

Communiqué

Austrroads Board Meeting No. 24
7 July 2016 | Perth



The Austrroads Board met on 7 July 2016 in Perth, Western Australia. Peter Duncan, Chief Executive, Roads and Maritime Services New South Wales chaired the meeting.

Strategic Projects

The Board has identified a number of high priority strategic streams of work and an update on these are provided below.

- **Funding and Financing Options for Remote and Regional Roads, Including Developer Contributions**
The content of this project report has been finalised and is expected to be published in August. The report provides case studies and analysis for implementing funding and charging arrangements that promote commercial disciplines and incentives for providing rural and regional roads that are unlikely to be commercial in their own right, but which make important social and economic contributions to Australia's wellbeing.
- **Community Service Obligations for Roads**
The project brief is currently out to tender. This project will explore the strategic policy and technical issues likely to impact on development of a national Community Service Obligation framework for roads, encompassing both heavy and light vehicles.
- **Investigation of Potential Registration and Licensing Issues with the Introduction of Automated Vehicles**
The final report and guidelines from this project are due at the end of July. A workshop was held with jurisdiction and industry representatives in May to work through guidance required to support on-road trials of automated vehicles.
- **Assessment of Key Road Agency Actions to Support Automated Vehicles**
The literature review and stakeholder consultations have been completed, and assessment of the emerging requirements for road operators with regard to physical and digital infrastructure is nearing completion.
- **Data Harmonisation**
The Board reviewed the draft Austrroads Data Standard for Road Maintenance and Investment, a revised Business Case which confirms the benefit of adopting the Standard and an Implementation Plan. The Data Standard has strong support by key stakeholders including Infrastructure Australia, Roads Australia, the Commonwealth Grants Commission, Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development and New Zealand Treasury. The Board endorsed commissioning a Stage 3 project which will finalise the standard and consult with stakeholders to develop an agreed approach to implementation.
- **Congestion and Reliability**
The project will deliver research to better quantify the benefits of strategies to improve the operational efficiency of the road network, reduce congestion and improve the reliability of customer journey times. This work complements work currently being undertaken by the Infrastructure Working Group. It is proposed that the project report be submitted to the September TISOC meeting.
- **Safety at Road Worksites**
The business case and implementation plan will be considered by the project Steering Committee by the end of July. The new *Guide to Temporary Traffic Management Practice* will be based on the holistic approach adopted by the NZ CoPTTM (Code of Practice to Temporary Traffic Management). The review of Traffic Controller training material has been recently completed and new material released.

- **Digital Engineering**

The uptake of digital engineering and Building Information Modeling (BIM) in Australia and New Zealand for road projects is gaining momentum, largely driven by the private sector in the delivery of major projects.

The Board endorsed the adoption of digital engineering as a strategic priority area for Austroads. The Assets Program will maintain an ongoing review of developments in this area and take a lead role in setting technical standards for the roads sector and fostering training and awareness.

- **OECD/ITF Safe System Implementation**

Iain Cameron acknowledged the significant contribution being made by Colin Brodie from the New Zealand Transport Agency in the OECD/ITF Safe System Implementation Working Group. The Board supported a strategic priority project to prepare options to accelerate progress in road trauma reduction moving towards the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals targets. The UN's goals include the strongest ever commitment to action in road safety with targets requiring all countries to halve road deaths and serious injuries by 2020 from 2010. All countries will be asked to report on their progress against the targets.

Research Work Program

The 2015-16 work program has a total of 148 active projects. At the time of reporting 55 projects have been completed, and 90 projects were active.

There are currently only two projects more than 12 months late – both are at the final stages of completion and out with Board members for endorsement to publish.

The status of the 2015-16 work program as at 31 May 2016 is summarised in the table below.

	Assets	Freight	Network	R & L	Safety	Technology	Other	Total
Complete	3	6	11	7	17	9	2	55
Cancelled	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Deferred			1					1
Active	11	10	18	5	11	34	1	90
Total approved	14	16	30	14	28	43	3	148

Program Reports

The Board commented that the quality, content and intent of the three Program presentations was extremely high and raised expectations for the quality of work to be undertaken and administration of the Programs over the next four years.

Assets Program

Richard Yeo, Assets Program Manager, acknowledged the excellent work of the outgoing program staff David Darwin and Sarah Mayne and John Spathonis and Craig Smith.

The Program had two key objectives in 2012-2016:

- provide the road services the community needs at least long term cost
- develop and promote best practice, innovation and harmonisation.

The focus of the Assets Program going forward will be national harmonisation; seeking implementation and benefits; cross program collaboration; balancing effort across dissemination, and applied research and forward looking studies.

Austrroads has identified a number of new and ongoing focus areas for national technical specifications and the forward work program includes a number of projects. Potential areas for national technical specifications include:

- road pavement material manufactured from demolition and construction waste
- production of recycled asphalt
- bitumen stabilised base-course (emulsion and foam).

Network Program

Natalie Lockwood, Network Program Manager, acknowledged the excellent work of the outgoing program staff Craig Moran and Jill Hislop and Marcus James and Tracey Wilkinson.

Under the 2016-20 strategic plan the Network Program will undertake work within the following work streams:

- emerging technology – ITS, C-ITS, automated vehicles
- managing urban congestion
- traffic management planning and infrastructure
- freight transport/road productivity
- active travel and integration with public transport
- funding models.

A comprehensive review of membership and operational arrangements for Task Forces within the Program will be undertaken.

Safety Program

David Bobbermen, Safety Program Manager, acknowledged the excellent work of the outgoing program staff Iain Cameron and Natalie Lockwood, Paul Rajan and Leonie Pattinson and John Spathonis and Craig Smith.

Under the 2016-20 strategic plan the program will undertake work within the following work streams:

- emerging technology – C-ITS, automated vehicles
- National Road Safety Strategy priorities
- understanding crashes and risks
- Safe Systems incorporating safer road and roadside infrastructure, safer speeds and safer vehicles
- driver licensing and vehicle registration
- vulnerable road users including pedestrians, bicycle riders, motorcycle riders, older people and indigenous people.

Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAV)

The Board endorsed a governance structure that aims to improve the level of collaboration, coordination and communications in the CAV area. Key stakeholders in the model are:

- **Austrroads** will provide leadership on program management across the broad program of work, and be the lead contact point for jurisdictional road agencies. Austrroads projects will be primarily focused on the operational arrangements to support C-ITS and AVs.
- **Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development** projects will be primarily focused on national transport policy, Commonwealth regulations and strategies.
- **National Transport Commission** will assist with a program monitoring role, and lead the review of regulatory barriers to the introduction of AVs. NTC will also lead any regulatory reform program that is endorsed by the Council in November 2016.

- **Jurisdictions** will review regulation and policy at the state/territory level, with close involvement with the NTC and DIRD as appropriate. Jurisdictions will also have a lead role with on-road trials and demonstrations, which will require close collaboration with Austroads.

The proposed resourcing for the program in 2016-17 includes establishing four new roles within Austroads' CAV area in addition to the current part-time CAV Program Director: a full-time C-ITS Project Manager; a full-time AV Project Manager; and two-part time CAV Technical Support positions.

National Exchange of Vehicle and Driver Information System (NEVDIS)

NEVDIS continues to work well and is meeting or exceeding, in the main, all Service Level Agreement targets. The Board agreed that a quality assurance, governance and reporting process needs to be put in place for the major project to re-platform and re-write NEVDIS.

Safety Barrier Installation and Maintenance Accreditation

Austroads is currently investigating the possibility of a national program for accreditation of road safety barrier installers through the UK LANTRA scheme. Austroads brought LANTRA staff to New Zealand and Australia to meet with stakeholders including the NZ Transport Agency, VicRoads, Queensland Transport and Main Roads, Roads and Maritime Services NSW, Civil Contractors Federation, Roads Australia, and NZ, NSW, Victorian and QLD industry and manufacturing representatives.

Review of National Guidelines for Transport System Management (NGTSM)

The updated Guidelines will be presented to the Transport and Infrastructure Council at its next meeting. If Transport Ministers agree, the Guidelines will be published as the Australian Transport Assessment and Planning (ATAP) Guidelines. Part of the ongoing work will include a Willingness-to-Pay study which comprises a stated preference survey to determine national values of reliability, work and non-work travel time savings, and safety as well as a statistical analysis to provide a model and parameters to estimate the travel time variability impacts of road projects. This project will be managed through Austroads and is going to market shortly.

US-AU Bilateral Information Exchange

Austroads, in conjunction with the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), will hold a US - AU bilateral information exchange meeting at the World ITS Congress on 12 October in Melbourne.

Next Austroads Meeting

The next Austroads Board meeting will be held on Thursday 13 October 2016 in Melbourne, Victoria in conjunction with the 23rd World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems.