

**Minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UK Bridges Board**

Meeting held at the Institution of Highways & Transportation on the 17th June 2009.

Present:

Greg Perks	CSS/Northumberland CC (Chairman)
Ian Bucknall	Network Rail
Graham Bessant	London Underground
Graham Cole	CSS/ Surrey County Council
Andy Featherby (substituting for Rod Howe)	British Waterways
Bob Flitcroft	CSS/Lancashire County Council
Paul Foskett	DfT
Neil Garton Jones	CSS Wales
Satbir Gill	TAG/London Borough of Hounslow
Neil Loudon	Highways Agency
Stuart Molyneux	Metropolitans / Salford MBC
Andy Phillips	Welsh Assembly Government
Stephen Pottle	TfL
Bill Valentine	Transport Scotland
Paul Williams	LoBEG/London Borough of Brent
Ronnie Wilson	DRD (NI) Roads Service
Mike Winter	CSS/Dorset

Justin Ward	IHT (Secretariat)
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Apologies

David Mackenzie	SCOTS
Rod Howe	British Waterways

**1. Welcome, introductions and apologies**

Greg Perks welcomed members to the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of UK Bridges Board. He welcomed Mike Winter and Andy Phillips to their first meeting of the UK Bridges Board.

**2. Bridges Board Chairman**

Greg Perks informed the group that he had been ratified as Chairman for the UK Bridges Board by the UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG) and thanked Board members for their support.

**3. Note of last meeting and matters arising**

The board discussed the matters arising from the previous minutes - UKBB Paper 05/09

- Item 4 (Research Projects): Greg Perks provided an update on research informing the board that following proposals from Bridge Owners Forum (BOF) and a separate proposal on the Decision Support Tool (DST) and after lengthy

discussion six proposals were forwarded to the UKRLG on the understanding that they would be considered. At the UKRLG meeting it was announced that there was no funding available for 2009/10 so the proposals would need to be considered for 2010/11. The Board noted its disappointment at the projects not being taken forward following a lot of effort.

- Item 6 (Local Roads Guidance Proposal): Greg Perks informed the board that nothing, as yet, has moved forward on this item.
- Item 7 (CSS/NR Liaison Group update): This is covered on the agenda
- Item 10 (UKRLG website): Justin Ward informed the board that a link to BOF is on the UKRLG website.

#### **4. UK Roads Liaison Group meeting of 18 March 2009**

Greg Perks provided an update from the UKRLG meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009. Greg noted the work on Commuted Sums and Justin Ward provided a further updating stating that the work was going to be published by IHT in conjunction with CSS and confirmed this would be available within 3 months.

Greg Perks noted the role of the UKRLG in leading a review for the Secretary of State on the salt supply and distribution following the severe weather disruption in February 2009. It was noted that the review has involved interviews with Local Authorities and the Salt Suppliers.

Greg noted that following the meeting he had updated and submitted the UK Bridges Board business plan.

#### **5. Research Proposals**

Paul Foskett explained the ongoing approach to develop a more robust framework and strategy for research and noted that the report by ATKINS – research on research – aimed at gaining a better handle on the current situation. This report was presented at the UKRLG meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

<b>Action:</b> Justin Ward to circulate ATKINS 'research on research'
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Following that report, ATKINS are conducting some further research and this will be presented at the next UKRLG meeting. The aim will be to develop a management approach to research as apposed to an ad hoc approach. Greg Perks asked if the new process will be in place for the 2010/11 funding period and Paul Foskett could not confirm this would be the case but noted every effort would be made. Paul Foskett noted that the UKRLG need to clarify the aims/objectives for what it is trying to achieve and also noted that any UKRLG proposal going forward will have to compete against other areas for research funding within the DfT.

Paul Foskett provided an update on current bridges research projects – noting that research on bridges comprised a fairly good share of the overall UKRLG research programme; the following projects were highlighted:

- Training and qualification of bridge inspectors
- Guidance for masonry bridge parapets
- Non-metallic reinforced bridge deck slabs
- Carbon composites
- Automated bridge inspections
- Scanning of HA research projects

**Action:** Paul Foskett to pass on UKRLG research list for Justin Ward to circulate

Following much discussion, the Board agreed that it would be very helpful to explore the possibilities of how to access European and other funding sources for research – awaiting action by UKRLG.

## 6. Structural Eurocodes

Neil Loudon provided a very informative and useful presentation on the introduction of Structural Eurocodes.

**Action:** Justin Ward to circulate a copy of the presentation on Structural Eurocodes

## 7. CSS Bridges Group

Graham Cole presented his paper (distributed at the meeting) summarising the activities of the Group during the past year.

Greg invited Board members to contact him or the Secretary if they would like to make a presentation – or raise a specific item – at a future meeting.

**Action:** Justin Ward to circulate CSS Bridges Group paper (UKBB Paper 07/09)  
**Action:** All – anyone who wants to raise a particular item/report then please contact Greg Perks/Secretariat

## 8. Bridges Board Business Plan

Greg said that the Board's Business Plan [v1 dated 20 March 2009] had been accepted by the RLG. The Plan should set out what the Board wishes to do but be flexible enough to permit reaction to specific issues as they arise.

Greg explained that the tabular "3 Year" section of the Plan had been based on earlier expectations of the extent of the UKRLG research programme and would now need to be revised [no research funding available for 2009/10].

The Board discussed aspects of the Plan, including: -

- Bridge Inspector training – priority item.
- Introduction of Structural Eurocodes – priority item.
- Terms of reference to include Geo-technical structures
- Development of risk based structural inspection intervals.
- Board Communications strategy.
- Level of resources available.

**Action:** Greg asked that any further comments be submitted to the Secretary by 3 July.

**Action:** On receipt of all comments, Greg proposed that revision of the Plan be delayed until further guidance on Board Business Plans is received from UKRLG.

## 9. CSS/NR Liaison Group

Bob Flitcroft presented an overview of his paper. There are no current plans to revise the funding regime[s] for the BG3 programme.

## 10. Communication

Justin Ward provided a brief update on communication stating that the July/August edition of Transportation Professional will feature the UK Bridges Board in good detail and that the UK Bridges Board website had been updated.

**Action:** All – please contact Justin Ward if you think there should be any changes made to the UK Bridges Board website

## 11. Schedule of Roads Liaison Group & Boards meetings in 2009

Greg Perks noted that the dates had changed for some of the UKRLG Board meetings but the UK Bridges Board was not affected by these changes.

## 12. AOB

The following matters were raised under AOB:

- Bob Flitcroft reported that CSSBG and British Waterways were to reinstate a programme of regular liaison meetings.

- Paul Foskett raised two issues:
  - He noted that he had talked with the **DfT Security and Vulnerability of Structures Group** and informed the Board that, although at present there was nothing material to report, they would like to keep the door open with the UK Bridges Board. The Board agreed to this proposal.
  - He informed the Board that DfT had written to Local Authorities in England during May about the issue of **vehicle onto rail incursions** and how to handle high risk sites. There is close working with Brian Bell from Network Rail on this issue and they are currently collecting all the responses.

### **13. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 14 October 2009 at the Institution of Highways & Transportation.