



From: Michael Blyleven, Austroads Network Operations Taskforce representative

SUBJECT: Austroads Network Taskforce – Report of February 2006 meeting and joint SCOT workshop on National Performance Indicators, Sydney

Purpose	To report on the meeting of the Austroads Network Taskforce meeting of February 2006 and the joint SCOT workshop on National Performance Indicators.
Background	The role of the network task force is to assist road and transport agencies in their efforts to optimise utilisation of the road network.

**Joint
Taskforce/SCOT
Urban Congestion
Management
Working Group –
National
Performance
Indicators
Workshop, 16
February 2006**

- Joint workshop with the Standing Committee on Transport (SCOT) was arranged to discuss National Performance Indicators
- Additional emphasis was given following the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting of 10 February that resolved to Review the major causes of urban congestion, trends and impacts and develop a framework to address this problem. SCOT have a strong focus on measuring performance at a corridor level with some emphasis on freight.
- Austroads research report NS1014-“Understanding network performance information provided to road users” was used as background. Findings were that users understand tangible measures best, particularly time, reporting should use these units, examples given of Victoria freeway travel time monitoring and use of VMS
- Presentations were given on emerging work overseas, congestion management in Australian cities and monitoring from a policy perspective
- The participants agreed with the direction set through NS1014. Time, reliability and occupancy of particular relevance. Some good measures exist, and work should now establish methods to fill the gaps. Need to explore emerging technologies, to overcome statistical limitations from low sampling. The Austroads Network task Force needs to actively participate at the corridor level to ensure that any agreed measures are practical and feasible for the State Road Authorities.
- Dennis Walsh to develop a project brief for a jointly funded Austroads/SCOT UCMWG project with Tony Ockwell and assistance from James Luk and John Gaffney. A project team to be developed. The project should commence as soon as possible with outcomes produced by the end of 2006 for reporting to COAG early in 2007 and to enable changes to the Austroads performance indicators to be implemented in 2007.
- The joint project will focus on finalizing base performance measures/indicators and develop acceptable methods of collection.

**Network
Operations
Taskforce meeting,
17 February 2006**

- Minutes of last meeting and actions arising were discussed.
- Clarification to be sought from DOTARS on Auslink route numbering issues and other route numbering across borders.
- A link to the QDMR presentation on the Austroads Young Professional Engineers Study Tour is available.
- QDMR “Traffic Operational (ITS) Service Guidelines” have been re-named to “Road Operation Service Standards”.
- Discussion on interest in NS1015, Road pricing and request from COAG Productivity Commission re availability. The study not yet sufficiently advanced to circulate. Austroads Council will be asked to comment.
- The study is still too early. The new procedure for Council Member Sign Off and Endorsement to Publish was discussed.
- Project reports and progress discussed, see attached list.
- PIARC reports discussed see attached list.

New project proposals – recommended to Austroads Council

- NP2006/07-6: National Performance Indicators, PRIORITY 1
- NP2006/07-1: Traveler information - benefits to users, PRIORITY 2
- NP2006/07-5: Securing Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) spectrum for ITS applications, PRIORITY 3
- NP2006/07-3: Optimising Freeway Traffic Flow under Congested Conditions, PRIORITY 4
- NP2006/07-7: Austroads Microsimulation Standards, PRIORITY 5

Benefit of Activities The Network Operations Taskforce continues to be a useful avenue for cross agency collaboration. Research and work on understanding/resolving urban congestion is particularly relevant.

Conclusions/Recommendations That this report be noted and circulated to those interested.

Project managers reports
<p>NP1001 - National Cycling Strategy The project is completed and closed.</p>
<p>NS 1014 - Understanding network performance provided to road users Report finished, awaiting endorsement to publish.</p>
<p>NS 1015 - Review recent developments in road pricing, including freight The task force discussed the terms of reference for the COAG review of economic costs of freight infrastructure and efficient approaches to transport pricing. Dennis Walsh to write to Austroads Council members regarding project NS1015 and COAG decisions in relation to the Productivity Commission. The NS1015 draft report will be provided to Council members, with a copy to task force members, for information, with a recommendation that the report be released to the COAG Productivity Commission when Council approves it in mid-2006. Council members to be requested to provide feedback.</p>
<p>NS 1016 - Understanding how micro-simulation traffic models can be used to improve the performance of the road network Report finished, awaiting endorsement to publish. Taskforce discussed ongoing workshops to develop expertise/understanding of micro-simulation, and other modeling.</p>
<p>NS 1017 - Improving incident management Continuing</p>
<p>NS 1018 - Pedestrian/cyclist conflict minimization on shared paths and footpaths Report finished, awaiting endorsement to publish.</p>
<p>NS1137 - TRARR (Traffic on Rural Roads) Software Program Upgrade Continuing.</p>
<p>NS1147 - Understanding how operational changes impact network performance Continuing.</p>
<p>NS1148 - Guidelines for evaluation of non-pricing travel demand management measures Continuing.</p>
<p>NS1150 - Improving levels of service to specific users, including freight, public transport and emergency vehicles Continuing, workshop to be set up.</p>
<p>NS1186 – PBS Administrative Guidelines Continuing.</p>
<p>New project proposals – recommended to Austroads Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NP2006/07-6: National Performance Indicators – PRIORITY 1 • NP2006/07-1: Traveler information - benefits to users <p>PRIORITY 2</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NP2006/07-5: Securing Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) spectrum for ITS applications PRIORITY 3 NP2006/07-3: Optimising Freeway Traffic Flow under Congested Conditions PRIORITY 4 NP2006/07-7: Austroads Microsimulation Standards PRIORITY 5
<p>Other new project proposals</p> <p>NP2006/07-4: Operational impacts of alternative vehicles NP2006/07-2: Estimating road network congestion and associated costs <i>To consider incorporating this project into the joint Austroads/SCOT UCMWG NPI project to deliver some short term assessments of performance through modeling.</i></p>
<p>PIARC reporting relevant to the Network Task Force</p>
<p>ST1.1 – Road System Economics Representative: Barry Moore, report available on recent attendance</p>
<p>ST1.4 – Management of Network Operations - Representative: John Erceg, report available</p>
<p>ST2.2 – Interurban Roads and Integrated Interurban Transport - Representative: Rob Richards, report available</p>
<p>ST2.3 – Urban Areas and Integrated Urban Transport - Representative: Ted Vincent, report available</p>