

## Minutes of UK Roads Liaison Group held on 22 April 2022 – held virtually

Stephen Fidler	Department of Transport
Stewart Leggett	Transport Scotland
Ewan Wallace	Aberdeenshire Council representing SCOTS
James Bailey	Staffordshire Council, Chair of UK Roads Board
Gary Kemp	Department of Transport
Matthew Eglinton	Department of Transport
Mark Kemp	Hertfordshire County Council, Chair of UK Network Management Board
David Denner	Welsh Government, Chair of UK Lighting & Technology Board
Darren Thomas	Pembrokeshire, representing CSS Wales
John Lamb	Local Government Technical Advisers Group (LGTAG)
Hazel McDonald	Transport Scotland, Chair of UK Bridges Board
Conor Loughrey	Department for Infrastructure, Northern Ireland
Mark Stevens	Haringey Council representing ADEPT
Justin Ward	Secretariat

### 1. UKRLG Board updates

#### • UK Bridges Board

Hazel McDonald noted DfT research and procurement was discussed. EPSRC Masonry Arch process on a 3D rapid assessment tool. There was note of a presentation from Network Rail online tool on processions. The update included that a small sub-group had been established that was looking at guidance in the sector more broadly. Discussed the temporary bridge portal (following Cumbria bridge collapse).

The Boundary Document is awaiting sign-off within National Highways. Other updates included a draft survey on the Code of Practice and presentations at a conference. Hazel also mentioned weight limits for 44-ton vehicles was a concern.

BridgeCat was mentioned in terms of deployment and John Lamb commented that the sector needs to better understand the route to market and accessing it. Matthew Eglinton highlighted

**Action: Hazel McDonald to consider how BridgeCat would be useful to the bridges community in the UK offering advice to DfT on approach to use**

**Action: Justin Ward to share PIARC report on Bridge Strikes with UKBB and UKNMB**

**Action: John Lamb to share details of TRIG application on damage to bridges and make connection with lead on this with UKBB**

**Action: Matthew Eglinton to check connections with TRIG and check funding conditions to connect work to UKRLG where relevant**

Stephen asked about weight limits and Hazel said it is about wear and tear on structures and the need to ensure only use roads limited to use. Hazel said with tankards there is less a concern as these are used in emergency situations with routes agreed in advance. Hazel noted the concerns were particularly around the local road network – for the first and last mile – with heavy weighted vehicles.

**Action: Hazel McDonald to provide a briefing on weight limits to Matthew Eglinton with involvement with Mark Kemp for reach through NTMF and UKNMB**

**Action: Stephen Fidler to consider a future meeting on weight limits from a DfT perspective to make connections with network managers and owners**

- **UK Lighting & Technology Board**

Dave Denner updated on lighting for cycleways and active travel with Sustrans was shifted to a risk-based approach, also covered updates on succession, research, and planning for improving co-ordination on work with other bodies including LCRIC. Dave said that the State of the Nation phase 2 was being developed. Also mentioned were supply-shortages/delays and increased energy costs.

**Action: Dave Denner to share Sustrans Scotland lighting guidance for cycleways with UKRLG**

There was a discussion on EV charging and Mark Kemp noted OZEV is due to release guidance shortly on this. There was also a discussion on lighting levels and safety and wider context of dimming and part-night lighting.

**Action: UKRLG to keep track with progress on shift to LED and move forward with the State of the Nation Phase 2 report**

- **UK Network Management Board**

Mark Kemp noted the last meeting took place at PEARL and noted the Board focused on data sharing between National Highways and local authorities, the development of RIS3 and the roll-out of Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act. Mark also noted work with Ordnance Survey, Ringway and Jacobs about what does a digital road mean for a local authority; Mark noted that National Highways are doing a lot on digital highways but what it means for local roads might be different.

- **UK Roads Board**

James Bailey thanked Gary Kemp for bringing updates and insight to the Board – this was very helpful; adding that the Board was developing its focus and strategy. Also included in the update plans for a survey to be developed on the Code of Practice.

## **2. Updates**

Stephen Fidler noted that the 6<sup>th</sup> of July is the deadline for Levelling Up bids and encouraged transport focused projects from UKRLG members. Matthew Eglinton noted ADEPT research on decarbonisation was also worth focusing on.

## **3. Research**

Stephen Fidler noted research and potential through ADEPT LiveLabs. Matthew Eglinton thanked everyone for their contributions and noted next steps were for:

**Action: Board Chairs to identify the top 3 research projects with clear articulation of the outcomes from these projects including identified English LA to lead procurement (and possibly TfL and DA's)**

## **4. UKRLG Away Day**

**Action: Hybrid session – for next steps on Strategic Planning – London PM 8th and morning of 9th JUNE**

## **5. AOB**

Stephen Fidler asked if there was a need for a focus on cost increases and how UKRLG works on this space (and made a point about the need for a more systematic approach to strategic issue identifying, if this was necessary). Stephen said that if UKRLG is top of the tree then there is a need for a view on the position. John Lamb noted the Highways Sector Council is looking at hyperinflation.

**Action: Have a standing item on strategic issue identification at each UKRLG meeting/Co-ordination of this and UKRLG members to share content (HSC John Lamb, Ewan Wallace, SCOTS)**

#### **CAV-4 Autonomous Bus Trial**

Stewart Leggett said that there is a dedicated hard shoulder trial of this – due to have live trials very shortly.

**Action: Justin Ward to speak with Stewart Leggett for a future meeting hosted by Transport Scotland for UKRLG**

Ewan Wallace noted that he was due to stand down from SCOTS and Stephen Fidler thanked him his excellent contribution to UKRLG.