

Minutes of the 51st meeting of the UK Bridges Board (UKBB) held at the CIHT on 6 October 2016

Board members in attendance:

Dana Skelley	TfL (Chairman)
Nick Burgess	Transport for London (Underground)
Kevin Dentith	ADEPT/Devon County Council
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
Stuart Molyneux	Metropolitan Councils
Andrew Strang	Perth & Kinross for SCOTS Bridges Group
Luigi Rocco (for Rob Dean)	Network Rail
Peter Walker	Canal & River Trust
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

Dana Skelley welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies were recorded for Jason Hibbert, Satbir Gill, Graham Cole, Robert Dean, Richard Fish, Colin Ferris and Steve Berry.

2. Minutes of last meeting

There were a couple of amendments for accuracy – access planning group not asset planning group, SCOTS Bridges Group and Canal & River Trust (not Rivers). These would be corrected and updated.

3. UK Roads Liaison Group meeting

The Group noted the skills focus and Enterprise Bill (that includes coverage of apprenticeships) and sought to ensure that this was still on UKRLG's agenda.

4. Personal safety incidents at bridges

The Board outlined a range of different approaches used by highway authorities, from signage, to phones, to physical measures. Wayne Hindshaw noted work in Scotland:

[Details here: Choose Life – The National Strategy and Action Plan to prevent suicide in Scotland – Guidance on action to reduce suicides at locations of concern – published 2012. This is due to be reviewed with a wider stakeholder consultation than in 2012 when Transport officials were not consulted over jumping from bridges. www.chooselife.net/Publications/publications].

Nicola noted TfL had responded to an inquiry by the Health Select Committee on the issue (<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/health-committee/suicide-prevention/written/41249.html>).

Action: Kevin Dentith to raise the issues discussed by the UKBB with ACPO
Action: Nicola Head to follow up on the Health Select Committee inquiry on suicide prevention (<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/suicide-prevention-inquiry/>) once the report is published.

It was noted by the Board that Network Rail refer all media handling for incidents to the Samaritans and that Network Rail undertake a lot of research with universities on behavioural issues. Sharing information was helpful for bridge owners on the matter and it was agreed that focus should not be on engineering solutions but on root causes.

5. Presentation on M20 Footbridge

Neil Loudon provided an update on what Highways England had been doing since the bridge strike of the footbridge on the M20. Emphasised the importance of bridge owners checking clearance heights and signage. Official report was still to be published by Kent Police.

6. Network Rail Industry Risk Fund

Kevin Dentith raised the issue of NR costs involved with Devon County Council building a new station in Devon at Marsh Barton that would be handed over to Network Rail. Although insurance was already in place, there appeared to be additional costs required for contribution to the industry risk fund operated by Network Rail. The Board agreed to the following:

Action: Liz Kirkham to raise the Network Rail Industry Risk Fund and potential excessive cost implications of the scheme with Steve Berry

7. Code of Practice

The Board noted that the Code would be published on the 28th of October.

Action: Nicola Head to note that the term BIM now refers to Better Information Management [completed]

8. Access planning group

The Board noted that the meeting had taken place and perhaps a protocol similar to the Bridge Strike Prevention Group protocol could be produced. The Board noted that Mark Gibbons at Network Rail was making every effort to ensure that all the routes are pulled together to make access planning more straightforward and manageable for other asset owners.

9. BOF Grand Challenges

Dana Skelley noted that the Board was awaiting this as it was a core input to the business planning of the Board.

Action: Neil Loudon and Richard Fish to provide feedback at the next UKBB on BOF Grand Challenges with the aim of distilling the issues into an update of the UKBB Business Plan

Action: Liz Kirkham to raise the proposal at UKRLG (where she will be deputising for Dana Skelley at the November meeting) that a business planning session for UKRLG would be useful

The Board noted that there was lots of activities that the Board should be taking stock of – notably the European Horizon 2020 project and work on remote monitoring (Network Rail is undertaking a lot of this).

Action: Next meeting to provide an update on Horizon 2020 and remote condition monitoring – Neil Loudon and Rob Dean

10. Liaison between bodies

The Board noted the boundary Issue and Neil Loudon said that Highways England had a legal interpretation of the Highways Act. **Action: Neil Loudon to arrange a meeting with representatives of ADEPT, TfL and DfT to discuss Highways England's latest position on this (confirmed to take place following on from the next UKRLG meeting on 4 November)**

The Board noted ADEPT liaison with Network Rail had taken place.

11. Accreditation of Structures Toolkit

Liz Kirkham said that the aim was to get the toolkit accredited. Liz noted that this had not yet happened as funds had not been made available. Highway authorities had to comply with the Whole of Government Accounts requirements, and auditors will ask where the rates have come from, so centrally accredited systems and rates would be beneficial.

The Board agreed with Liz Kirkham's proposal to combine with the UKPMS research process accreditation already submitted as part of the UKRLG research process.

Action: Liz Kirkham to provide a brief note of the scope of work for the Structures Toolkit accreditation [completed] for inclusion with the UKPMS research proposal

Action: Liz Kirkham to raise the issue of the accreditation of the Structures Toolkit at the UKRLG

Andrew Strang noted that the rates review in Scotland was undertaken directly by members of SCOTS.

12. AOB

Wayne Hindshaw highlighted the issue of 60 tonne HGVs being covered in a TRL report but with little reference to bridges.

Action: Wayne Hindshaw to share details of TRL report covering 60 tonne HGVs

BD29 design of footbridges – this is currently under review and is being updated to reflect the need to consider measures to prevent self-harming at the scheme development and design stages and to consult with health professionals at that time. Wayne Hindshaw noted that he was keen that a clause should be in place to encourage liaison with relevant stakeholders to address the issue.

Safety critical fixings project – The Board noted the good progress with this and welcomed that HS2 had indicated a desire to join the project. The intended publication of February 2017.

Bridge Inspector Certification Scheme - The Board noted that it might be useful to provide an update on the first person to have been accredited through the scheme.

Action: Neil Loudon & Justin Ward to explore the option for a short article in Transportation Professional on the first person to be accredited through the Bridge Inspector Certification Scheme

London Underground – Nick Burgess highlighted the move to 24 hour tube running and maintenance inspections

13. Date of next meeting - 2017 dates to be confirmed.