

**Minutes of 61<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UK Roads Board meeting held on 15 February 2019 at CIHT, 119 Britannia Walk, N1 7JE**

**Present:**

James Bailey  
Amanda Richards

Donald Morrison

Simon Richardson  
Gary Kemp  
Chris Cranston (by phone)

Douglas Hill (by phone)  
Jason Jenkins  
David Kinsey

Ramesh Sinhal  
Satbir Gill  
Martin McMahon  
Justin Ward

**Representing:**

Chair, Staffordshire & ADEPT  
Surrey County Council, representing the Road Condition Management Group (RCMG)  
Transport Scotland, representing the Asset Management Board  
Infrastructure Northern Ireland  
Department for Transport  
Devon County Council, representing the National Winter Service Research Group  
Angus Council, representing SCOTS  
CSS Wales  
Derby City Council, representing the Footways & Cycleways Group (FCMG)  
Highways England  
Hounslow Highways representing TAG  
TfL  
CIHT (Secretariat)

Matthew Lugg

**1. Introduction, welcome and apologies**

James Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were recorded for Richard Morgan and Rob Gillespie.

**2. Improving Local Highways - Review of local highway funding, governance, and operation by CIHT, Matthew Lugg OBE**

Matthew Lugg OBE provided an update on the work noting that the project was seeking to improve the local road network and address public perception issues, social and economic impacts from poor maintenance, road safety, insurance claims and vehicle damage.

Donald Morrison said that a lot of the data has been collected by the UK Asset Management Board UK State of Nation report. Donald said the work is looking at carriageways, street lighting, structures and traffic signals and there is a push to get as much information as possible.

Satbir highlighted the issue of the duration of the contract is shorter than the life of the material. This leads to issues of UK Plc paying for work but not getting the value for money. Matthew said that the principal of PFI is useful to share as long-term investment secured to get better outcomes is useful.

**Action: Satbir Gill to assist the CIHT review with providing evidence from Hounslow for the benefit of longer-term funding – send to Justin Ward and Matthew Lugg**

Satbir said there is no standard definition of standing water on the road network for the local roads. Matthew said it would be interesting to evaluate the impact of poor drainage. Ramesh said he would be willing to support the review. Ramesh noted the need for a clearly

articulated outcome, with a clear strapline, that ultimately needs to be expressed not in engineering terms, but more in outcomes for people and society: such as making best use of the funds and ensuring that we invest at the right time.

Satbir said that evidence from highway authorities on coring would be useful to assess the impact of utilities.

Matthew responded saying he would like to see the report focused on '*the end of potholes*' and suggested there could be a role for Transport Focus to monitor local roads.

David Kinsey said the issue of drainage is important and supported Matthew's observation of the need for a Drainage Board, noting that the profile of drainage needs to be raised. David added that, although benchmarking is useful, it is sometimes difficult to compare like-for-like. Condition data for footways & cycleways is an issue. David Kinsey said that the Footways & Cycleways Group was looking at reviewing the FNS survey.

**Action: David Kinsey to share information from the Footways & Cycleways Group on reviewing the FNS survey.**

Satbir Gill highlighted the need to consult with academia. Amanda Richards highlighted the RCMG carried out a future vision piece of work looking at what condition data might be required for the future. Amanda said in terms of SCANNER there have not been the improvements due to funding restrictions.

**Action: Amanda Richards to share the RCMG future vision work on condition data**

Chris Cranston said there is a bit of a disconnect with the incentive funding - to encourage good asset management, against the constraint of a lack of revenue funding. This has resulted in very lean contracts for highway maintenance. Chris said that, without the longer-term funding, the capacity to deliver will not be in place. Chris also noted the funding constraints on industry groups to improve how things operate and the development of permit schemes.

Matthew Lugg agreed saying the report was recommending longer term funding certainty and highlighted the benefits of permitting. Matthew said that the aim would be to aim for a publishing date in June.

### **3. DfT update**

Gary Kemp noted on 31<sup>st</sup> January DfT issued a call for research proposals (£22.9m) for the work with ADEPT on Live Labs. Gary also mentioned the £420m additional funding for local road maintenance including improving bridges was released at the last budget and provide an update on the Challenge Fund. Gary said that the Transport Select Committee hearing on Local Road Funding and Governance evidence was interesting to review on Hansard. Gary said Jesse Norman was keen to support a longer term (five year) funding settlement for local highways.

James Bailey noted that capital funding from DfT for transport can be spent on other capital functions.

### **4. Future research ideas and areas – discussion**

#### ***Current research***

**Code of Practice competence training 025-UKRLG** – project is almost completed, and the aim is to roll this out.

*Cycle Risk Assessment Guidance for Defect and Safety Inspections 006-UKRLG* – David Kinsey said that there was a need for better engagement. Donald Morrison said that the work had been aligned with what has been produced. FCMG meet next Thursday

**Action: Donald Morrison to share the draft with David Kinsey in advance of the FCMG meeting**

*Highways Maintenance Appraisal Tool (HMAT) – review and refresh 026-UKRLG* – this was not discussed at the meeting of the UK Asset Management Board last week.

*Annual report on the condition of UK highway infrastructure 027-UKRLG ‘State of the Nation’ report* – work is underway on the work.

Satbir asked about steady state condition. Ramesh noted skills shortages are an issue, perhaps with a lack of inspectors.

*Research into production of specification for standardised pavement surface condition data on Unclassified roads (Appropriate extension of SCANNER specification) 015-UKRLG* – Amanda Richards said that this was progressing as this was being let through the Scottish Roads Research Board.

*Update NWSRG guidance in light of Well-managed Highways Infrastructure publication and promote use amongst practitioners 001-UKRLG* – Chris said that the work has gone through the SPATS contract and now there are five sections for approval by UKRB and UKRLG. Chris said that the ones out currently are key documents, but work is ongoing on decision-making and planning. Chris said the NWSRG was interested in other pieces of work – e.g. on residual salt and further brine trials.

### ***Future research***

There were the following suggestions:

- Drainage and investigation levels
- Highways England research programme to be considered.
- Engagement with academia
- Review past research proposals and ensure still relevant

**Action: Ramesh Sinhal to share draft Highways England research programme with James Bailey, Amanda Richards, Donald Morrison, and Justin Ward to look at options for expanding the scope to make the work applicable to local roads**

Gary Kemp said that one of the stipulations from the DfT research programmed.

**Action: Satbir Gill and Justin Ward to work on developing a session with academia**

**Action: Next agenda – explore options for a task and finish group on drainage at the next meeting**

## **5. Chair of VSSG**

Amanda Richards said a request has gone out for a chair for the VSSG but the group has not met since last September.

**Action: UKRB members to highlight the opportunity to Chair the VSSG from a local authority**

**Action: Justin Ward to pass on details for VSSG call for Chair for Liz Kirkham to circulate through ADEPT**

## 6. Sub-group updates

- **Road Condition Management Group**

Amanda Richards provided an overview of the report.

**Action: Justin Ward to work with Amanda Richards for coverage in Transportation Professional on the new UKPMS accreditation process**

- **National Winter Service Research Group**

Chris Cranston provided an updated. Chris said the NWSRG reports have been submitted for approval. The UK Roads Board confirmed approval of the three reports submitted at the end of 2018. Chris sought approval from a couple of other reports submitted.

Chris said for the last guidance there was feedback from Wales and noted it would be useful to have greater engagement from Wales and Scotland.

Chris said once approved by UKRB and UKRLG they will be publicly available.

Satbir asked about the spread rates, Chris replied that they are encouraging authorities to adopt a risk-based approach but that the minimum levels are what is considered safe – with this aspect Chris said that is vital to base the recommendations on scientific research (as such there is a need for a more prescriptive approach).

**Action: Chris Cranston to work with Justin Ward on seeking clearance (giving two weeks) for sign off by UKRB and UKRLG on all the NWSRG guidance**

Chris said that the NWSRG documents have been through extensive consultation with the NWSRG members. Douglas said the SCOTS winter group had commented extensively on Appendix H in the past and that there was an agreement to differ. Chris said the NWSRG took account of the past comments from the SCOTS winter group have been considered in the work.

Chris highlighted representation at the BSI committee and said the NWSRG was engaged with trying to secure representation.

- **Footways & Cycleways Research Group**

David Kinsey provided a verbal update.

**Action: David Kinsey to provide a report following the FCMG meeting next week for circulation**

David said that there was an intention of submitting a response to the Defra consultation on trees. David said that the FCMG is looking to engage with Manchester on the work on cycleways.

- **Asset Management**

Donald Morrison provided an update on the Asset Management Board. The UKRB noted that it needs to retain ownership of 'road assets', as the other Boards do for their assets, and that the new Asset Management Board focuses on 'asset management' per se.

## 7. Communication

It was noted that the item on accreditation of UKPMS would be useful.

**Action: Justin Ward to share the UKRB business plan**

## **8. Consultation on trees – for information**

David Kinsey said that the issue of trips on footways. Amanda Richards noted the issue is covered in Well managed Highway Infrastructure.

Chris Cranston said the issue of ash dieback is interesting in terms of when it is a safety issue and potential unintended consequences for the highway. Chris said last year Devon took out 400 trees and this year it could be close to 1,000 trees.

**Action: David Kinsey to share the draft response to the DEFRA consultation with UKRB members including issues such as accessibility**

## **9. Minutes of last meeting**

The Board noted the past actions

**Action: Garry Kemp to confirm the arrangements for providing an update on how amendments to the Code of Practice Well Managed Highway Infrastructure are managed.**

**Action: Steve Berry to assist with amending the text in the Code of Practice on the issue of tree inspections.**

**Action: Simon Richardson to write to Steve Berry so that he can raise the issue with IHE's Richard Hayes to ensure that the Highway Risk and Liability Guidance document clarifies that Northern Ireland is exempt from the requirement to complete the IHE road inspections scheme accreditation**

**Action: Donald Morrison to provide details for the UKRB website pages on Transport Scotland's securing ISO 5500**

**Action: Satbir Gill to arrange for update from BSI at a future UKRB meeting**

**Action: Sub group Board Chairs to draft one or two sentences on how their Board is contributing to the Implementation of Well Managed Highway Infrastructure**

**Action: Amanda Richards to check with Steve Berry on the proposal for RCMG develop a new process for accreditation of new UKPMS systems and the proposal for RCMG to explore opportunities to generate income to fund updates/improvements to surveys and documentation**

**Action: Jason Jenkins and Justin Ward to identify gaps with CSS Wales representation – e.g. NWSRG/FCMG**

## **10. Any other business**

Ramesh Sinhal offered to provide updates on HARRIS 2 and DMRB

Amanda Richards highlighted **DfT's Street manager** – and asked if the UK Network Management Board was working on this.

Section 56 defense – a land drainage issue – was lost in Staffordshire.