

Austroads Council Meeting No. 45

Brisbane

26 June 2008

COMMUNIQUÉ

The Austroads Council met in Brisbane on 26 June 2008. The meeting was chaired by the Austroads Chairman Alan Tesch. This communiqué summarises the main discussions, decisions and actions arising at the meeting.

Revised SCOT and ATC arrangements

The Council discussed recent developments in the preparation of a national transport policy and the associated work arising from the February meeting of the transport ministers (ATC) and their decision to adopt a new approach to the development of national transport policy. It was noted that the Governance working group had met the day before and had proposed the discontinuation of the roads modal group of SCOT. Arrangements had been outlined for the assignment of the projects being undertaken by the roads modal group to various agencies and bodies including Austroads.

Progress on the 2007-08 work program

Project status as at 31 May was:

Program	Active	Completed/deferred	Total
Assets	19	3	22
Capability	1	1	2
Freight	9	8	17
Network	15	5	20
R&L	8	3	11
Safety	26	5	31
Technology	29	7	36
Corporate	3	2	5
Total	110	34	144

Council noted that a small number of projects were more than twelve months overdue and emphasised that there should not be any projects in this category as at 30 June.

Approval of the 2008-09 work program

Council gave final approval to the 2008-09 work program which totals just under \$10 million. The program is predominantly comprised of projects which were given preliminary approval in March with some additional projects primarily aimed at bringing forward the completion of Austroads guides. A complete schedule of the projects included in the 2008-09 work program is shown in Appendix A.

Revised contributions

The Council agreed to move to a new contributions formula where the contributions from member organisations are based on an NTC type formula. State and territory member organisations are to be determined based on a weighted average of population and road length. It is proposed that this apply from 2009-10.

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Future program management arrangements

The Council endorsed the operational detail of revised program management arrangements proposed at the March meeting. From July onwards Austroads will make a capped annual payment to those member organisations providing a program manager as a contribution to the costs associated with the operation of the program.

Performance Based Standards (PBS)

David Anderson, independent chair of the PBS review panel, addressed the Council to outline progress on the implementation of PBS. The experience so far indicates that more flexibility is required in the application of standards and design requirements to achieve significant productivity gains.

Transport Certification Australia (TCA)

Steve Golding AM, independent chair of TCA, provided an update on the intelligent access arrangements and the operational issues facing TCA. One service provider has been certified and there is a large number of others awaiting certification. The number of vehicles participating in the scheme is expected to increase as jurisdictions utilise intelligent access for new regulatory applications.

Austroads Awards

Amy Hall, from Main Roads WA, was awarded an Austroads Achievement Award for her work with the Network program.

Relationship between heavy vehicles and pavement damage

The Technology program manager, David Hubner, gave a presentation on the relationship between heavy vehicles and pavement damage. This is an important issue and central to the current work being undertaken by NTC and others for ATC. There will be further discussion at the October meeting.

Climate Change and sustainability

A discussion paper was considered on the implications of climate change for road authorities. The paper identified potential issues and the relevant work currently planned or being undertaken by Austroads. David Gargett from BITRE also made a presentation on the work BITRE was doing in climate change and particularly energy futures. These issues will be the subject of further discussion at the next Council meeting.

Austroads International Activities

Council received reports on World Road Association (PIARC) matters including the Executive and Strategic Planning Commission meetings in Helsinki in June 2008.

The new World Road Association strategic plan will be submitted to the Association's Council meeting in October. This plan guides the work of the Association's technical committees in the four year period leading up to the next World Road Congress in Mexico in 2011. An agreement is to be put in place between the World Road Association and REAAA.

A report was also considered on the recent REAAA Council meeting in Japan. It was noted that the next REAAA Council will be held in Perth in October in conjunction with the Austroads Council meeting.

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Council also considered a report on the International Transport Forum on “The Transport Sector and Climate Change” held in Leipzig on 28-30 May, which included ministers from a number of OECD countries.

Young professionals study tour

The Council noted that nominations had been received from nine member organisations as well as the Australian Automobile Association to participate in the study tour for 2008-09 entitled ‘*Achieving ambitious road safety targets*’ which will visit Norway, Netherlands and Sweden. All of these countries subscribe to a safe system approach, as does Australia. The tour will include participation in the OECD Conference in Paris in September 2008, which will have as one key theme “Achieving Ambitious Targets for Road Safety: The Safe System Approach”.

There was sufficient interest in the study tour from Austroads members and others that the possibility of a second tour later in the year is being investigated.

Reports

Council considered reports from the following organisations:

- ARRB Group
- Australian Local Government Association
- Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
- National Transport Commission.

Future meetings

The next Austroads Council meeting will be in Perth on 23 October 2008. The meeting will include discussion sessions on:

- rest areas
- dedicated short range communications
- climate change
- relationship between heavy vehicles and pavement wear.

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Appendix A

ASSETS

Project No	Project Title
CONTINUING PROJECTS 2008-09	
AS1335	Improved Cost Allocation Rules by Road Type (including unsealed Roads) (NTC)
AP1174	Development of Stakeholder / Community Requirements - Part 2 of Guide to Asset Management (Previously Deferred)
AP1177	Development of Pavement Performance - Part 5 of Guide to Asset Management (includes funds brought down from AP1009 in 05/06 and 06/07)
AP1395	Guide to Asset Management – Part 7
AS1337	Establishing a New National Pavement Maintenance Database (NTC)
AT1064	Long-Term Performance Monitoring to Develop Consistent Performance Models
AT1131	Management of Skid Resistance (Previously Deferred)
AT1394	Understanding Wear and Cost Implications of Incremental Loads on the Road Network (Optimal Mass Limits) [NTC]
NEW PROJECTS 2008-09	
AT1477	Strategic Review of Future Asset Management Issues
AT1479	Impact of Climatic Change on Road Performance
AT1480	Predicting dynamic wheel loading of the network
AT1482	Guidance on the management and analysis of weigh-in-motion data
AT1483	Network Performance Indicators – Next generation
AT1489	Identifying the best measure of the variation in longitudinal surface profile for use in triggering pavement rehabilitation works
AP1492	Guide to Asset Management - Part 5F (Skid Resistance) and Part 5G (Texture)
AP1481	Environmental Management Guidelines

CAPABILITY

Project No	Project Title
NEW PROJECTS 2008-09	
CO1552	Capability Analysis Update 2008-09
CO1568	National Skills Marketing Plan – Implementation
CO1562	Professional Development for Road Engineering – Phase 2

FREIGHT

Project No	Project Title
CONTINUING PROJECTS 2008-09	
FS1408	Compliance & Enforcement – technology opportunities
FS1409	Feasibility Study – Freight Data and Business Systems
FS1412	Digital Tachographs – Operational Implementation
NEW PROJECTS 2008-09	
FO1547	Feasibility Study – Parking and Rest Opportunities in areas zoned for Industrial purposes

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Project No	Project Title
FS1549	Competency and capability matrix for regulators
FS1550	Impact of LCVs/Rigid Trucks in Urban Networks – Scoping Study
FS1551	Local Government and the Future Freight Task (Stage 2) – guideline dissemination

NETWORK

No	Title
CONTINUING PROJECTS 2008-09	
NS1203	Estimating Road Network Congestion and Associated Costs
NS1205	Operational Impacts of Alternative Vehicles
NS1375	Freeway Design Parameters for Fully Managed Operations
NS1364	Development of a National Approach to Traffic Control at Work Sites
NS1377	Traffic Signal Controllers - future directions
NS1378	Best Practice for Variable Speed Limits
NP1380	Traffic Management - Parts 3, 7, 10 and 13
NEW PROJECTS 2008-09	
NS1374	Freeway incident detection technologies and techniques
NS1413	The commercial and core function role of road agencies in providing raw data and/or traveller information
NS1415	Development of management arrangements and identification of pilot applications for secured DSRC bandwidth
NS1371	Guidelines for selecting techniques for the modelling and analysis of network operations including environmental impacts
NS1435	Effectiveness & Selection of Intersection Treatments for Cyclists (ABC)
NS1512	Understanding the impacts of road pricing factors on future road use and network wide traffic patterns
NS1516	Development of accessibility measures
NS1517	Equalising traffic density in a network of signalised intersections
NS1524	Defining Applicability of International Standards for Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)
NS1563	Heavy Vehicle Sight Distances at Rail Crossings (Stage 2)

REGISTRATION & LICENSING

Project No	Project Title
CONTINUING PROJECT 2008-09	
RS1342	National Recognition of Road Worthiness Procedures
NEW PROJECTS 2008-09	
RS1461	Feasibility of Implementing a smart registration/smart plate future parameters of ANPR usage
RS1459	DVS – Development of Protocols and Business Rules for Participation
RS1460	Enhancement of Assessing Fitness to Drive procedures
RS1458	National review of Heavy Vehicle and Motorcycle Instructor training and assessment standards
RS1462	Continuous Registration Project
RS1466	Evaluation of the use of additional biometrics

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NEVDIS

Project No	Project Title
CONTINUING PROJECTS 2008-09	
RO1557N	NEVDIS Strategic Review – Detailed Scoping Study
RO1558N	Personal Properties Security Register (PPSR)
RO1559N	VIRS Access to Registration Data on NEVDIS
RO1555N	Ausindustry LPG Vehicle Checking
NEW PROJECTS 2008-09	
RO1560N	Development of technological solution for the transfer of licence history.
RO1553N	National DVS Implementation (NEVDIS as a Service Provider)
RO1554N	National DVS Stage 2 (NEVDIS as a Consumer)

ROAD SAFETY

No	Title
CONTINUING PROJECTS 2008-09	
SS1187	Balance Between Harm Reduction and Mobility in Setting Speed Limits: Stage 3
SS1384	Traffic Management and Infrastructure: Lessons from In-depth Crash Investigation
NEW PROJECTS 2008-09	
SS1419	Classification of motorcycles as a distinct vehicle class
SS1420	Heavy vehicle brake safety on long and very steep roads: An investigation into auxiliary braking systems
SS1421	Nature of errors made by drivers
ST1418	Shifting transport modes and the impact on road safety
ST1424	Impact of lower speed limits for road safety on network operations
ST1426	Methods to achieve overall reductions in operating speeds in rural areas
ST1427	Improving roadside safety
ST1428	Road Safety Risk Assessment – Dissemination of Research Findings and Updating of Crash Data Bases and Crash Reduction Factors
ST1429	Safe intersection treatment approaches including safe speeds through intersections
ST1430	Improving safety of heavy vehicles in urban areas – Stage 1
ST1431	Design, feasibility and application of an instrumented vehicle
ST1432	Reviewing ITS technologies & safety opportunities
ST1433	Infrastructure/speed limit relationship in relation to road safety outcomes
ST1434	Road Safety Audit Toolkit and Engineering Toolkit – site maintenance
SS1502	Crash Exposure and Safety on Local Roads

TECHNOLOGY

Project No	Project Title
CONTINUING PROJECTS 2008-09	
TS1397	PBS Bridge Loading Package - scoping project (NTC)
TS1398	Develop ESA (Equivalent Standard Axles) Relationships for all Heavy Vehicle Classes Using Both an Average and a Distribution Approach Methodology (NTC)
TS1399	Investigate Cost Allocation Relationships for Bridges in Relation to Heavy Vehicles (NTC)

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Project No	Project Title
TP1349	Updating Austrroads RUE Unit Values and Related Methodologies
TT1163	Better Basis for Bases: Optimum Use of Granular Bases
TT1219	Influence of Multiple Axle Loads on Pavement Performance
TT1352	Management of Scarce and Quality Resources
TT1353	Asphalt Properties and Mix Design Procedures
TT1354	Optimising Binder Performance
TT1355	Surface Characteristics to Meet Road User Needs
TT1357	Maintaining the Rural Road Network
TT1358	Strategic Review of Pavement Design Practice
TT1359	Cost-effective Structural Treatments for Rural Highways
NEW PROJECTS 2008-09	
TT1452	Development of Pavement Design Models
TT1454	Environmental Issues of Warm Asphalt
TO1440	Review of CPEE Distance Learning Study Units on "Flexible Pavement Construction" and "Rigid Pavement Construction"
TO1441	Development of new CPEE Distance Learning Study Unit – Road Engineering Fundamentals
TO1442	Review of CPEE Distance Learning Study Unit – Managing the Road Environment
TP1564	Guide to Bridge Technology
TP1565	Guide to Pavement Technology
TP1566	Guide to Road Design
TP1567	Guide to Tunnel Technology