

UK Network Management Board meeting 28 February 2023

Attendance

Mark Kemp, Chair, UK Network Management Board and Hertfordshire CC

Anthony Fergusson, Department for Transport

Freda Rashdi, National Highways

Satbir Gill, representing TAG,

Nick Owen, Transport for London

Sally Gibbons, Department for Transport

Matthew Eglinton, Department for Transport

Graeme Salmon, Department for Infrastructure Northern Ireland

Justin Ward, CIHT, Secretariat

Guest

Iain Richie, ORR

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

Apologies recorded for Ewan Wallace, SCOTS and Professor Nick Tyler, UCL.

2. ORR Performance Assessment

Iain Richie started in the highways team in ORR as head of safety and performance; a new team in ORR.

Iain gave a presentation on ORR roles and responsibilities regarding highways noting the importance of making sure the RIS will be delivered as set out by DfT. They produce a number of reports including an annual assessment of National Highways' performance, a safety report, and a benchmarking report.

Iain gave updates on ORR's assessment of safety, asset management, environmental performance, enhancements. The Board thanked Iain for his excellent presentation. Satbir Gill asked if National Highways was either working to, or had achieved, ISO 55001 Asset Management Accreditation.

Action: Satbir Gill/Iain Richie to confirm the position with National Highways and ISO 55001

The Board noted the importance of end-to-end journeys to align local strategic objectives with National Highways' objectives.

Action: Iain Richie/ORR to consider how to establish a wider monitoring approach for end-to-end journeys for assessing impacts across all road networks

Iain Richie noted that the main focus for ORR is to monitor the RIS and targets NH but welcomed wider considerations for future monitoring from the UKNMB.

Action: Justin Ward to share slide from ORR with UKRLG including UK Asset Management Board

DfT updates

Anthony Ferguson noted issues around 15-minute cities (and impact on Manual for Streets), the autumn statement, and the political cycle.

Satbir Gill asked about the carbon toolkit and where this was at. Matthew Eglinton said that there is a toolkit for highways maintenance that is due to be published later in the year.

Matthew said that the Energy Saving Trust was working on the carbon toolkit. Matthew noted that there was also work by the Future Highways Research Group on construction carbon. Matthew added that ADEPT Live Labs 2 projects was focusing on carbon.

Action: Mark Kemp to include agenda item on carbon at future UKNMB meeting including carbon toolkits.

There was a broad discussion about the current political climate. Mark Kemp observed that if you are trying to drive long term strategic objectives (which transport strategy requires) against short term political objectives (with elections looming) – then this has an impact on delivery of active travel measures, bus measures etc.. And this is a challenge for the profession at the moment.

Mark Kemp asked about technology and micro-mobility. Anthony said that technological progress was working away on driving smarter traffic management. Specifically on micro-mobility there are no decisions on legislation. Satbir Gil noted that as well as network management issues there may be maintenance issues to consider in any changes to current legislation.

Mark Kemp sits on the Transport Research and Innovation Board and he noted one project is on digital twins.

Action: Mark Kemp/Anthony Ferguson to invite Michael Dnes to the next UKNMB to focus on digital roads

There was a discussion on the future of micro-mobility.

National Highways updates

Freda Rashdi said an HGV safety campaign went live yesterday. Connection the Country is due to be published shortly. Freda mentioned active travel, and a potential strategy, and how this might be addressed by NH.

Safe systems

The Board noted the safety and security focus they had, as follows:

- Review Road Safety performance across the network hierarchy and support DfT in reducing the number of casualties as a result of incidents on the highway
- Consider and comment on the security implications of autonomous vehicles.
- Review current advice on the security implications of vehicle incursions on the network.

Action: UKNMB to test awareness of CPNI Public Realm Design Guide for Hostile Vehicle Mitigation through their networks

Sally Gibbons noted the CPNI Public Realm Design Guide for Hostile Vehicle Mitigation that was published at the end of 2022 (<https://www.cpni.gov.uk/public-realm-design-guide-hostile-vehicle-mitigation-0>). Sally noted this will be referenced in MfS.

The Board noted the action on 'Consider and comment on the security implications of autonomous vehicles' and agreed that getting an update from CCAV would be beneficial.

Sally Gibbons noted the Law Commission had published advice to Government on remote driving: <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/remote-driving/>

Action: Matthew Eglinton to explore links to CCAV on autonomous vehicles with the UKNMB

Matthew Eglinton said that last year, The Department announced its intention to publish a new Road Safety Strategic Framework with the aim of publication this Spring.

The Framework will be based on a Safe System approach, as part of this we are considering what might be appropriate as supporting performance indicators. The key principle of a Safe System is recognising people make mistakes and things go wrong.

This approach accepts responsibility is shared, and collisions are the result of a combination of factors which can be mitigated. The Road Safety Strategic Framework provides the structure needed to deliver Safe System effectively and efficiently.

This approach is proven and accepted in many other sectors including Health and Safety and Public Health. It is already adopted as best practice in other countries, which have subsequently gone on to make significant reductions in road deaths and casualties.

Action: Matthew Eglinton to share in confidence the new DfT Road Safety Strategic Framework for comments by UKNMB

Action: UKNMB to review the Business Plan

Date of next meeting

The focus will be on digital.