

UK Roads Board minutes from 2 July 2021 – held on Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Present:

James Bailey (Chair)
Carol Valentine (for Richard Stacey)
Jason Jenkins

Douglas Hill
Andy Pickett
Arash Khojinian
Martin McMahon
Gary Kemp
Mark McPeak
Justin Ward

Representing:

Staffordshire County Council, representing ADEPT
Devon County Council, representing the National Winter Service Research Group
Bridgend County Borough Council representing CSS Wales
Angus Council for SCOTS
Footways & Cycletrack Management Group (FCMG)
Highways England
Transport for London
Department for Transport
Infrastructure Northern Ireland
CIHT (Secretariat)

In attendance: John Lamb and Jonathan Munslow

1) Introduction, apologies

James welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were recorded for Amanda Richards (RCMG), Donald Morrison (Transport Scotland), Richard Morgan (Welsh Government), Richard Stacey (NWSRG) and David Kinsey (FCMG).

2) Resilience

John Lamb gave a presentation on work that he has been involved with resilience for DfT, noting that the report is currently on the Ministerial Grid awaiting approval. John provided an overview of the report's recommendations, and this was followed by several questions from Board members. James Bailey noted the emergency response, and the adaptation elements were important and then added how this filtered through the industry was important.

Action: John Lamb to share the timeline of resilience reports and summary infographic

3) Research

Gary Kemp noted that the Government is focused on decarbonisation, innovation, and asset management. The Board noted that research and development on managing climate risk would be valuable in light of the presentation given by John Lamb. Gary Kemp said that the climate change impacts and how that affects the resilience of the road assets would be valued. Gary Kemp has indicated that there will be potential funding available from April 2022 and this would be for the UKRLG to decide on projects.

James Bailey noted that Amanda Richards on behalf of the RCMG on skid resistance that would be considered for research. James added that it would be useful to consider all the sub-group Board proposals and other research proposals from Highways England, Scottish Roads Research Board and others.

Action: Sub-group Chairs to outline ideas for research and put a high-level items with some headline details of research projects by email to James Bailey/Justin Ward – responses back by 9 July

Action: Douglas Hill to feedback on Scottish Roads Research Board research programme to share past projects and identify applicable future research projects – by 9 July [completed - <https://www.transport.gov.scot/our-approach/industry-guidance/scottish-road-research-board/#45124>]

4) Subgroup updates

NWSRG – Carol Valentine gave an update on the work of the Group noting that the NWSRG Guidance had been completed and the Group was looking forward with a new business plan, adding the Group have a new website and are looking at membership. Justin Ward mentioned the Winter Road Congress hosted by Canada was taking place virtually next year and raising awareness of this would be valuable.

FCMG – Andy Pickett gave an update on the work of the Group, highlighting how cycling was high on the Government agenda. Justin Ward mentioned that Nick Tyler from UCL who is leading on the new PEARL laboratory could be an interesting person to speak with for the FCMG.

Action: UKRB members to highlight any contacts that would be appropriate in maintenance and asset management expertise in walking and cycling infrastructure

Action: Richard Morgan to explore a representative from the Welsh Government for the FCMG

5) UKRLG update

James Bailey noted that the Asset Management Group was undertaking work focusing on the case for highways to HM Treasury. James added that a road condition review was being undertaken by DfT and James added that there had been engagement with this. Andy Pickett mentioned that Amanda Richards had been involved with this review. Gary Kemp said a position paper is due to be published shortly.

6) UKRB minutes

The actions were noted. James Bailey noted it should be section 56 claims not section 58 claims.

Action: James Bailey to share COVID response work by ADEPT

Action: Justin Ward to share COVID response teamwork by PIARC to the Board members

7) AOB

Mark McPeak asked about electric beads and road information. Carol Valentine noted that there is an ADEPT Live Labs that is focused on generating electricity from a road surface.

Martin asked if anyone had reviewed the Code of Practice and their risk-based priorities and network hierarchies (and changes over the last 15 months due to Covid) e.g. pop-up cycle lanes. There was a discussion on the temporary measures put in for cycling were sometimes being removed now.

James Bailey noted that the Manchester Arena Terrorist inquest and ‘Martin’s Law’ and responsibility on venue owners for security aspects/considerations could have implications for highway authorities.