

NOTE OF THE 16th MEETING OF THE UK BRIDGES BOARD.

Meeting held in Room H2, Great Minster House, London, 11 May 2005.

Present:

David Lynn	Warwickshire CC/CSS (Chair)
Steve Pearson	CSS/Derbyshire County Council
Ian Holmes	DfT RLTSF3
Edward Bunting	DfT RLTSF3
Awtar Jandu	Highways Agency
David Mackenzie	SCOTS
Ronnie Wilson	DRD (Northern Ireland)
Bill Valentine	Scottish Executive
John Collins	Welsh Assembly Government
Paul Long	LB Hillingdon (LOBEG)
Graham Cole	CSS/Surrey County Council
David Yeoell	LB Westminster
Alan Dray	Network Rail
Bob Flitcroft	Bolton MBC
Rod Howe	British Waterways
Greg Perks	CSS/Northumberland CC
Dave Ambrose	WATO
Navil Shetty	W S Atkins
Andrew Oldland	DfT RLTSF3
Chris Hudson	DfT RLTSF3

1. Apologies

These were received from Jim Moriarty and Dana Skelley.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

Arrivals/Departures

Steve Pearson announced that due to other commitments he would not be able to continue as a member of the UK Bridges Board. David Lynn thanked him, on behalf of the Board, for his excellent contribution to the work of the Board over the last four years.

David Mackenzie is Jim Irons' permanent replacement as SCOTS representative on the Board. Paul Long has replaced Frank Paine as the LOBEG representative. Both were welcomed by David Lynn.

Navil Shetty of W S Atkins attended to discuss the new bridges Code of Practice and Bob Flitcroft of Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council attended to discuss the Network Rail Bridgeguard Strengthening Programme.

Minutes of last meeting

These were accepted by the Board, without amendment.

3. Roads Liaison Group Feedback

The RLG is now known as the United Kingdom Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG).

Edward Bunting is in the process of updating the Group's terms of reference. Since the last meeting of the Group, in Edinburgh on 9 March, he has not received any feedback from Group members as to changes/additions to the most recent draft that was circulated. When the final draft is ready, it will be circulated to Bridges Board members.

Backlogs

DfT do not yet have a backlog figure for bridge maintenance although they are working towards this.

Asset Management Plans

Authorities will be required to produce asset management plans (AMPs) in their full LTP submissions next year. The Code of Practice for Bridge Maintenance will give authorities advice on compiling inventories of bridges, which will facilitate the production of AMPs.

Gershon Review

The Highways Agency have been speaking at DfT regional maintenance seminars about their role as advisors to local authorities concerning efficiencies required by the Gershon agenda. The HA are now looking for pilot authorities to enter into joint procurement exercises with HA.

4. New Code of Practice for Bridge Management and Maintenance

The 3rd version of the Code has now been issued. There has been a lot of feedback, but there have been no "show stoppers" as such. Comments have mainly been about detail, the most significant being about the length of the document (244 pages). The summary has been extended to give the reader a better idea of how to use the document.

It was originally planned to have the framework for management of structures as a separate document but this will now be an annex of the Code.

David Yeoell is still waiting for comments from transport undertakers such as London Underground and other rail operators. Feedback would also be appreciated from those concerned in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Code is well on the way to being finished and launched. Negotiations are underway with Surveyor magazine and it is hoped to launch the Code at the latter's conference on 6 September, in Nottingham. David Lynn encouraged Board members to attend the launch.

ACTION: David Lynn will meet with the Code of Practice Steering Group before mid-July to make any final decisions, etc. Board members are encouraged to make any further comments they may have between now and then.

5. Revised UK Bridges Board Terms of Reference

The new terms of reference now resembles that of the UK Roads Liaison Group, as requested at the last meeting.

Membership - David Lynn is keen to get someone from a metropolitan borough to replace Steve Tart.

CSS will, in the meantime, organise their own representation on the Board (the Board is happy for there to be 4 CSS reps).

John Collins proposed that someone appropriate should be recruited to the Board from the Structural and Building Board. David Lynn agreed and will decide who this person should be.

Priorities - Backlog (working towards elimination of) should be included in the list.

Could the Network Rail Bridgeguard programme also be included?

It was also agreed out that there should be a link with the Bridge Owners Forum, as there was in the previous terms of reference.

Action – David Lynn to propose a metropolitan authority candidate to UKBB. David Lynn to investigate Institution of Civil Engineers representative from Structural and Building Board.

6. Research - Progress with Current Projects

Masonry Arch Bridges - The last meeting of the steering group was held on 9 April, where Mott Macdonald's draft was considered. Since then the latter have produced a final document of 200 pages' length. There is no publication date yet for the document but it is hoped that it will be some time in the autumn.

Performance Indicators/Dry Stone Walls

It is too early to expect any real feedback yet on this project. CSS will discuss it at their next meeting (this month). Awtar Jandu has extended the contract with W S Atkins to September 2005, but needs some guarantee of funding from DfT in order to extend it to April 2006.

It was agreed that, as CSS is also funding the Dry Stone Walls project, the money being made available by DfT for the latter should be split 50/50 and Awtar Jandu will then have the necessary funding to continue to April 06.

The Dry Stone Walls steering group have decided to use CIRIA to take their project forward. A meeting was due to take place in the afternoon of 11 May.

ACTION: Edward Bunting will let Awtar Jandu know when DfT funding for the two projects is available. Ronnie Willson to progress Dry Stone Walls Project and report back to a future meeting.

Codes of Practice

The Board recognised the need for monitoring the new Codes for Bridges, Lighting and Roads to ensure that they do not become outdated. It was proposed that one consultant should monitor all three Codes (possibly an academic institution).

Abnormal Loads Project

This is currently considering which speed limits are appropriate where vehicles are carrying abnormal loads over bridges.

7. Network Rail Bridgeguard Strengthening Programme Issues

A meeting was held on 28 February (**BB 73/05**). It was agreed that the various issues need to be resolved by the financial year 07/08.

Some Board members expressed the view that a BD21 appraisal alone is sufficient to assess carrying capacity, and that BD4 is superfluous. If it were

decided to discontinue BD4, this may require a negative resolution in Parliament.

The CSS Bridges Group were to discuss the strengthening programme at their 25 May meeting. It was hoped that the various interested parties could meet before that date.

ACTION: Bob Flitcroft to arrange a further meeting of sub-group.

8. Management of Sub-standard Structures (application and development of BA 79)

A meeting with WS Atkins was held at the Euston Tower on 10 May, which was well represented. It was agreed to set up a technical project board, with wide membership from bridges stakeholders. The board would operate via email rather than by meeting. It is hoped that the final document will be ready early next year. A further meeting, hosted by the Highways Agency, was due to take place on 15 May.

ACTION: Awtar Jandu to report back to future meeting.

9. Any Other Business

The Secretariat will resend the passwords for the UK Roads Liaison Group website that were originally sent early in 2003.

The Surveyor Conference is due to take place on 14 March 2006, at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham.

John Collins will prepare a paper on the merits of a Decision Support Tool for Asset Management that has been specified and tested by Atkins and the Welsh Assembly. The Tool in question has been demonstrated to the Highways Agency, the Scottish Executive and DOE Northern Ireland and has received favourable comments.

ACTION: John Collins to prepare a paper which will be on the agenda at the next meeting of the UK Bridges Board.

10. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 17 August 2005, at Great Minster House, London