Communiqué

Austroads Board Meeting No. 28
6 July 2017 | Adelaide

The Austroads Board met on 6 July 2017 in Adelaide South Australia. In Neil Scales' absence, Shane Gregory General Manager, State Roads, Department of State Growth Tasmania, chaired the meeting.

Strategic Projects

An update on the strategic priority projects identified by the Board is provided below.

- **Data Harmonisation**
  A revised business case has given a strong platform to build an initial implementation program for the Assets Data Standard. A core data set of items has been identified and analysis indicates that focusing on harmonisation of a smaller subset of data, primarily related to informing maintenance activities, will give the strongest benefit and minimise costs.

  An Implementation Plan has been produced which provides a road map for staged adoption. The Standard will be available over the web and a pilot project will be undertaken in Christchurch.

  Close engagement with industry and local government is required to support integration of the Data Standard with existing systems.

- **Guide to Bridge Technology Review**
  A full review of the *Guide to Bridge Technology* is now nearing completion following the revision of the Australian Standards, Bridge Code. The aim of the review is to ensure the Guide remains up-to-date, relevant and is consistent with the Australian Standard.

- **Safety at Road Worksites**
  Safety at road worksites is a strategically important issue for Austroads member agencies and industry. The project comprises of several components including:

  – The development of a Guide to Temporary Traffic Management Practice that will deliver a nationally harmonised approach to temporary traffic management guidance and practice in Australia. There will be 11 parts to this new Austroads Guide and Aurecon has been appointed to prepare the first three parts. The Guide will be maintained as a dynamic and responsive document subject to regular reviews and updates. These reviews will mirror the current practices used in the *New Zealand Code of Practice for Temporary Traffic Management* which is reviewed and updated on a near annual basis.
  – A registration scheme for traffic controllers and the establishment of a national training portal for industry. The portal will be open to all of industry without barriers to entry based on membership or affiliation.

- **Community Service Obligations for Roads**
  The project is now complete and will inform land transport market reform. The research report (AP-R545-17) from this project examines the application of community service obligations to the roads sector and provides an overview of the potential options which could be utilised in the development of a Community Service Obligations framework. The report is available from the Austroads publications website.

- **Key Interventions to Reduce Road Trauma - Forecasting Potential Road Safety Gains**
  The aim of the project is to identify key initiatives that will assist in achieving Australia and New Zealand's 2020 road safety targets. This is a very significant project and will inform ongoing road safety strategies and supplement the current programs being undertaken by jurisdictions.

  The Board discussed national messaging, safe systems, safety interventions, and national safety data analysis.

- **Road Cross Section Design for Road Stereotypes (including Network Safety Plans) and a Safe System**
  A key output of this project will be world first performance based road design standards. The project is jointly managed by the Road Design and Safety Task Forces, and will incorporate local government and public consultations.

  A consultant has been engaged to deliver a scoping workshop and literature review and to collate information for the agreed road stereotypes. The first practitioner workshop was held in May involving specialists in the various road stereotype component fields. A second workshop is planned for late August/early September.

- **Mitigating the Growing Drug and Distraction Driving Risks**
  This project is driven by the need to address the growing road safety challenge. The project will undertake a quick scoping stocktake of possible opportunities to mitigate these risk areas and make recommendations to facilitate further research or development which can be utilised by all authorities in the short-term and partner with existing Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) research activities.

  Austroads and the Commonwealth are working together on this challenging area, with the Austroads project being split into two phases. As part of Phase 1, the consultant has commenced working with the Commonwealth and their consultant CARRSQ to produce their scoping work. Phase 2 will identify and outline subsequent Austroads research for the Board to complement Commonwealth activities, support the strategic policy role of the Austroads Road Safety Task Force and assist Australian and New Zealand jurisdictions in this growing challenge for road safety.

- **Australia and New Zealand Roads Capability Analysis 2017-2027**
  This project will undertake a workforce capability analysis for member agencies on the planned and forecasted infrastructure development requirements in Australia and New Zealand over the next ten years. This project will focus on the traditional and importantly also future skills and capabilities required by road agencies of their engineers. The project is due to start in July 2017.

Research Work Program

The table below details the status of the current work program as at 9 June 2017. The year commenced with a total of 121 active projects. A further four projects were added to address emerging priorities, bringing the total to 125 projects in the 2016-17 work program. The number of late projects has generally continued to decline.

	Assets	Connected and Automated Vehicles	Network	Safety	Total
Complete	11	2	19	9	**41**
Cancelled / Abandoned	-	-	-	1	**1**
Deferred	-	-	-	-	**-**
Active	40	5	19	19	**83**
Total approved	51	7	38	29	**125**

2017-18 Work Programs

The Board reviewed the proposed 2017-18 work programs and endorsed those of the Safety and Connected and Automated Vehicles Programs.

- Network Program to focus on network management, movement of people and freight and maximising the efficiency and productivity of the existing network. A project is to be included building on the previous Congestion and Reliability work and the Program also needs to expand the scope of a project examining emerging technologies in arterial road management

- Assets Program to refocus the work program to incorporate a priority project related to the national harmonisation of technical standards and investigations into road construction requirements for connected and automated vehicles.

Austroads Online

Austroads is currently engaging with IT companies to review the Austroads website and transform the Austroads Guides into an online resource. The key priorities of this project are improved user experience, knowledge sharing, communication of benefits, use of digital technology and administrative efficiency gains. Austroads is also building an online tool portal to provide easy access to an ever-increasing range of operational data tools coming out of Austroads projects.

Between March and May 2017 more than 165,000 visits were made to the Austroads publication and corporate websites and more than 107,000 publications were downloaded and 1,020 were sold. The growth in visits to the corporate website has been particularly significant.

Austroads Webinars

As part of Austroads Knowledge Sharing Strategy, Austroads has been encouraging the inclusion of webinars in projects to share outcomes and progress. The online seminars are streamed live with participants asking questions and providing comments. The presentations are recorded and the recordings made public on a new page on the Austroads website. This is an area that we are expanding significantly.

2017 Austroads Bridge Conference

The Austroads Bridge Conference was hosted by VicRoads and held in Melbourne from 3-6 April. The Conference attracted 420 participants and received excellent feedback. Austroads sponsored the awards for the best papers and posters.

National Exchange of Vehicle and Driver Information System (NEVDIS)

NEVDIS continues to perform strongly and is exceeding 2016-17 expectations. NEVDIS will execute approximately 135 million transactions this financial year.

Hazard Perception Test (HPT) video development

Adelaide based digital media producer MonkeyStack was contracted by Austroads approximately 12 months ago to develop a library of computer-generated car and motorcycle hazard perception test (HPT) clips that will be used by jurisdictions to modernise the HPTs currently in use. It will also provide jurisdictions that do not currently deliver the HPT the opportunity to introduce the test.

The project is on schedule to be delivered by the end of July and MonkeyStack has completed production of approximately 200 3D computer generated imagery car and motorcycle clips. The clips are currently undergoing psychometric and usability testing and are performing extremely well.

2023 World Road Congress

The World Road Association has received significant interest for hosting the 2023 World Road Congress. The bid process formally opens in late 2017. Expressions of Interests were received from five Australian cities, vying for selection to launch an Australasian bid.

Sydney was selected as the city to progress the Australasian bid for the 2023 World Road Congress. The submission to the World Road Association in Paris will be a collaborative Australasian bid.

Next Austroads Meetings

The next Austroads Board meeting will be held on Thursday 2 November 2017 in Auckland New Zealand.