

ABC Communiqué
December 2005 (with NZ commentary from Tim Hughes)

The 21st meeting of the ABC was held in Melbourne on Thursday 8 and Friday 9 December 2005 and was hosted by VicRoads.

National Cycling Strategy 2005 – 2010

The National Cycling Strategy 2005 – 2010 was endorsed by the Australian Transport Council on 18 November 2005. The Strategy, as a pdf document, is available for download on the ABC website <http://www.abc.dotars.gov.au/index.aspx>. Hard copies are available by emailing abc@dotars.gov.au.

NSW Police Bicycle Patrol

The world's first dedicated police bicycle training facility, established in Goulburn NSW, is setting international benchmarks for cycle training, uniforms, equipment, risk management, and standards for bicycles. The Cycling Promotion Fund, who is a representative member on the Australian Bicycle Council, recently provided funding to enable six officers from the NSW police bicycle patrol unit to attend the 15th International Police Mountain Bike Association Conference. The ABC has agreed to develop a fact sheet outlining the benefits of using bicycles as an effective means of transport by the police and emergency services.

Power-Assisted Bicycle Regulations

A working group has been established to initially map a process by which this long-standing issue can be taken forward, particularly in relation to addressing the road safety concerns surrounding the use of electric power-assisted bicycles. The group is expected to report to the Council on its findings at the next ABC meeting in March 2006.

(Comment: NZ has already enacted what they are proposing – they envy our simpler rule updating system)

ABC Funded Projects

There are currently four outstanding projects, which should be completed by the next meeting of the ABC in March 2006. These include:

Parameters to Prioritise – the ABC were given a demonstration of the analytical tool developed by ARRB Group Ltd, which will assist in enabling effective prioritisation of bicycle infrastructure proposals within a works program.

(Comment: This tool provides a multi-criteria approach to prioritising proposals – it is desirable in the absence of robust methods for predicting bicycle LOS and latent demand. Application in NZ is likely to be limited.)

Whole of Life Costings – A WOL costing tool has been developed which can be used to undertake a life cycle cost analysis for a range of bicycle pavements.

(Comment: This looks like a really useful tool for costing the capital and maintenance costs of path – recommended for RCA consideration in NZ.)

Pedestrian-Cyclist Conflict Management Project – This project is currently at Stage 3 level, which will deliver a pedestrian-cyclist conflict management toolkit for application by local government and their consultants.

(Comment: This guidance will fill an important gap in our knowledge and will be of value to all those planning shared use paths)

Cycling Proficiency Training – the final report for this project is due to be delivered by the end of December 2005 and will further elaborate on the preferred implementation model as well as identify funding requirements for a range of training activities.

(Comment: this is about administrative arrangements for delivering cycle training to adults and will be of policy interest to MOT and Land Transport NZ)

Further information on these four projects can be found under the **PROJECTS** tab on the ABC website at http://www.abc.dotars.gov.au/projects/current_projects.aspx.

NEW ABC work plan

The ABC considered their work plan for the next 12 months, under the new Strategy. Some twenty three tasks were identified for immediate action. The primary focus in the next few months will be on developing stronger relationships with all three levels of government as well as various portfolios within governments, to encourage the coordination of activities relevant to increasing cycling. **(While NZ has its own strategy – “Getting There” there are common work stream where we will benefit from sharing our experiences and expertise).**

Austroads Traffic Management and Road Design Review Panels

Dr David Bennett, Manager, Transport Management and Safety, ARRB Group Ltd, presented on the new Austroads Publications Structure. Essentially, the guides are moving away from a user base format (eg: Part – 14 Bicycles) to a functional base format (eg: Pavement Technology). The guides will be supported by commentaries as well as resource

materials, and will be available electronically. The ABC will advise Austroads on how the current Part 14 – Bicycles can best be divided to be adequately captured under the new structure. Austroads will eventually develop a single document for cycling practitioners, which will summarise cycling-related information in Austroads publications.

(Comment: A really useful presentation, while ABC members will network to ensure appropriate cycling content, there appears to be no-one tasked with ensuring similar input for pedestrian content. NZ is at the forefront with the work on the Pedestrian Planning and Design Guide.)

ABC Chair

In accordance with the new Strategy's terms of reference, the Chair of the ABC will be a nominee of Austroads. Consequently, the 21st meeting was led by the newly appointed Chair, Mr Dennis Walsh, of Main Roads Queensland. Mr Walsh took over the role from Mr Peter Watts of Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, SA. The Council thanked Peter for his leadership over the past year.

ABC Secretariat

After twelve months in this role, Anita Kulesa is moving on to work on AusLink Corridor Strategies and has handed the baton to Moira Ward. The members of the Council acknowledged the significant contribution and energy that Anita has brought to this role.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the ABC will be held in Sydney in March 2006. – (Tentatively 30 & 31)