to resolve the issues in the document with a view to finalise for publication

3. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes agreed subject to minor amendment from Mark Stevens on authority spend.

Asset Management – Garry Sterritt said the Board met last week and he reported that for the State of the Nation report there should be a lot of information readily available without having to go to authorities. Anthony Boucher said that the DfT statistics team has been very helpful in identifying possible data sources and offered their help in securing them. Garry said that this should provide a good first version for the report. Garry said that Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) value could be demonstrated to Treasury.

Steve said that DfT has spoken with CIPFA and that after this a meeting took place with Treasury and the WGA returns data will be provided for this report.

Garry said that the aim would be to have a full picture of UK wide level data.

Action: Garry Sterritt to contact John Irvine about input from Northern Ireland regarding data.

Garry will procure State of Nation through TfL that will involve some consultancy support.

Inspector training – Garry said that everyone was keen to move forward.

Highway maintenance assessment – Garry said that this would be moved forward soon.

Graham thanked Garry for the effort and work on this. Darren asked about timescales on the State of the Nation report and Garry said that a rough cut would be available by September. Anthony said that the report would be useful to input into the Spending Review.

Graham said that the timeframe is relevant to all parts of the UK. The Group also noted on DVI/CVI that there is quite a lot of work that the UK Roads Board has been involved with.

UK Lighting Board – Dave Johnson reported on the State of Nation on the lighting stock. Dave said that there are a number of data sources that they are looking to identify that will make it more efficient to collect data. Inventory data through the three or four meter administrators in the unmetered supply division of the power companies. Most lighting is unmetered (as opposed to housing energy use that is metered). From the inventory this will provide details on the type of street lighting across the UK. This would give the full inventory of the lighting stock but not on the columns. Dave Johnson said that we know there are 9m columns across the UK and that they last about 40 years. Dave said that the Board is

looking to work with the Highway Electrical Association on data collection on this area and this would identify useful information on column replacements. Dave said that the Board is trying to use Salix to do the data collection and analysis as it is beneficial to them.

Anthony asked about the timescales, Dave said that the UKLB is awaiting their Board to look to secure approval for getting work done with Salix.

Dave also noted the work by Exeter University had done work on links between LEDs and cancer [see here: https://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/featurednews/title_655460_en.html]. It was noted that Board would invite the lead researcher to the next meeting. Dave also said that the Board were also looking to engage with LightAware. Steve Berry said the American Surgeon's Association has also raised concerns.

Action: Justin Ward to invite Public Health England to the UKLB meeting

Graham noted on the steady state and storing up problems for the future (given underinvestment) for replacement of lighting columns. John Irvine said that this is an issue and columns falling over – there have been several recent collapses that have happened in Northern Ireland.

Graham said that this is part of the wider State of the Nation issues across the UK. Graham said that many footpaths and pavements are in poor condition which undermines the policy aim of getting more people walking.

John Irvine said that this raised questions on balancing spend – for instance £100m on illuminating signs versus replacing columns. Hugh said that it was not an either/or situation, and that safety was the primary concern.

UK Bridges Board – Rob Dean provided an update focusing on the Protocol document on parapet heights saying that 8/9 years a European Standard was introduced that led to a study by Network Rail on parapet heights for electrification, but this soon led to wider application beyond this. Rob Dean said this led to change in their standard and that this led to a development of a protocol in conjunction with ADEPT, Highways England. Rob said that the Board was looking to seek endorsement by UKRLG and have the document maintained by UKRLG. Rob Dean said that the protocol is more a general guidance on cost and maintenance issues. Rob Dean said there is no requirement to respectively apply it. The general principal of the Protocol was that whoever is a catalyst for the work then the costs should be borne by that authority. Steve Berry asked for ownership of the document and updating requirements for the document. Rob Dean said he did not envisage ongoing maintenance would be required for the document.

Action: Justin Ward to circulate the Parapet Height document for views on the document/endorsement supported by a short note from Liz Kirkham/Rob Dean introducing the document [and implications for UKRLG]

UK Network Management Board – Satbir Gill provided an update on the meeting noting that the bid on the construction traffic research bid will be updated. Satbir said that work on clean air zones and road safety would be included on this.

UK Roads Board – James Bailey provided an update on the last meeting noting that updates to the CVI/DVI were provided and he said the next process would be to influence surveys. James said this was a significant piece of work. James then noted that the Highways England research programme was reviewed and that there is a need to coordinate with them. James said that improvements in road condition technology was being worked on collaboratively with Amanda Richards, Stephen Child (from ADEPT) and Highways

England. James noted that Amanda Richards will also continue as Chair of RCMG and the new Chair of FCMG was Dave Kinsey. James also noted the increase in amber on road condition was highlighted of concern by the Board.

There was a query on the Code and the action on writing to highway authorities and potential workshops on the Code – this was noted in the meeting. Steve Berry noted there was an action to draft out a letter to send out. Steve said that the letter has been drafted and the survey results from Andy Warrington were included. Steve said that DfT was awaiting dates for running workshops from Atkins, but the payment process was difficult for this.

Action: Parvis and Satbir offered help to Steve Berry on running the workshops with procurement assistance.

Steve said that ongoing maintenance of the Code contract would also include an alert system when updates have been published (either via text messages or email alerts).

UKRLG research. Steve said that DfT have been pushing the work on this and that letters on funding confirmations will be going out regarding payment support.

Anthony said that he felt the outcome was very good with a range of proposals across the various Boards and a UK approach taken to decisions. Graham noted that there was more on infrastructure than what moves on the network. Steve Berry noted recent announcements on electric vehicle charging and the details on lighting columns being used for charging was currently considered.

Darren said that they had some proposals considered but were not submitted. Anthony said that this was this would be a rolling programme. The Board agreed that a rolling pipeline would be useful. Satbir said that in Scotland new housing already require electric charging points for vehicles. John Irvine explained that EV charging via lighting columns is complicated in Northern Ireland as they don't have a 24/7 supply.

Action: Clarify TR22 – assessment of lighting column – update and funding commitment for the funding – Steve Berry to clarify

Next Chair of UK Lighting Board

There were two nominations for the Chair of the UK Lighting Board. The Group reviewed the nominations. Richard Morgan said that as one of the candidates was an employee of the Welsh Government then he would not participate with the decision. Dave Johnson noted that David Denner works well within the UK Lighting Board and the discussion at UKRLG showed that both candidates had numerous strengths and experience. Following the discussion the Chair of the UKRLG, Graham Pendlebury, proposed David Denner which was agreed by the UKRLG.

There was raised an option that Rob Mainstone might be a really beneficial addition to the ADEPT regional network.

Action: Justin Ward to write to Dave Denner informing him that he has been appointed as the UK Lighting Board Chair

Action: Justin Ward to write to Rob Mainstone informing him of the decision

4. Code of Practice

Dave Johnson talked through a proposed amendment to the Code. The Group agreed that the risk-based approach underpinned in the Code. Steve Berry said that Well-managed

Highway Infrastructure did involve consultation with legal expertise. Steve said that the Code was trying to allow the flexibility for authorities to determine the approach based on a risk-based approach.

Graham said the Code is a risk-based approach, therefore each individual authority is being made to ask to make a judgement. The policy intention from UKRLG was that they do not envisage that every defect gets recorded but that a proportionate and pragmatic approach is taken.

5. AOB

Feedback on the meeting was positive.

AOB –

ADEPT Representation on UKRLG - Parvis said this would be his last meeting as he is stepping down as Chair of the ADEPT Engineering Board. Graham, on behalf of UKRLG, thanked Parvis for all his work and contributions.

Lighting columns – Glyphosate weed killer – highlighted in the news today. Darren Thomas asked for views on this. Steve Berry said that BEAR Scotland had raised something on this issue. Graham said this felt like an issue for the environment agencies in the UK.

Action: UKRLG members to explore the use of Glyphosate weed killer on their road networks

6. Date of next meeting

Hugh Gillies suggested combining with the World Road Association UK Congress event, this suggestion was supported and agreed.

Wednesday 14 November, Cardiff.