

Minutes of the 48th meeting of the UK Bridges Board held at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation on 19 October 2015

Board members in attendance:

Dana Skelley	TfL (Chairman)
Nick Burgess	Transport for London (Underground)
Robert Dean	Network Rail
Kevin Dentith	ADEPT Rep/Devon
Richard Fish	Bridge Owners' Forum (BOF)
Satbir Gill	TAG/Ringway Hounslow Highways Limited
Nicola Head	Transport for London
Rod Howe	Canal and Rivers Trust
Bob Humphreys	CSS Wales Bridges Group, Gwynedd Council
Gary Kemp	DfT
Neil Loudon	Highways Agency
David Mackenzie	SCOTS Rep, Highland Council
Stuart Molyneux	Metropolitan Councils
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

In attendance:

Stephanie Craig-Smith	Lantra
Lee Meaden	Devon

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

Dana welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were recorded for Liz Kirkham, Graham Cole, Colin Ferris and Jason Hibbert.

2. Bridge Inspector Certification Scheme

Stephanie Craig-Smith gave an overview of the Bridge Inspector Certification Scheme. Following the presentation the Board had a discussion about the fees level for the scheme and also how the industry clients would endorse the scheme by considering mandating the use of it.

Neil Loudon, as a representative from the Board on the group that developed the Scheme, said that he would review the fees as things progressed.

On the discussion on endorsement of the scheme Neil Loudon said that he had made the point that there should be a stronger approach in the Code rather than just recommending the use of the scheme. The Board supported this and Nicola said she would take this forward as UK Bridges Board representative to the Codes of Practice Review.

Action: Nicola Head to review the wording on endorsement of the Bridge Inspector Certification Scheme within the revised Code of Practice and consider the approach for a phased implementation. The proposal was that by 2020 the scheme should be a mandatory requirement for anyone inspecting a bridge in the UK and Ireland to be certified through the scheme.

Rob Dean noted that the risk-based approach, underpinning the update to the Codes, could be applied if/when a client decided not to apply the requirement.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were approved subject to a minor correction of the word 'certification' as opposed to 'competency' scheme in relation to bridge inspections.

4. UK Roads Liaison Group meeting

The minutes were noted.

5. Code of Practice update

Nicola thanked the Board for their comments on the latest draft. Nicola informed the Board of the delayed release to summer 2017 due to the large response (with over 650 comments). Nicola also noted the development of risk-based guidance that would also be developed to be launched in parallel with the revised publication timescale.

6. Structures Toolkit

The feedback on the meeting was positive.

7. Research

a) A guidance document for how highway authorities can effectively achieve Level 2 BIM for their highway infrastructure assets

Kevin Dentith provided an update saying that the draft guidance would be ready this year with a final document expected in July next year. Kevin said the document would include case studies.

Action: UK Bridges Board members involved in smaller schemes that have applied BIM to pass over case study material for the BIM guidance document

b) Best Practice Guide to installation and management of safety critical fixings

Neil Loudon updated the Board noting that the brief had been drafted and the project was currently in the procurement process through Highways England T-TEAR framework. Neil noted some interfaces with the research that were being considered including work by CIRIA and also research through the NCE.

c) Guidance on methods of determining reliable and realistic deterioration models and degradation rates for bridge assets.

Richard Fish provided an update noting that Keith Hardwood had been driving forward the proposal on behalf of BOF. The view currently was the need for a more realistic and practical application of the research. Rob Dean said that Network Rail could lead on the procurement if a brief is agreed. Richard said that BOF would review in more detail.

Action: Richard Fish to circulate updated proposal once agreed

8. UK Bridges Board Business Plan

There was a discussion on both the merits and challenges of producing a state of the national report on UK bridge stock. Dana said that if this was to be taken forward there would be the need to commission work for this to be delivered.

The Board noted that HMEP has traditionally been very highways focused.

Action: Dana Skelley to report back to HMEP the need for structures and bridges to be covered under HMEP

There was a brief discussion on cross-sector skills sharing as covered in the draft business plan.

Action: Consider links to the work on skills shortages being led by Terry Morgan regarding the action on skills in the business plan.

Regarding technology the Board agreed a future meeting focusing on the topic and application to bridge management would be useful, perhaps at the next UKBB meeting. A focus on the problems/issues that need to be solved and interaction from the Cambridge Centre or Transport Catapult would be useful.

Action: Consider technology session at future UK Bridges Board meeting

Action: Justin Ward to update Business Plan based on above points and include leads and completion dates

9. National Bridge Condition Survey

Kevin Dentith said the RAC Foundation had put in FOI requests to local authorities on weight limits on bridges that generated a 100% return. The Board agreed with Dana's suggestion of engagement with the work by RAC Foundation would be useful.

Action: Kevin Dentith to work with RAC Foundation to build up wider coverage of the National Bridge Condition Survey

10. Matters arising from ADEPT Bridges Group

There was a discussion on the work of the bridge strike prevention group and the issue of overbridge strikes (as opposed to underbridge strikes).

Action: Stuart Molyneux and Rob Dean to link in with the working group on the above issue of overbridge strikes

Rob Dean said that he would arrange for a presentation from Network Rail on possession planning at a future meeting of the Board.

Boundary issue

Neil Loudon said that a document would be available for circulation at the next UK Bridges Board meeting. Dana asked about the opportunity to comment/input on the document and Neil said that the document would seek input/views going forward.

Action: Neil Loudon to have a document on the boundary issue for the next meeting

11. Any other business

Rod Howe said he would retire next year, but said it was likely he would attend the next meeting. The Board thanked Rod for all his work and engagement on the Board.

12. Date of next meeting

Action: Justin Ward to work with Dana Skelley on meeting dates for 2016.