

UK ROADS LIAISON GROUP

UK Roads Liaison Group
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UKRLG Board Chairmen

Roads: Matthew Lugg
Lighting: Dana Skelley
Bridges: Greg Perks
Network Management:
 Derek Turner

Senior Policy Officer

Justin Ward
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The UKRLG's members are drawn from:

Department for Transport, Highways Agency, the Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly, Northern Ireland Roads Service, Transport for London, local highway authorities, CSS.

UKRLG: Speaking to and for UK government on transportation

The UK Roads Liaison Group does exactly what its title suggests, bringing together national and local government from around the UK to consider roads infrastructure engineering and operation, and to disseminate best practice. It was established in 2001 and is increasing its influence through the issuing of advice, publication of codes of practice and promotion of research.

This year the provision of its secretariat moves from the Department for Transport to the Institution of Highways & Transportation (see box). The UKRLG, with its four Boards, has a demanding agenda of activity to be carried out in 2009 and into the next decade. What follows is an overview of the UKRLG's terms of reference and the work of its boards.

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Declared purpose of the UKRLG is to develop and promulgate best practice on technical, financial, administrative and operational matters relating to the sustainable construction, maintenance, availability, safety and use of highways; taking into account the different circumstances that may arise in the four UK countries and in urban and rural areas.

It seeks to further the uptake of such best practice; to be a source of advice on the development of highway engineering and maintenance policy; and to provide advice to national governments and professional bodies across the UK on best practice and priorities for research.

OVERALL POLICIES OF THE UKRLG ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Providing advice to UK national governments on all aspects of the design, maintenance and use of the highway network, including monitoring of asset condition;
- Commissioning and dissemination of research which furthers the effective and efficient delivery of highway maintenance;
- Publication and maintenance of codes of practice for the assessment and maintenance of highways infrastructure; and design standards for infrastructure;
- Setting standards for infrastructure condition surveys and for infrastructure management systems, including putting in place accreditation and QA systems;
- Promoting transport engineering as a career, helping to ensure a supply of recruits to the professions;
- Acting as a representative of highway engineers in the implementation and correct revision of Eurocodes and British Standards;
- Addressing specific issues as requested by any of the national governments.

UK Network Management Board

The UK Network Management Board has a broad remit to promote safe efficient network management; to seek a better understanding of congestion and the impact of interventions on the network; and to encourage innovation, good practice, coordination between stakeholders and information exchange. Its role is to provide oversight for the implementation of transport policy relating to the UK road network.

Its strategic priorities are:

- Safety and security (Road safety targets/Monitoring technological innovation and development);
- Environment (Principal influences in achievement of modal shift/Impact of engineering and other measures to reduce congestion/Improve traffic flow/Opportunities, risks and impacts of less traditional streetscape designs);
- Congestion (Network Management

Duty/Share and disseminate learning and effective practice/Monitor technological innovation and development/Impact of interventions/Roles of highway/traffic authorities and police in the management of traffic operations);

- Economy (How best to represent congestion in measurement/development of contractual frameworks and outcome performance measures/Benefits of, and greater funding for, traffic management/Costs of delivering improvements in traffic management);
- Accessibility (Understanding road user information needs/Regional freight strategies/Engagement with Sat-Nav provider industry/Greater efficiency in use of the roads network by the logistics industry/Varying and often conflicting needs of different road users).



UK Network Management Board Interim Chairman:
 Derek Turner, Network Operations Director, Highways Agency

"I am pleased to have become the chairman of the UK Network Management Board and look forward to building upon the excellent work of my predecessor Peter Brown. I am relishing the opportunity to help the NMB meet the significant challenges that lie ahead. Our strategic priorities will include reducing the impact of congestion and tackling accessibility, safety and security issues."

The Department for Transport awarded a contract to IHT in October 2008 to provide the secretariat for the UK Roads Liaison Group. Beginning this month, *Transportation Professional* will carry reports on the activity of the UKRLG and its four Boards every second issue; keeping readers

up to date and providing the opportunity for interaction with the group.

IHT's Senior Policy Officer Justin Ward is working with the UKRLG and would like to hear from all members interested in the Group's activities. Call him on 0207 336 1584; or email justin.ward@iht.org

UK Roads Board

Dealing with carriageway, footway and cycleway engineering matters, the UK Roads Board inter alia develops and disseminates best practice on all aspects of highway maintenance; advises on asset management; and on sustainable approaches to road management and maintenance.

Its strategic priorities are:

- Safety (Health, safety and welfare, relating to the highway maintenance workforce: by influencing the safe carrying out of all aspects of maintenance);
- Accessibility (Transport asset management plans/Footways and cycle ways);
- Congestion (Promulgating best practice);
- Environmental (Sustainability: to deliver highway surfaces in the most environmentally sustainable way);
- Economy (Highway condition/ Highway performance management/Training & Development);
- Efficiency (Financial requirements/Pavement management systems).



UK Roads Board Chair:
Matthew Lugg,
Director of Highways,
Transportation & Waste Management,
Leicestershire County Council

"As a nation we are moving into challenging times and with this come important questions of how resources are prioritised. The UK Roads Board is at the forefront of this and helps provide local authorities with the advice to enable them to make best use of those resources. Looking at the broader agenda – the economic climate and credit crunch – it is even more important to give good technical advice and promote good management disciplines to ensure we deliver the best possible services for the travelling public."

UK Lighting Board

Street lighting matters are the sphere of the UK Lighting Board. Among many other bodies, it advises the All-Party Parliamentary Lighting Group. It promotes activities such as the carrying out of lighting design, installation and maintenance with safety in mind.

Its strategic priorities are:

- Safety and security (Reduction in road traffic casualties, reduction in crime, enhanced perception of personal security and public safety. With provision of lighting comes responsibility for safety of the workforce employed by installation and maintenance);
- Sustainability (Promulgating best practice/Lighting condition/Training & Development);
- Efficiency (Asset management plans/Financial: advising on funding methods/Performance management);
- Environment (Energy consumption: Appropriate performance indicators for lighting infrastructure; with Ofgem to develop appropriate performance standards).



UK Lighting Board Chairman:
Dana Skelley,
Director,
Road Network Management,
TfL Street Management

"Having led the field of highway maintenance codes of practice with the production of Well Lit Highways, the UK Lighting Board has an ambitious Business Plan for 2009 and beyond. Energy consumption, the reconsideration of illumination requirements for traffic signs and the importance of accurate lighting inventories for all authorities are all important issues being addressed by the board. Tenacity, diligence and expertise are what the UKLB will be applying to achieve these outcomes."

UK Bridges Board

Highway bridges, tunnels and other structures are the remit of the UK Bridges Board. Ensuring the safety of highway structures and promoting best practice are primary objectives. Bridge Owners' Forum provides technical support and advises on research priorities.

Strategic priorities are:

- Safety (Inspection and assessment: highways structures and masonry arch bridges/Monitoring and strengthening/Standing Committee on Structural Safety/Security of highway structures);
- Accessibility (Asset management plans/Capacity and functionality);
- Congestion (Lifecycle planning for structures management);
- Environment (Sustainability/Climate change);
- Economy (Asset value/Asset management regimes/Funding requirements/Value for money/Levels of service/ Performance management);
- Efficiency (Asset management/Whole life regimes/Developing and Sharing best practice/ Research/ International liaison).



UK Bridges Board Interim Chairman:
Greg Perks,
Highways Division,
Northumberland County
Council

"The Bridges Board has been of great value in bringing together bridge owners to consider matters and produce guidance – including the first Code of Practice – relating to highway structures in the UK. Future work includes the consideration and development of asset management regimes and practical guidance for the management of the nation's highway structures, with attention given to appropriate levels of funding and service and the challenges of climate change and sustainable construction. Our ultimate aim is that highway users should travel in a timely and safe manner."