

## **ACTION POINTS FROM THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE ROADS LIAISON GROUP BRIDGES BOARD.**

**Meeting held at the Highway Agency Headquarters, St Christopher House**

### **Present:**

David Lynn                      Warwickshire CC/CSS (Chair)

Ian Holmes                      DTLR

Gerry Hayter                    HA

Andrew Cook                    DTLR

Ronnie Wilson                    DRD Northern Ireland

John Collins                      National Assembly for Wales

Raymund Johnstone            SCOTS

Evan Pugh                        Welsh Association of Technical Officers

Greg Perks                        CSS

Steve Pearson                    CSS

Brian Bell                         Railtrack

Frank Paine                        LOBEG

David Yeoell                      LOTAG

Secretariat: Andrew Oldland, Chris Hudson

Apologies were received from Steve Tart (TAG) and Jim Irons (SCOTS) and Mike Swanson (Anite-net).

### **1. New Terms of Reference.**

It was agreed that the word "utilising" in paragraph should be changed to "facilitating" and that the word "commissioned" in the same paragraph should be changed to "recommended". This is ensure that the Terms of Reference properly reflects the Bridges Board's relationship with the Bridge Owner's Forum.

### **2. Matters Arising.**

It was agreed that certain matters be taken up with the Roads Liaison Group at the next meeting (7 February) these are as follows:

- The role of the Agency in standard setting and research - particularly with regard to evaluation of Stage 2 Assessments.

- Clarification of para 3.5 of the minutes of the Roads Liaison Group meeting of 7 November 2001, regarding the representation of public bodies and professional organisations on the roads/bridges/lighting boards.
- Abnormal/Indivisible load database - funding for this will cover England only. The Scottish and Welsh administrations could, however, decide to have databases linked to the English database.
- There was some discussion about the role of the Bridge Owners' Forum (see para 1) and the Forum's role in presenting research proposals to the Bridges Board. It was recognised that the Bridges Board would not be the sole body responsible for taking forward the Forum's research proposals. The forum will be responsible for agreeing its own Terms of Reference. DLTR will obtain current Bridge Owner's Forum Terms of Reference and circulate to all Board members.
- Representation of non-highway authority bridge owners e.g. British Waterways, London Underground, because their bridges also carry public highways.
- Scope of Bridges Board in relation to the kind of bridges for which it has responsibility. Does the board only concern itself with road bridges or does its scope extend to rail and waterway bridges.

Gerry Hayter will circulate to the various members of the board (via Andrew Oldland) the Sharpe Report, which deals with Highways Agency standards for bridges. This is to be done before the next meeting of the Roads Liaison Group on 7 February, so that the Board can see what was investigated in the report and any relevant matters can be brought up at the 7 February meeting.

### **3. Code of Practice for Bridge Management.**

A sub-group is to be set up to focus on Bridge Inventories and Management. David Lynn appointed David Yeoell as the chairman. The Highways Agency and DTLR VSE are to be represented along with all the other bodies represented on the Bridges Board. Board members will nominate someone from within the organisation that they represent. The sub-group is to consider the suitability of the Highways Agency's SMIS Database as a base for the national bridge inventory, and the Abnormal Load Database on which VSE are working.

Nominations for further members are to be submitted to David Yeoell, who will copy them to Andrew Oldland.

David Yeoell will come back to the Bridges Board at the next meeting in April 2002 with a proposed programme of work. This will include consideration of a

Bridge Maintenance Code of Practice in addition to the inventory and management systems.

#### **4. Bridge Performance Indicators.**

A meeting is to be set up by Ian Holmes with Andrew Ledger of DTLR Transport Statistics Roads Division, David Yeowell, Mike Young and Steve Tart. The purpose will be to discuss the paper that Andrew Ledger has produced on this subject, which he will be presenting at the next meeting of the RLG.

Gerry Hayter will copy his Terms of Reference for development work on Highways Agency Bridge Performance Indicators to David Lynn.

Brian Bell will circulate the Railtrack Best Value Performance Indicator to the rest of the Bridges Board.

#### **5. Funding Future Capital Allocations for Bridges.**

This Roads Liaison Group paper (RLG 31/02) on this subject will be raised at the CSS Bridges Group meeting (31 January). Greg Perks will provide a written CSS response to DTLR by the end of February.

Ian Holmes has written to DTLR Government Offices asking them to get responses to the contents of RLG31 from the Local Authorities in their respective regions by 22 February. He would, therefore, appreciate CSS comments by that date.

#### **6. Traffic Signs & General Direction Order.**

Brian Bell is to write to Geoff Mason of DTLR, requesting that the Circular Roads which gives guidance on the changes to the signing methodology for weak bridges should be put before the Bridges Board for approval. Ian Holmes will liaise with colleagues in DTLR and ascertain as to whether any changes need to be made to the draft Circular. This is due to Railtrack concerns about proposals to change the signing methodology for weak bridges, in response to the changes in the Construction and Use Regulations to permit the operation of vehicles with 11.5 tonne axles.

#### **7. Vehicle Incursion Risk Ranking**

Ian Holmes will consult with Marilyn Waldron (DTLR Roads Policy) and colleagues in DTLR (Railways) regarding the publication of the CSS Guidance regarding the relative risks of vehicles leaving local road bridges and ending up on railway lines, in the light of the Selby crash last year. The Board are

concerned as to whether this document can be published before the legal case (the appeal of the man convicted of having caused the crash) has been completed. Ian Holmes will take advice on the legal procedures from DTLR lawyers, regarding the timing of the guidance, and report back to Railtrack and CSS.

The board agreed that this should not be published by IHT, as Ms Waldron had suggested, but by CSS and Railtrack. Brian Bell will seek a view from Railtrack on this and the matter, including the question of timing of publication, will be placed on the agenda of the forthcoming Roads Liaison Group meeting.

The board recognise that some other issues to do with incursion may arise. The subject will therefore be placed on the agenda of the next Bridges Board Meeting.

David Lynn asked Brian Bell to thank the CSS Working Group who put this document together, on behalf of the Board, for their hard work.

## **8. Research Projects**

Two research suggestions have been made by the Bridge Owners Forum, these are:

1. The effects of rivet shear.
2. The assessment/maintenance of arch bridges.

If Railtrack are able to produce evidence that rivets are able to take more strength than is stipulated in current Highways Agency Standards, the Highways Agency will consider altering its strength standard for rivets. Gerry Hayter will liaise with Brian Bell on this issue.

The Bridges Board will contact the Bridge Owners' Forum regarding the production of a paper on the proposed research for arch bridges.

Gerry Hayter will consider the possibility of including the research project on evaluation of Stage 2 Assessments, which John Collins considers essential, in the Highways Agency's research programme. John Collins will provide Gerry with the cost figures and specification during the coming week

## **9. Any Other Business.**

The Bridges 2002 Conference will take place at the Commonwealth Institute, Kensington on 7 March. Ian Holmes will be giving the Key Note Address and both John Collins and Greg Perks will be speaking.

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

Due to David Lynn's unavailability on 25 April, the fourth meeting of the Bridges Board was rescheduled for 18 April. The location for the meeting has not yet been finalised but members will be informed in due course.