

Minutes of the 28th Meeting of the UK Bridges Board

Meeting held at the Institution of Highways & Transportation on the 18th February 2009.

Present:

Greg Perks	CSS/Northumberland CC (Chairman)
Brian Bell (substitute for Ian Bucknall)	Network Rail
Graham Bessant	London Underground
Graham Cole	CSS/ Surrey County Council
John Collins (substitute for Tudor Roberts)	Welsh Assembly Government
Paul Foskett	DfT
Satbir Gill	TAG/London Borough of Hounslow
Neil Loudon	Highways Agency
David Mackenzie	SCOTS
Stuart Molyneux	Metropolitans / Salford MBC
Stephen Pottle	TfL
Bill Valentine	Transport Scotland
Paul Williams	LoBEG/London Borough of Brent
Ronnie Wilson	DRD (NI) Roads Service
Mary Lewis	IHT Chief Executive
Justin Ward	IHT (Secretariat)

Apologies

Ian Bucknall	Network Rail
Edward Bunting	DfT
Bob Flitcroft	CSS/Lancashire County Council
Neil Garton Jones	CSS Wales
Rod Howe	British Waterways
Tudor Roberts	Welsh Assembly Government

1. Welcome and introductions

Greg Perks welcomed members to the 28th meeting of UK Bridges Board. He extended a particular welcome to representatives of IHT who have recently taken on the role of Secretariat to UKRLG and the Boards. The Board thanked the staff of the DfT secretariat for their support since 2001.

Greg reported that following departure from Cornwall County Council, Richard Fish had stood down as Chairman of the Bridges Board. Members agreed to thank Richard for his work on the Bridges Board since 2005.

2. Note of last meeting and matters arising

a) Minute 2: Security

There was a discussion on the issue of security and consideration of inviting Howard Owen of HA to a meeting of the UK Bridges Board. Paul Foskett suggested that it would be more appropriate for his DfT colleague David Elbourne to report on this matter. The Board will be pleased to hear more from DfT at a future meeting.

Action: Paul Foskett to inform Justin Ward of a suitable time for a further briefing from David Elbourne on security issues.

b) Minute 2: Business Plan

Greg had done further work on the Board's business plan for consideration at the RLG meeting of 12 November 2008. More work will be needed when guidance is received from RLG.

Action: Greg will undertake further work on the Business Plan when guidance is received. The draft will be circulated for comment.

c) Minute 3: HAMFIG

It was noted by Paul Foskett that workshops were going on for updates on the Highways Asset Management Financial Information Group (HAMFIG) and the next workshop was taking place on the 13th of March 2009 (replacing the briefings that were cancelled on the 2nd/3rd of February).

d) Minute 4 and 5 :Rail Research Budget

Brian Bell noted that the previous minutes on the percentage spend from the rail industry of 1% was not accurate – there is no fixed percentage attributed to research.

e) Minute 10: Code of Practice update

The secretary has recently circulated papers prepared by Atkins. Greg asked that members inform Justin Ward if they are aware of topics that might warrant or lead to revision of the Code.

Action: All to advise secretary of matters that might lead to COP revision.

3. Bridges Board Chairman

Greg Perks explained that following the resignation of Richard Fish, the Board needed to appoint a new Chairman. For the purposes of this meeting, Greg would act as interim Chairman.

Greg reported that the Bridges Board terms of reference require the Chairman to be “a local authority engineer” and that the appointment is subject to ratification by Roads Liaison Group.

Greg informed the Board that Mike Winter [Dorset CC] had taken over from Richard Fish as Chairman of CSS Bridges Group. Mike would take up his position as a member of the Board.

Brian Bell proposed Greg Perks as Chairman and Stephen Pottle as vice Chairman of UK Bridges Board. The proposal was seconded by David Mackenzie and unanimously supported by the Board.

The Board agreed to recommend that UK Roads Liaison Group ratify the appointments of Greg Perks as Chairman and Stephen Pottle as Vice Chairman of the Bridges Board.

Mary Lewis reported that part of the remit for IHT was to look at succession planning, terms of reference, business planning and governance arrangements.

<p>Action: Secretariat to advise UK Roads Liaison Group of the Board's recommendations and ask that they ratify the appointments of Greg Perks as Chairman and Stephen Pottle as Vice Chairman of UK Bridges Board.</p>
--

4. Research Projects

Greg Perks introduced the item on research and thanked everyone who had been involved in preparing the proposals.

Graham Cole then provided a detailed overview of the proposals and led the Board's discussions.

Paul Foskett noted that all research proposals going forward would have to be considered against DfT research proposals from all other areas and should therefore contain well developed cases highlighting the benefit for the particular piece of research; he also noted the benefits of carrying out research in partnership with other organisations and by expressing the scale of the problem/numbers involved.

Greg sought clarification from Paul Foskett on the research cycle and Paul clarified that proposals for research would be for the 2010/11 cycle as the research programme is agreed for 2009/10.

John Collins noted his frustrations with the DST proposal not already being commissioned to go ahead. John and Stephen Pottle will update the proposal to include reference to recent work undertaken by TfI and LOBEG.

Following lengthy discussion it was agreed by the Board that all the research proposals (see Paper UKBB 01/09) prepared and submitted by the Bridge Owners Forum (BOF) and the DST Phase 2 Proposal (see Paper UKBB 02/09a and Paper UKBB 02/09b) should go forward for consideration by the UK Roads Liaison Group. The prioritisation order is as follows:

- 1st – Bridge Inspector Competence and Training Phase 2
- 2nd – Review of Road Restraint Systems for Local Roads
- 3rd – Bridge Maintenance Decision Support Tool Phase 2
- 4th – Best Practice for Specifying Long Life Road Surfacing for Bridges
- 5th – Design, Maintenance and Inspection of Concealed Metal Connectors and Bearing Pins in Moving Bridges
- 6th – Life-time considerations of FRP Strengthening of Bridges

Action: All - Any further comments on research proposals to be passed to the Secretariat by 6th March 2009.

Action: John Collins & Stephen Pottle to update DST research proposal and pass revised version to the Secretariat by 6th March 2009.

Action: Secretariat to distribute Bridges Board research proposals to UKRLG members for their meeting of 18 March 2009.

Paul Foskett asked for help in undertaking the evaluation of proposals recently received for Masonry Bridge Parapet research. Brian Bell volunteered to assist.

Action: Paul Foskett to make arrangements with Brian Bell.

5. Use of CROSS by bridge fraternity

Following presentation of the paper on the use of CROSS [Confidential Reporting on Structural Safety] by the bridge fraternity (see Paper UKBB 03/09) the Board agreed to:

- support the aims and objectives of CROSS.
- encourage bridge owning bodies to pro-actively adopt CROSS as a means of collating and disseminating data for the wider good.
- maintain contact with SCOSS regarding the implementation and progress of the scheme.

Action : All – as first 2 bullets above within own organisations.

Action : Secretary to contact John Carpenter of SCOSS and invite “updates”.

6. UK Roads Liaison Group meeting of 12 November 2008

The minutes of this meeting were distributed on 11 February 2009. Paul Foskett provided an update from the UK Roads Liaison Group meeting and noted that the Business Plans should be developed with key deliverables and responsible owners for actions and that the UK Roads Liaison Group would report back to the Boards on an exception basis.

Design and Maintenance Guidance for Local Roads - In response to a request from Paul Foskett, Greg Perks agreed to 'peer review' the draft research specification for a project "to identify the local authority guidance that is already in use".

Action: Paul Foskett to ask Edward Bunting to contact Greg Perks about the Local Roads Guidance proposal.

7. CSS/NR Liaison Group update

Greg Perks introduced Bob Flitcroft's paper BB 04/09 and reiterated the usefulness of the regular CSS / Network Rail liaison meetings.

The Board:

- Noted the summary of the key points of discussion.
- Discussed the 3 basic options for progressing the BG3 programme.
- Reiterated the need for the informal meeting with DfT to further discuss the BG3 programme.

Action: Bob Flitcroft to establish an informal meeting with DfT, CSS and Network Rail to discuss BG3.

8. IHT support for UKRLG & the Boards

Mary Lewis noted that the role of IHT is to provide Secretariat support for the UK Roads Liaison Group and Boards, but not for the working groups. As well as support to the meetings, the follow up actions from the meetings is critical to the regime's success and this will be part of Justin Ward's role.

9. Communication

Mary Lewis commented on communication for the UK Roads Liaison Group and Boards, focusing on two practical activities:

- 1) updating the website; and

2) discussion on the newsletter – with 10 issues over the year and 2 pages on the UKRLG every other month, Mary noted that IHT would like to involve everyone in this. Mary stated that this provides an opportunity for consultation and communication in the wider sense and that the “Transportation Professional” magazine gets a good degree of response from its readers drawn from a distribution to 12,500 people.

In the next meeting Mary Lewis suggested it might be worth discussing how the UK Bridges Board would like to see this developing and where they could go next with this.

Action: All – provide contact details if you wish to receive the magazine.

10. Any other business

Justin Ward agreed to reference each Board paper to the agenda for clarity.

Brian Bell asked that there be a link to the BOF website on the UK Bridges Board website.

Action: Justin Ward – future papers to include reference numbers.

Action: Justin Ward – provide link to BOF website on the UK Bridges Board website.

11. Schedule of Roads Liaison Group & Boards meetings in 2009

Greg Perks noted that Justin Ward would send out the schedule for 2009.

Action: Justin Ward – send out schedule for meeting dates 2009.

12. Conferences & courses

Greg noted the conference event ‘Bridges 2009’ to be held on the 2nd April in Nottingham. A particular highlight is the opportunity to hear from Mark Bagnard - Lead Investigator at the US National Transportation Safety Board – of lessons to be learned from the collapse of the Minneapolis I-35W Bridge.

13. Date of next meeting

17th June 2009 at the Institution of Highways & Transportation.