

Minutes of the 50th meeting of the UK Bridges Board held at the CIHT on 10 June 2016

Board members in attendance:

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| Dana Skelley | TfL (Chairman) |
| Steve Berry | Department for Transport |
| Nick Burgess | Transport for London (Underground) |
| Harry Cox | Department for Transport |
| Robert Dean | Network Rail |
| Kevin Dentith | ADEPT/Devon County Council |
| Colin Ferris | Transport NI |
| Richard Fish | Bridge Owners Forum (BOF) |
| Satbir Gill | TAG/Ringway Hounslow Highways Limited |
| Nicola Head | Transport for London |
| Wayne Hindshaw | Transport Scotland |
| Bob Humphreys | CSS Wales, Gwynedd Council |
| Liz Kirkham | ADEPT Rep/Gloucester (Deputy Chairman) |
| Neil Loudon | Highways England |
| Anvar Alizadeh (substituting for Paul Monaghan) | LoBEG |
| Peter Walker | Canal & River Trust |
| Justin Ward | CIHT (Secretariat) |

Guest (items 1 -4):

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| Mark Gibbons | Network Rail |
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1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

Dana Skelley welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were from Jason Hibbert, Andrew Stevenson, Paul Monaghan, Stuart Molyneux, and Andrew Strang (the new SCOTS Bridges Group representative).

2. Minutes of last meeting

These were approved.

3. Minutes of UK Roads Liaison Group

The Board noted the minutes. Steve Berry highlighted that DfT had written out to highway authorities as part of the incentive funding encouraging them to include apprentices within local procurement. **Action – letter shared with members [completed]**

Skills Strategy – there was a discussion on how the sector can support that Transport Infrastructure Skills Strategy. Kevin Dentith provided a presentation on what Devon County Council are doing to support apprenticeships.

4. Network Rail possession planning

The Board agreed to the proposal from Rob Dean that a sub-group for access planning was established to ensure that all the network interfaces are considered – for road space, river space, rail space. Peter Walker agreed to set up a first meeting following a number of members volunteering to attend with the intention of holding a meeting soon.

Action: Peter Walker to email UK Bridges Board members seeking representation at the first meeting of the asset planning sub-group [completed]

Mark Gibbons then discussed a number of issues with Board members and outlined two proposed measures to improve the situation. In response Neil Loudon suggested that a code of practice could be useful for both parties to complete. Rob Dean added that establishing robust terms of reference would be useful. Dana Skelley added that minimising the impact on customers was key.

5. Business plan

Steve Berry noted that Oliver Letwin is undertaking a review of vulnerable communities that will consider vulnerable bridges in the UK and that this evidence gathering will be useful for the Board to have.

Liz Kirkham and Kevin Dentith noted that they were working with the RAC Foundation on the bridge maintenance in Great Britain. Rob Dean said that it would be an incredible tool if the Bridge Condition Index aligned with the evaluation measures used by Network Rail.

The Board asked for an update on research and Steve Berry noted that a paper would be tabled at the UKRLG meeting in July.

There was a discussion on BOF Grand Challenges, a document that was being developed to look at the key issues faced by the bridge sector. The Board agreed that this document should be utilised to inform the development of the business plan.

Action: Richard Fish to share the BOF Grand Challenges document once completed with UKBB members

6. Code of Practice

The Board noted the project was progressing with the risk-based guidance having now being commissioned.

There was a discussion on the research proposal on deterioration where it was noted by Richard Fish that Keith Harwood would project manage it. Steve Berry noted that, if this was within the funding, a confirmation letter could be sent once the project brief had been completed.

7. Liaison between bodies

The Board noted that liaison with Highways England was going through some changes as Neil Loudon noted that the asset led delivery approach was bringing some operations back in-house.

Harry Cox said outlined a piece of work he was responsible for that was looking whether to include other highways assets into the highways maintenance funding formula.

Action: Harry Cox to contact UKBB members seeking views on the highway maintenance funding formula [completed]

Action: Liz Kirkham to work with Harry Cox on input from the bridge sector on highway maintenance funding formula

8. AOB

The Board recorded their appreciation and thanks to David MacKenzie who had retired from Highland Council for his contribution to the Board over the years. David presented the SCOT Bridges Group.

9. Date of next meeting

Post-meeting note – the next meeting will be on October 2016 at CIHT.