

## UK Roads Board Meeting 06 June 2023 – held on Microsoft Teams

### Attendance

#### Present:

James Bailey (Chair)  
Amanda Richards  
David Kinsey  
Rana Ilgaz  
Jason Jenkins  
  
Mark McPeak  
Ryan Cooper  
Anastasia Trofimova (Secretariat)

#### Representing:

Staffordshire County Council, representing ADEPT  
Surrey County Council, representing Road Condition Management Group (RCMG)  
Derby City Council, representing Footways & Cycle track Management Group (FCMG)  
Transport for London (TfL)  
Bridgend County Borough Council, representing Wales Local Highways Authorities  
Infrastructure Northern Ireland  
Transport for London (TfL)  
CIHT

### 1) Introduction and apologies

Apologies recorded for Andy Pickett and Ian Hawthorn.

Introductions were made to the group, including the new CIHT Secretariat.

Rana Ilgaz introduced Ryan Cooper, who will replace her in the subsequent UKRB Meetings.

### 2) Previous meeting on 2 March 2023

James gave an update on the last meeting, and the group went through the Minutes. There are several actions that still need to be done:

**Action:** Anastasia to double check with Justin whether he shared a detailed CoP update with Andy Pickett. Or David will double check it with Andy later this week.

**Action:** Group to make sure they spread the message about the membership in the UKABC Board to their organisations.

**Action:** James to continue working on 'raising at UKRLG about how all other organisations in the field fit into the picture with UKRLG and complement its work'.

**Action:** Ryan to continue the work Rana did and arrange a speaker on connected vehicles as a future agenda item (we need to see where it fits best).

### 3) UKRLG meeting

James gave an update on UKRLG Meeting. Apart from the business-as-usual agenda, UKRLG discussed the outcome of the recent CoP survey, not much has been done in terms of actions so far. UKRLG spoke about the capacity, resources, and volunteers across the Boards to give directions and consultancy. The same as with CoP 2016, UKRLG wants DfT to appoint a consultant to do program management and lead/coordinate each Board on respective areas.

James came to the Board with an update and asked their opinion:

Amanda supported it as there are not enough resources and time between the team to take this lead.

Jason also agreed and came up with an example of local authorities and CoP: while some do things differently – consultant can look at other regions and gather some best practices.

James also mentioned another item of the UKRLG Agenda: the Research Programme. Having exhausted all other options the plan now is to identify local authorities that will be willing to be the 'budget holder' for each individual item of research, then the funding will be allocated to this local authority. DfT explain that this is easier to achieve this via English Local Authorities and that £80,000 - £100,000 per Board is available now, so the Board needs to agree on what will be the top priorities. UKRB's top priority remains the current COP review and the drainage element within it, which UKRLG will be taking the overall lead on with DfT appointing a consultant to move it forward.

Amanda commented on the RCMG research item, which has a £100,000 cost. She explained that this sum is for the whole project, but the work has now started through other channels and the team is looking for other sources of funding, so she believes any contribution will be valuable for their work.

The remaining priorities remain those previously identified by FCMG, RCMG, and NWSRG.

**Action:** David to check and with Derby City Council's s151 officer whether they will be happy to be allocated the UKRB research programme funding. Aim is to progress this between now and the next meeting of UKRLG so that UKRB can report positive action and progress on research programme solution.

Amanda shared with the group the link to the project: [The LASR Approach | Your road to data-driven decisions \(lasr-approach.org\)](https://www.lasr-approach.org). Jason and Amanda agreed to collaborate on pushing forward the need to exchange data gathered from local authorities and put it together.

#### 4) UKRB Business Plan

James summarised the status of the current UKRB Business Plan and its 'plan on a page format', with links to UKRLG and Sub-Group plans. He asked if the Board still consider this fit for purpose. He referred to the recent new UKAMB Business Plan, which is much more comprehensive and asked for views on whether a similar format should be followed.

**Action:** the group to look through the new UKAMB Business Plan and comment if UKRB's should be done differently.

James then also recapped the recent modernisation of UKRLG including creation of the new UKABC Board (including drainage, GBI) and UKAMB and asked the group about the need for a stand-alone Roads Board in the future. Does the sector need it?

Jason thinks it is a decision for UKRLG to make because the intermediate group is important to give updates and consider what is relevant for them and what should be gone further to other sub-groups. So, the UKRLG should decide whether they see a benefit in this group.

Ryan feels that even though there is the Asset Management Group and the UKABC Board, there seems to be a gap from the technical perspective. There is a lot going on at regional/national levels, and it is hard to put everything together and check how it is coordinated.

Rana raised concerns about our collaboration with the DfT and how the group can make sure there is some consistency across the regions and no duplications and no waste of money. James thinks it is a challenge for the group, but it is necessary to support DfT and UKRLG on this and be clear about what our role is. So, it is vital to determine which gap this Board covers and what justifies its existence.

David and James both think that there should be a balance between the participants, and while the network is complicated, progress might be slowed down. Right now, there are more Boards created, and the system gets complex and fragmented.

**Action:** James to engage with UKRLG on longer term options for UKRB.

## 5) Sub-group updates

David gave an update from FCMG and planned future 'Strategy and Collaboration Workshop'.

Some objectives were:

- Improve engagement and collaboration with other groups.
- Consider how research can be progressed, including identification of possible funding sources.
- Links to LGTAG, ADEPT, CIHT

**Action:** Amanda and David to collaborate and push the decarbonisation active travel agenda.

Amanda gave an update on RCMG.

### 1. DfT Road Condition Standards Review

Phase 2 of the review is now commencing which is the drafting of the BSI PAS document.

There was significant discussion at RCMG over the fact that DfT requirements are not the same as the needs of local authorities in the level of detail required. DfT highlighted that the expectation is that survey providers carrying out the survey for national reporting will also provide the additional data required for local authority decision making.

It was confirmed that the technology used by the survey companies will not need to be the same, but the outputs will need to match. PAS condition is expected to be reported as a single aggregated category in the range 1-5 with survey providers deciding the defects/parameters that contribute to each part of the range.

A network study is being undertaken by TRL over the summer which will comprise of a route predetermined by TRL of around 80km's which will be a mix of ABC and U roads. Survey contractors will drive the route a number of times to provide insight to define the categories and performance criteria to be used in the PAS. 10 survey contractors have confirmed participation in the study.

The outcomes expected from the study are:

- Confirms appropriateness of no. of categories
- Confirms the specific approach to take to categorization
- Provides input to the RCM performance requirements for the PAS
- Ability to report the category
- Fleet consistency
- Coverage
- Understanding of the current fleet and any challenges for consensus

- Provides a basis for benchmarking /assurance
- Information/data can be shared for refinement of systems
- Information to help define guidance and inform Las.

Separately, an Engineers Assessment Categorisation activity will take place with highway engineers from 5 different local authorities who will carry out assessments to categorise (benchmark) the condition of the network study route. These will be carried out primarily through driven surveys although walked surveys over a subset of the route may be carried out.

No updates were received from NWSRG or UKAMB.

#### **6) Conferences and Network events**

Innovation Festival LCRIG 4-5 July 2023

#### **7) AOB**

Some general questions were raised.

**Action:** Anastasia will send an update about UKABC to Ryan.

#### **8) Next Meeting: Date and Format**

It will be a virtual meeting in September 2023.