

Minutes of the 31st Meeting of the UK Bridges Board held at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation on 17th February 2010.

Present:

Greg Perks	CSS/Northumberland CC (Chairman)
Brian Bell [for Ian Bucknall]	Network Rail
Graham Cole	CSS/ Surrey County Council
Bob Flitcroft	CSS/Lancashire County Council
Paul Foskett	DfT
Satbir Gill	TAG/London Borough of Hounslow
Rod Howe	British Waterways
David Mackenzie	SCOTS
Stuart Molyneux	Metropolitans / Salford MBC
Andy Phillips	Welsh Assembly Government
Stephen Pottle	TfL
Hideo Takano [for Neil Loudon]	Highways Agency
Bill Valentine	Transport Scotland
Mike Winter	CSS/Dorset County Council
Paul Williams	LoBEG/London Borough of Brent
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

Apologies

Graham Bessant	London Underground
Graeme Brown	DRD (NI) Roads Service
Ian Bucknall	Network Rail
Neil Garton Jones	CSS Wales
Neil Loudon	Highways Agency

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Greg Perks welcomed everyone to the 31st meeting of the UK Bridges Board (UKBB). Apologies were received as recorded above.

2. Notes of last meeting and matters arising

The Board noted and approved the note of the last meeting.

Greg Perks noted that he had been in contact with the Geotechnical Asset Forum and a representative from that group is likely to attend the next UKBB meeting.

Greg noted that work on the Business Plan was progressing.

Hideo Takano confirmed that HA is producing an "Interim advice note" on the embedding of SCOSS & CROSS into their procedures.

Bob Flitcroft noted that he had not circulated the template agreements but had made them available to members of ADEPT (formerly CSS) and Network Rail. The Board agreed that this was sufficient and that the action could be closed off.

Rod Howe noted that he could send an update to the UKBB members on the 'Parapet Research Project' and the Board agreed that this would be helpful

Action: Rod Howe to send an update to the UKBB members on the 'Parapet Research Project'.

Stephen Pottle raised some concern over the continuity of funding for research on 'Depreciated Highway Structures', but the Board noted that this might in relation to a new work-stream for the project.

Action: Stephen Pottle/Paul Foskett to confirm the project position for 'Depreciated Highway Structures'.

The Board was pleased to record that the DfT has provided funding for the Bridge Inspector Training research and also confirmed an extension for 12 months in funding support for the Bridge Owners' Forum.

3. UK Roads Liaison Group meeting of 11 November 2009

Stephen Pottle talked through the notes of the UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG) - Stephen had attended as Greg was on leave. The Board discussed the issue of UKRLG's proposed role as a disseminator of research. Greg will raise with RLG the prospect of procuring & funding highways research.

Action: Greg Perks to write to the Chairman of the UKRLG to ask for clarity on the position with regards to research funding for highways and for this to be raised at the next UKRLG meeting.

4. Bridge Owners' Forum Terms of Reference

The UKBB was content to support the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the Bridge Owners' Forum (BOF).

5. Personal safety incidents at Bridges

Bill Valentine noted that at the last meeting the action agreed was to 'prepare a consolidated note of guidance' but following a discussion the Board agreed decisions relating to safety incidents at Bridges should be taken individually and any work undertaken should be more for information sharing. The Board also agreed that legal advice should be taken in regards to the local context for any decisions made.

6. CSS and Network Rail Liaison

The Board discussed the change of name of the County Surveyors' Society (CSS) to the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport: or ADEPT. Bob Flitcroft talked through the note of the liaison meeting between CSS (at that time) and Network Rail. The Board discussed vehicle incursions.

Action: Paul Foskett to send to UKBB members the DfT letter sent to Local Authorities asking about vehicle incursions.

Action: Next UKBB to include an Agenda item on vehicle incursions and Bob Flitcroft to produce a background briefing paper for circulation prior to the meeting.

7. CSS and British Waterways Liaison Group

Bob Flitcroft talked through the note of the inaugural meeting of the recently re-established CSS/British Waterways liaison group.

Rod Howe noted that a press release on Parapet Strikes was covered by the BBC.

8. Eurocodes Update

Graham Cole mentioned the ICE Conference on the 22nd/23rd November on the topic of Eurocodes and the preparation by CSS of advice to local authorities on their implementation. Hideo noted that the Technical Regulation Information Service – TRIS – was a useful resource to search under UK ‘construction’ and find Highways Agency advice notes on Eurocode implementation.

9. Conferences and Courses

Greg noted, in addition to the ICE Conference on Eurocodes mentioned above, there will be the Bridges 2010 Conference on the 25th March in Nottingham. Four members of the Board are participating in proceedings – Greg, Graham Cole, Mike Winter & Stephen Pottle. Graham Cole reported that the University of West of England will be holding a bridges “masterclass”.

10. Communications

Justin Ward highlighted recent changes to the UKBB website and noted that following the flooding in Cumbria, the UKBB had produced a fact sheet on bridges – with particular attention on inspection regimes. The Board agreed that this was useful for the media. Mike Winter, who supported the work on the briefing, noted that it took a few days to finalise and that in the future it would be better to have a range of fact sheets that would be ready for the press.

Action: Suggestions for/or written Fact sheets for bridge related topics to be emailed to the UKBB Secretary.

Action: Any feedback on the UKBB website or on topics or content of Transportation Professional to be sent to the UKBB Secretary.

11. Flooding and Bridges

- a. Greg noted that the discussion on flooding had been sparked by the events in Cumbria last November. Greg noted the work of the UKBB with regards to this: the fact sheet produced (as noted above) and responding to press enquires. Greg also thanked UKBB for their help with the written evidence that was submitted to the Transport Select Committee (TSC) on the 19th of January 2010. The submission included input from members of the UK Roads Board and therefore was submitted as UK Roads Liaison Group evidence. Greg noted that the UKRLG has been asked to give oral evidence to the TSC on the 10th of March. [Post meeting note – date changed to 17th March].
- b. Hideo made a presentation on Cumbria flooding – learning lessons from the perspective of the Highways Agency.

- c. Greg provided an overview of the UKRLG submission and thanked the UKBB for their support in producing the written evidence that was submitted to the TSC.
- d. Mike Winter provided an overview of the evidence provided by CSS (now ADEPT) noting that eight recommendations were included within the written evidence.
- e. Paul Foskett noted that the DfT had produced written evidence for the TSC and outlined the main elements to that submission. The Board also noted that Cumbria County Council and the Environment Agency had submitted written evidence to the TSC. The Board agreed that the TSC appear to be using Cumbria as a generator to look at the issue of flooding and bridges more generally.
- f. Paul Foskett noted that the DfT had held discussions with the Environment Agency on flooding and infrastructure.
- g. The Board had a general discussion on the issues posed by the events in Cumbria. Brian Bell gave a presentation on the Affects of Scour on Bridges. Brian noted the CIRIA guide 'Manual on scour at bridges and other hydraulic structures (available at: <http://www.ciria.org/service/Home/AM/ContentManagerNet/ContentDisplay.aspx?Section=Home&ContentID=14783>

Action: UKBB Secretary to circulate a text only version of the presentation on the Affects of Scour on Bridges by Brian Bell.

12. Any other business

- Paul Williams noted that LOBEG is celebrating its 25th Anniversary [see f above]
- Andy Phillips noted that the Welsh Assembly in association with Atkins had developed a risk based approach to inspections.
- Stephen Pottle invited representation from the Bridges Board onto the Project Steering Group for "Local Authority Design & Maintenance Guidance" - a UKRLG research project chaired by Les Hawker from the UK Roads Board.
- Justin Ward noted the papers on the updates to the Codes of Practice and the Board agreed that due to time constraints that the papers should be re-circulated by email, allowing time for review and comment.
- Greg thanked everyone for their attendance at Bridges Board and their contributions to discussion.

Action: UKBB Secretary to re-circulate papers on Codes of Practice for comment and sign-off by UKBB members

13. Date of next meeting

16th June 2010