

NOTE OF THE 25th MEETING OF THE UK BRIDGES BOARD.

Meeting held at Great Minster House, London, 20th February 2008.

Present:

Richard Fish	CSS/Cornwall CC (Chair)
Greg Perks	CSS/Northumberland CC
Dana Skelley	Transport for London
Awtar Jandu	Highways Agency
David Mackenzie	SCOTS
Jim Moriarty	London Underground Ltd
Paul Foskett	Department for Transport
Bill Valentine	Transport Scotland
Rod Howe	British Waterways
Brian Bell	Network Rail
Ronny Wilson	DRD (Northern Ireland)
Paul Long	LOBEG (LB Hillingdon)
Bob Flitcroft	CSS/Lancashire County Council
Dave Ambrose	CSS Wales/Neath Port Talbot CBC
Stuart Molyneux	Metropolitans / Salford MBC
Andrew Oldland	Department for Transport
Chris Hudson	Department for Transport

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from David Yeowell, Edward Bunting, the Welsh Assembly Government members and Graham Cole.

2. Note of last meeting and matters arising

Note of last meeting

Item 4 – CSS/Network Rail Liaison – Should say: “BF requested clarity from Network Rail on their position on BG3 PTSI funding. Network Rail to feed back to next meeting”.

Item 9 (fourth paragraph) – The Highways Agency are *inspecting* and not *assessing* the Boston Manor Road Viaduct.

Matters Arising

All matters arising were covered by the agenda.

3. UK Roads Liaison Group Feedback/UKRLG Review

The note of the most recent meeting of the UKRLG was circulated with the agenda [for this meeting].

Charlotte Dixon has now written to UKRLG members about proposed changes in the light of the Management Review and the more streamlined form that it is proposed that the Group will take, in future. Members were informed of the proposal that, in future, UKRLG consist only of UK Government representatives and the Board Chairs.

Bob Linnard, the former Chair of UKRLG and head of DfT's Regional and Local Transport Policy Directorate has recently been replaced in post by Nick Bisson. Nick has expressed his willingness to chair the UKRLG and will attend the meeting of 26 March.

It has been agreed that the Institution of Highways and Transportation will take over the Secretariat role of the UKRLG and the four Boards. Discussions as to how the research programme will be managed are still ongoing with IHT, but it is not proposed that the latter will have a "project management" role in this area.

4. CSS/Network Rail Liaison

Because of organisational changes at Network Rail it was not possible to have the most recent liaison meeting until 19 February. Bob Flitcroft would send Chris Hudson the note of this meeting, in due course, and this would be circulated with the agenda, along with the Bridgeguard 3 progress report. Bob reported that there was particular concern on Network Rail's part about lack of progress with the implementation of interim mitigation measures following BD21 assessment failures.

Staff changes at Network Rail have also prevented the latter from putting together a detailed forward programme with costs etc. Bob Flitcroft would ask Kent Farrell (who has now replaced Brian Simcoe) if this information could be provided in time for the next liaison meeting. It would then be forwarded to the UK Bridges Board for information. This should enable DfT to look at the implications and have a better idea about how the work should be prioritised (and by whom) and also how the work should be funded. CSS are currently faced with a problem in that they can't prioritise the work and allocate funding unless they have full information on the details of the forward programme. BF reported that a rough approximation of the cost of remaining bridge strengthening/replacement work was £900m. The next liaison meeting is scheduled for 22 May 2008. Brian Bell is confident that reliable data will be available by then.

It was reported that Network Rail had agreed to make presentations to CSS Area Bridge Conferences about the procedure for gaining safe access to Network Rail property. This was welcomed by CSS.

Brian Bell advised that Network Rail Civil Engineering Managers were discussing today how to respond to the CSS request for 50/50 cost sharing for BG3 PTSI passes.

Action: Network Rail to report back.

Vehicle Incursions onto Railways - Board members were sent copies of the letters sent to local authority Chief Executives and to devolved administrations by Charlotte Dixon and Richard Fish (as Chair of UKBB), reminding them of the need to be proactive in dealing with the implementation of rail incursion prevention measures. BF advised that Network Rail had also suggested that they write to local authorities and devolved administrations where progress was not being made in addressing sites with risk rankings over 90. BF said that he would raise this issue at the next CSS Bridges Group meeting and would pass on the suggestion from Network Rail that local authorities should have programmes of work in place to address any incursion measures backlog.

5 UK Bridges Board Work Programme

Please see also **UKRLG 22/07** (circulated to Board members along with the Agenda).

The above-mentioned paper, which was also circulated to the UKRLG in advance of their meeting of 14 November 2007, was produced by Greg Perks and is a working document that will be subject to continual revision. Its main functions will be to flag up UKBB work over the next year or so and to ensure that the work of the Board continues to fit in with that of the UKRLG. To this end, Richard Fish asked if this item (and the working document) could remain on the UKBB agenda until further notice.

Action: Secretariat

6. Research

All as yet un-actioned research projects from the financial year 07/08 have been carried forward. Information will soon be available regarding projects for 08/09.

Dry Stone Retaining Walls – There was a meeting of the Steering Group on 23 November last year. Unfortunately the Group did not consider that the project could be signed off as too many important gaps remained.

The final draft report from the consultants was to be with CIRIA by the end of February 2008. A provisional Steering Group meeting to sign off the report is proposed for early March this year.

It was suggested that the Steering Group need to be clear about the issue of *ownership* of this project. There was concern that CIRIA might assume ownership. Ronnie Wilson will look into this matter and consult with Richard Fish before a final decision is taken.

Action: Ronnie Wilson

7. Tunnel Operators' & Geotechnical Asset Owners' Forums

It was noted that this was the second consecutive meeting of the Board where there had been nothing to report on this item. It was suggested that someone should perhaps have a defined role in this area. It was agreed that whoever represented the Highways Agency at these meetings (which are organised by Martin Lynch of the HA) should report to Awtar Jandu who will then provide a summary report for the UKBB.

8. TRANSEC's Interest in Roads & Bridges

David Elbourne of DfT's TRANSEC division provided Paul Foskett with a report of the 2nd stakeholder meeting entitled *Security of Road Tunnels & Bridges*, which took place at Great Minster House on 19 October and which was attended by both Edward Bunting and Jim Valentine. Paul Foskett reported the current state of play to the Board

The next meeting of the Stakeholder Group is scheduled for the autumn of this year. In order to get a clearer picture of one of the main issues that was discussed at the 19 October meeting, Awtar Jandu was asked to invite Mike Wilson of the Highways Agency to the June 2008 meeting of the UKBB.

Action: Awtar Jandu

9. Review of Codes of Practice – Update

(See also **UKBB 01/08 A, B, C and D**)

It was agreed that Board members should send any comments they might have on the papers produced by Mike Bordiss to Chris Hudson. Greg Perks offered to examine and collate any such comments.

10. Any Other Business

Jim Moriarty announced that he would be taking on a different role at London Underground and that he would no longer attend meetings of the UKBB. A replacement would be announced shortly. The Chairman thanked him for the contribution he had made to the Board since joining in 2003.

11. Date and venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the UK Bridges Board will take place on **18 June 2008**. Ronnie Wilson has very kindly offered to host the meeting in Belfast. More details will follow in due course.

RLTSF3/DfT
12 March 2008