

Minutes of the 36th meeting of the UK Bridges Board held at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation on 6 October 2011

In attendance:

Mike Winter	ADEPT, Dorset County Council (Chairman)
Steve Berry	DfT
Graham Cole	ADEPT, Surrey County Council
Bob Flitcroft	ADEPT, Lancashire County Council
Rod Howe	British Waterways
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
Stuart Molyneux	Metropolitan Councils
Stephen Pottle	TfL (Vice Chairman)
Tudor Roberts (Deputising for Andy Phillips)	Welsh Assembly Government
Bill Valentine	Transport Scotland
Paul Williams	LOBEG/London Borough of Brent
David Yeowell	LoTAG/Westminster City Council
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

Apologies were received from Brian Bell and Graeme Brown.

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters arising

- **TAP**

The Board discussed the TAP site documents from LoBEG – acknowledgement still outstanding.

Action: Paul Williams and Justin Ward to resolve the issue of the LoBEG documents on the TAP portal

- **HA/LHA Boundary issues**

The Board noted that the boundary issue had not been progressed and specific difficulties were being encountered by some LHAs. Mike Winter would raise it again at the UK Roads Liaison Group meeting in November.

Action: Mike Winter to raise the issue of boundaries and responsibilities at the UKRLG meeting in November

- **British Rail Residuary Board (BRRB)**

Neil Loudon updated the Board saying that the BRRB would be a separate unit within the Highways Agency. As a major bridge owning organisation it agreed that BRRB should be offered a seat on the UKBB.

Action: Neil Loudon to speak with John Clarke from the BRRB to seek attendance for a future meeting of the UK Bridges Board

Action: Mike Winter to notify the UKRLG meeting of the establishment of the BRRB within the Highways Agency

- **Bridge Owners Forum**

Mike Winter said that that the proposed meeting with Cam Middleton (Chairman of BOF) had to be postponed and that the action to review the role of BOF was ongoing with a view to establish a meeting prior to the next UKBB meeting. (PMN: now set for 15th November)

- **Media Briefing Sheets**

Mike Winter said that the media briefing sheets agreed at the last meeting had been published online and that further work was required on large span bridges and vehicle incursions. A briefing sheet on general bridge management processes was still to be drafted by Graham Cole and Stephen Pottle.

Action: Mike Winter to finalise the media briefing sheets on large span bridges and vehicle incursions with the authors involved.

Action: Graham Cole and Stephen Pottle to draft media briefing sheet on general bridge management.

- **SCOSS**

The Board noted that Alastair Stone was now the contact for SCOSS liaison issues

Action: Justin Ward to contact Alastair Stone to request that he provides an update on SCOSS issues at the next UKBB meeting.

- **Regional Funding Allocation Formula Review**

Liz Kirkham had been nominated and accepted as the UKBB representative. Steve Berry said that the funding review was aiming to ensure that the funding allocation was based more around asset management and Whole of Government Accounts.

2. UK Roads Liaison Group

The Board noted the minutes of the UKRLG meeting. The Board discussed alternative approaches to the de-icing of bridges. Mike Winter noted that UKBB had already reviewed the use of such alternatives across the UK and produced a summary of practices that had been tried or were being used. However, the ADEPT research proposal that had been forwarded to the UK Roads Board for consideration by its Winter Service Research Group

was for a study of the balance between whole life costs on bridge maintenance attributed to de-icing salts and the additional cost of alternative de-icing treatments.

Action: Steve Berry and Neil Loudon to provide an overview of the research on de-icing of bridges

Action: Justin Ward to send a copy of the World Road Association/CEDR/UKRLG/CIHT mapping work to Mike Winter and Mike Winter to send a copy of the ADEPT mapping work to Justin Ward

The Board noted that it was excellent news that future updates to the Codes of Practice are to be incorporated into a single electronic document and Mike Winter confirmed that a rewrite of the Transport Asset Management Guidance was soon to commence.

Action: Steve Berry to send the timescales and letter that was sent out to Local Authorities on the work towards Whole of Government Accounts

The Board discussed the Asset Management (Task & Finish) Group that was due to be established by the UKRLG and David Yeoell volunteered to assist with the work of this group.

Action: David Yeoell to sit on UKRLG Asset Management (Task & Finish) Group

Action: Justin Ward to circulate the presentation by Garry Sterritt to UKRLG on cross-asset based decision making.

Code of Practice Update

The Board agreed to the updates proposed. Neil Loudon confirmed that the report on the M1 Fire had not yet been released for publication.

Bridge Inspector Training

Stephen Pottle informed the Board that a series of consultation workshops on the Bridge Inspector Training project were taking place in November. These were due to take place on the following dates: Glasgow (8th), London (4th), Dublin (9th) and Birmingham (11th).

Action: Stephen Pottle to send the dates of the Bridge Inspector Training consultation workshops to Liz Kirkham for circulation through the ADEPT group

Action: Justin Ward to publish details of the consultation workshops on the UKBB website (completed)

3. Highways Maintenance Efficiency Program (HMEP)

Steve Berry provided a brief update on the HMEP and the Board agreed an update on the program would be helpful.

Action: Justin Ward to invite a member of the HMEP to the next UKBB meeting for an update.

Action: David Yeoell to send relevant briefing work from London for the HMEP

4. MI Fire Review

Neil Loudon said there would be two reports on the M1 fire incident: one from the Highways Agency and one from Network Rail. Neil said that the HA report would focus on a couple of key issues for structures: 1) reminding agents and bridge inspectors that they should identify hazards in the vicinity of bridges when they are carrying out their inspections. The management information systems should also be modified to be able to flag issues such as risk of fires. 2) Carrying out surveys on 50 higher risk structures around the country and reviewing these for any required mitigation measures.

Action: Justin Ward to write to Atkins - copying in Stephen Pottle (for identifying the work that TfL have done on risk assessing structures) and Neil Loudon (for the Highways Agency report) – to agree the paragraph of guidance on risk assessing structures for fire which will be proposed for inclusion in the Highway Structures Code of Practice.

5. SCOUR

Action: Neil Loudon to circulate the next draft of the SCOUR report when available.

6. Signing and Bridge Strikes

Action: Rod Howe to check with Network Rail on progress in agreeing a reduced BAPA process for fixing signing to Network Rail bridges.

7. Oxshott

The Board discussed the Oxshott incident and noted that they should consider what guidance they might issue following the RAIB report of the incident. Mike Winter reported on previous discussions he had had with Steve Berry, Brian Bell and the Rail Regulator. Following a discussion the Board agreed that they should work through the Bridge Strike Prevention Group (BSPG) to draft some guidance and Bob Flitcroft undertook to brief the Group. Stephen Pottle said that TfL had carried out risk assessment work that could be useful to Board members.

Action: Stephen Pottle to circulate risk assessment work that looks at identifying risks and hazards to bridges (bridges in the vicinity of schools, gas pipelines, petrol pipelines).

Action: Bob Flitcroft to approach Keith Ross to request the support of the Bridge Strike Prevention Group and to ensure the work covers all bridges and that the lessons learned from the Oxshott incident are fully incorporated into guidance to bridge owners.

8. Network Rail Liaison

Bob Flitcroft said that there had not been a meeting since the last UKBB meeting.

9. British Waterways

Rod Howe circulated a summary of the key stages in the transition of British Waterways to charitable status. It is to be called the Canal and Rivers Trust.

10. National Bridge Stock Condition

The Board noted that UKRLG are keen on the move towards a holistic approach to reporting on the national condition of transport assets.

Mike Winter had gained agreement to go ahead and collect the data from UKRLG and had also got support from the DfT that they will publish the data as a supplementary publication (similar to the report on unclassified road data) to the transport statistics on the road network. The Board supported this work and noted that ADEPT would prepare and issue spreadsheets through which the data would be reported.

11. Structures Asset Management Toolkit

The Board had been asked to consider whether it would be willing to take on the ownership of the Toolkit. It was unclear what this meant in terms of workload so clarification as to whether the toolkit would be subject to the same updating process as the Codes of Practice (the Board endorsed this approach) will be sought.

Action: Steve Berry to confirm if the maintenance of the Structures Toolkit would be the same as the update process to the Codes of Practice

The Board noted that the project would be useful to justify funding requirements as the toolkit would assist Local Authorities with their submissions for the Whole of Government Accounts.

12. UK Bridges Board Business Plan

Action: Mike Winter to circulate updated Business Plan to the UKBB for e-mailed comments in advance of the UKRLG meeting.

13. Bridge Owners Forum

Board members who had attended the universities research forum said that it was useful to gain a wider perspective but noted that the practical application to the bridge community was sometimes lacking.

14. Conferences and courses

The Surveyor Conference on Bridge Design & Engineering is scheduled to take place over the 27/28 of March 2012.

15. Communication

The Board noted the new website.

Action: Justin Ward to slow down the homepage banner and add a page for the UK Bridges Board minutes to be listed in chronological order (completed)

16. Any other business

- **Risk based inspections**

Neil Loudon said that the Highways Agency was introducing risk based inspections.

- **Future infrastructure Forum/Department of Health**

Neil said that a consultation through the Health & Safety Executive was looking at the prevention of suicides at bridges. Neil noted that the Highways Agency had responded to the review.

- **Impact of budget reductions**

David Yeowell asked if any work had been undertaken to review the impact of budget reductions. Bill Valentine highlighted a report by the OECD on bridge investment against value and that 1% of the value of the bridge was a useful benchmark for the required annual investment. Mike Winter said this percentage reflected a view of CSS in a report that was prepared in the nineties.

Action: Bill Valentine to circulate the OECD report to UKBB members

17. Date of next meeting

To be circulated in advance of the next meeting.