

## **Minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UK Bridges Board held at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation on 15 February 2011**

### **Present:**

Mike Winter	ADEPT/Dorset County Council (Chairman)
Andy Bailey	Department for Transport
Brian Bell	Network Rail
Graham Bessant	London Underground
Graham Cole	CSS / Surrey County Council
Bob Flitcroft	ADEPT /Lancashire County Council
Satbir Gill	TAG/London Borough of Hounslow
Stuart Molyneux	Metropolitan Councils
Liz Kirkham	Adept/ Gloucestershire County Council
Neil Loudon	Highways Agency
David MacKenzie	SCOTS/The Highland Council
Andy Phillips	Welsh Assembly Government
Stephen Pottle	TfL (Vice Chairman)
Bill Valentine	Transport Scotland
Paul Williams	LoBEG/London Borough of Brent
David Yeoell	LoTAG / City of Westminster
Scott Dyball	CIHT (Secretariat)

### **Apologies**

Steve Berry	Department for Transport
Graeme Brown	DRD (NI) Roads Service
Rod Howe	British Waterways
Neil Garton Jones	CSS Wales

### **Welcome**

Mike Winter welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted as above.

### **1. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes were approved with one change. In Minute 2A Brian Bell did not agree to do a bridge strike factsheet and his name is to be removed from this action.

### **2. Changes at the Department for Transport**

Andy Bailey outlined the changes that were occurring at the Department for Transport (DfT). Edward Bunting and Paul Foskett had moved on and Steve Berry or Andy Bailey would aim to attend UKBB meetings on behalf of the DfT, as appropriate.

### **3. Matters arising**

An agenda item for the next meeting will be looking at the UK Bridges Board Business Plan with regards to the new financial climate.

**Action: All Members to send any good images to Justin Ward that could be included in the UK Bridges Board Business Plan.**

**Action: Scott Dyball to email Rod Howe for an update on British Waterways becoming a Charitable Trust.**

**4. UK Roads Liaison Group meeting**

The Board noted the minutes of the last UK Roads Liaison Group meeting. Mike Winter explained the action that he agreed to do is to write to all local authority chief executives to recommend that they review all of their traffic signs at bridges that are in danger of bridge strikes.

Mike Winter reported that he had asked Andrew Jones of HA to investigate what guidance or protocol the HA is using in defining the interface between Local Highway Authorities and the HA for the purposes of asset maintenance.

**5. Highways Maintenance Efficiency Program**

Mike Winter gave an introduction to the Highway Maintenance Efficiency Program.

HMEP Program is a £6 million pound program over 2 years and will help local authorities achieve highways maintenance efficiencies through 4 work streams, thereby mitigating future budget reductions. Andy Bailey explained more on the background of the HMEP and that the 4 work streams are very much led by local authorities and the chairs of these have been appointed.

- Main Board – Mostaque Ahmed
- Group 1 Efficient Operational Delivery – Matthew Lugg
- Group 2 Business Improvement – Jason Russell
- Group 3 Communications and Capability – Julian Abel
- Group 4 Research and Data Management – Steve Kent

**6. Department for Transport Research**

- a) **European funding:** On a number of the UKRLG research items there are a number of items where European Funding may be available. The EU is currently working on a draft 2012 work plan. There may be an opportunity for overseeing organisations to bid for funding which they may be unaware of. One of the difficulties for organisations may be the resource commitment required.

**Action: Neil Loudon to ask Martin Steward to put together a briefing note on the European Funding situation.**

- b) **Future of Bridge Owners' Forum:** Mike Winter reported that the DfT had confirmed that it would be unable to continue its funding support for the Bridge Owners' Forum beyond 2010/11 (UKRLG Mtg 19/11/10 Minute 7.) The Bridge Owners Forum is looking at funding support being provided under a subscription model, potentially along the lines of the UKRLG and its Boards (see Item 7). The Bridge Owners Forum is seeking suggestions on how it can better advise bridge practitioners on the work that it is doing. The Board agreed that the Bridge Owners Forum should continue to be the technical advisor to the Board but the relationship between the UK Bridges Board and the Bridge Owners Forum needs to be clarified.

- c) **CIPFA depreciation modelling toolkit:** Andy Bailey and Steve Berry have met with Atkins for a briefing on the toolkit. Funding to complete the development of this toolkit will require ministerial approval.
- d) **Bridge Inspection and Competence Training:** Stephen Pottle gave an update on the Bridge Inspection Competence and Training and confirmed that the NRA have approved their funding amount. It was understood that the successful tenderer would have to be asked to maintain the submitted price before a contract could be awarded.
- e) **Design & Maintenance Standard for Local Roads:** The final report and guidance documents (on Departures, Whole Life Costing and Road Restraint Systems) that are being written to accompany the report should be published by the end of February 2011. Mike Winter has put in a provisional bid to ADEPT to write a complementary/supplemental guidance document on road restraint systems adjacent to, and on, bridges.
- f) **Design, Maintenance and Inspection of hidden parts of structures:** The Board agreed that this was the highest priority research item for the board to take to the UKRLG meeting once the project proposal is finalised.

**Action: All comments on the Rod Howe research proposal on Design, Maintenance and Inspection of hidden parts of structures to be sent to Mike Winter**

## **7. Future Funding of the UK Roads Liaison Group**

Mike Winter gave a briefing on the proposals for the future funding arrangements of the UK Roads Liaison Group and that the proposal was to move to a subscription based model with each organisations contribution being formula based. Scott Dyball confirmed that not all organisations had formally agreed to the proposals at the time of the meeting.

## **8. SCOSS Letter**

Mike Winter explained his thoughts on what he would reply to the letter from SCOSS and opened up the issue to the board for comment. The Board felt that the issue that was not mentioned in the letter is the assessment of structures to identify if there is an issue of scour. It also important to have thought to changes in the catchment area as this can change the scour risk.

## **9. The Assessment of Scour at Highway Structures**

Neil Loudon asked the board to feed back all comments on the draft DMRB standard including pointers to all other work that is going on in this area.

**Action: All UK Bridges Board Members to feed comments through to John Shave of Parsons Brinckerhoff by 4 March 2011.**

## **10. Vehicle Incursions**

With regards to the Oxshott incident and the project on Masonry Parapet Assessment, Design and Strengthening guidance it was felt that the Board should wait until the guidance is published and then take a view on what role UKRLG can play.

Brian Bell said that there was a view that the Masonry Parapet guidance should be incorporated into a revision of BS 6779 – Highway parapets for bridges and other structures. The Board agreed that this should not be the case and the guidance should be a standalone document.

#### **11. ADEPT & Network Rail Liaison**

Bob Flitcroft introduced the minutes of the meeting of the ADEPT and Network Rail Liaison Group Meeting and mentioned the main points that arose from the meeting.

#### **12. British Waterways Liaison**

Bob Flitcroft updated the meeting on the progress of the protocol working group. There has been no liaison meeting since the last meeting of the UK Bridges Board.

#### **13. Structures Code of Practice**

- a) **Implementation Survey:** Graham Cole spoke to the survey and the results that had been collected. The results on the implementation of the codes of practice are generally heading in the right direction but there is a concern whether this will continue with the funding cuts.
- b) **Suggestions for Updates to the Complementary Guidance:** Mike Winter, at the UKRLG meeting, had suggested that the Eurocodes guidance and the Assessment of Scour documents should be included in future updates.
- c) **Updates to Complementary Codes of Practice:** The updates unfortunately did not make it to board members.

**Action: Scott Dyball to circulate the updates to the complementary codes of practice and ask board members to respond electronically.**

#### **14. Press Briefings**

**Action: Please send comments to individual authors and copy in Mike Winter and Justin Ward.**

The final press briefings will need to be edited into a common style and signed off by the Board before uploading onto the website.

#### **15. Transport Advice Portal**

As part of the Design and Maintenance Guidance for Local Roads project a Highway Structures section was added to the Transport Advice Portal. There is now a need to populate the sub-sections under Highway Structures with the relevant documents.

**Action: All UK Bridges Board Members to send a list of relevant documents that should be uploaded to the Transport Advice Portal to Scott Dyball**

#### **16. Communications**

**Action: Justin Ward to update the UK Bridges Board by email.**

**17. AOB**

Neil Loudon reported that the Bridges Rail Residuary body is being taken over by the Highways Agency but timing on this has not yet been finalised.

Stephen Pottle asked the board how useful they found ESDAL and perhaps the UK Bridges Board could provide feedback.

David Yeowell asked whether the question of transferring ownership of highway bridges over railways to Network Rail should be asked again.

**18. Date of next meeting**

The dates of the next meetings of the UK Bridges Board are:

15 June 2011

5 October 2011