

## UK Roads Board Agenda for 20 October 2022 – held on Microsoft Teams

### Attendance

#### Present:

James Bailey (Chair)  
Gary Kemp

Jason Jenkins

Andy Pickett

Rana Ilgaz  
Donald Morrison

Mark McPeak  
Amanda Richards  
Arash Khojinian  
Kyle Fairbairn

#### Representing:

Staffordshire County Council, representing ADEPT  
Department for Transport (DfT)

Bridgend County Borough Council representing CSS  
Wales

Footways & Cycle track Management Group  
(FCMG)

Transport for London (late arrival)  
Transport Scotland

Infrastructure Northern Ireland  
Surrey County Council, representing RCMG  
National Highways  
CIHT (Secretariat)

### 1) Introduction, apologies

**Apologies recorded for Ian Hawthorne, Richard Stacey and Gary Neill.**

### 2) UKRLG Update (JB)

- Strategic Plan

James shared the new UKRLG Strategy 2022+ to the group and the vision and mission of UKRLG with a name change to UK Roads Leadership Group.

**Action:** James to circulate the UKRLG strategic plan to the group.

- Climate Change Board

The establishing of a climate change board was discussed, framed around the winter planning work and drainage schemes. John Lamb is going to be the chair of this board with support from other boards.

- Code of Practice

Discussion broke out into the status of producing a survey of LA's views of the current Code of Practice and priority areas for review. James reminded UKRB that a draft series of questions has previously been prepared and is currently with Justin Ward, CIHT to develop into a survey template. In the meantime a parallel survey has been sent out from UK Bridges Board.

**Action:** Justin ward to help produce a survey for UKRB and circulate template for further review.

- Research Programme

None of the proposed research projects have been dismissed and were all welcomed and supported. Steven Fidler from DfT has assured that there will be funding available for these research projects but is just subject to formalising a procurement route. James Bailey made the point that the projects could start regardless of procurement and then deal with those issues as they arise.

Donald Morrison updated briefly that there were discussions had at the recent asset management (AM) board that there is potential collaborative funding opportunities with the Future Highways Research Group – a potential avenue for UKRB to explore. Donald also mentioned that there had been mention of a UKRLG task and finish group to coordinate and lead the processes around research and how it relates to the wider sector.

### 3) UKRB Business Plan (JB)

- Minutes and actions

All actions agreed as being complete from the previous meeting's minutes.

Donald raised the point that there have been issues with the UKRLG website, and links sending to wrong website.

**Rana Ilgaz joined the call as the new representative for TfL, her role is Head of Highways and Traffic at TfL. The rest of the group introduced themselves to Rana.**

### 4). Subgroup Updates

- DfT Update (ME/GK)

Gary Kemp said that they have received two bids for Live Labs 2 from group members. Work had been going on with DEFRA around climate change and adaptability with toolkits needing to be produced for this. The fiscal event is still expected to go ahead on 31 October, with the hope for more funding for local authority funding.

- National Winter Service Research Group (RS)

No update as no representative.

- Road Condition Management Group (AR)

The RCMG met on 20th September and were provided with general updates including that a 6th developer is currently undergoing the process to become a UKPMS accredited system provider. With regards to SCANNER, one of the new vehicles in the fleet is producing cracking data that is slightly out of alignment with the rest of the fleet. TRL as the auditor are reviewing with the contractor how to manage this issue. The issue of how to take forward the Chairmanship of the Visual Survey Subgroup remains unresolved, however Amanda has suggested two options to the group, that either they review their stance on having a non-LA chair or they become corresponding members of the RCMG raising issues for decision through Amanda rather than being a physical group.

Amanda also mentioned that a technical author of the DfT Road Condition Standards Review technical has been found, with TRL has now been commissioned to work alongside BSI who are the Project Managers and DfT who are the Project Sponsors. The development of the new standard is still expected to be completed by the end of 2023, with a period of dual running of the new and existing standards expected to commence for the 2024/25 survey year.

Donald said that it had been briefly discussed at AM board about the ongoing interest in this matter of the Road Conditions Standard Review, with the hope to invite a speaker to discuss this at their next meeting.

James asked about the progress of the RCMG's business plan, Amanda shared this on screen.

**Action:** FCMG and NWRSG Group chairs to send James their business plans

**Action:** James to arrange with Kyle/Justin for UKRB business plan to be updated on website with links to sub group plans

- Footways & Cycle track Management Group (GN)

Andy updated on the recent FCMG groups recent meeting and reported that Active Travel England will have a representative on the group. The main discussion point was around the how very low use rural footways could be managed, including issues such as material choices, potential "rewilding", risk management etc. FCMG are looking into this to see if this would work in practice. The groups business plan is still currently being finalised.

- Asset Management (DM)

Donald Morrison gave a brief update on the AM board meeting on 18/20/22, with mention to collaborative research priorities. A discussion was also had around the UKRLG strategy by the groups vice chair, Janvi Shah. Many of the points of discussion drawing parallels to the UKRB agenda. UKAM board has now completed its business plan too.

#### National Updates

Donald Morrison updated on spending plans in Scotland, with a review on departmental spending in Scottish Government underway due to the cost-of-living crisis.

Mark McPeak updated on Northern Ireland resource pressures, including the large increases in cost of energy for street lighting among other things. James said that he has asked the UKRLG lighting & technology board to see if they have looked into where the best tariffs are found.

Jason Jenkins gave a brief update on Wales, with similar funding discussion as other nations being had. Contingencies are being looked at if traffic and streets lights were to go out due to energy supply issues.

Arash Khojinian discussed the net zero issues faced at National Highways and all of the innovations going on to make sure that current practice is fit for practice to tackle the climate challenge.

#### **5) Manual Contract Documents for Highway Works (MCHW) – National Highways Updates – (JB)**

Arash has forward this on to Ian Holmes at NH to look at this further. A more in-depth conversation to be had at the ADEPT engineering board.

**Action:** James/Arash to have a conversation at ADEPT Engineering Board.

#### **6) Format and Dates of Next UKRB Meetings**

The group agreed this would be a good idea to have one in-person meeting per year, but subject to logistics. Location to likely be in London, perhaps around LGTAG conference in June 2023, but potential to be hosted in another region too.

**Action:** Group to decide on location for in person meeting.

**7) Any Other Business**

No AOB.

**Next meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**