



Austrroads Network Taskforce – Report of June 2006 meeting, Cairns

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Purpose	To report on the meeting of the Austrroads Network Taskforce on 30 June 2006.
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.
Network Operations Taskforce meeting, 30 June 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes of last meeting and actions arising were discussed.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The joint SCOT Urban Congestion project is now underway, jurisdictions asked to consider representation on the working group○ Review of recent development in road pricing report has been forwarded to Australian Productivity Council as Work in Progress○ Austrroads Technology group is developing Transport Planning guidelines.○ Workshop on Microsimulation Modelling scheduled for mid October, to cover fundamentals, and user guidance on settings for microsimulation• Update from Austrroads Council meeting, Darwin, June 2006<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Reviewing Strategic Plan, has been research focused, but may be a need to shift to more policy guidance, expanding definition to “road transport”, reviewed emerging issues – congestion, environment, freight, demographics.○ Programmes reviewed, 7 in total, only 5 jurisdictions capable Manage Programmes, smaller ones may need to take in increased role. Trying to develop consistency in programme prioritisation• Project reports and progress discussed, see attached list.

- NTC Issues discussed
 - Fatigue rest areas being reviewed
 - B triples being considered, cross-border issues, need cost recovery mechanism
 - Rail crossing review, Rail Safety (Reform) Bill, clause 63, attachment E, also referred to “Brodie case”
 - PBS has been renamed Smart Vehicles
 - Submission on road pricing, seeking Third Heavy Vehicles Pricing determinant
 - Light warning, timer to turn off, solar powered, \$6k
- PIARC reports discussed see-attached list.
- Austroads dissemination discussed. Include ½ day programme workshop at ARRB Conference, suggest congestion focus based around NS 1014, 1147, 1204 and 1207 (+ SCOT), seeking taskforce representation
- Improving industry capability, support for combined university/jurisdiction courses
- Future program discussion
 - need for future generation traffic signal controllers raised, VA signals becoming flaky
 - support to promote “network” as core ARRB research area
 - support to maintain current programme structure
 - request for future research suggestions
- WA just released Smarter Roads Strategy
- NT about to release Road Safety Review, notes distinct difference between urban, rural and remote Australia

Presentation on North Queensland Rural ITS

- Short, medium and long term strategy
- Based around safety, efficiency, environment and liveability
- Includes TMS, Streams, CCTV, web-cameras, changeable message signs, VMS, load limit signs, flood detection/warning, WIM, bus priority
- Dangerous corners, use wetness sensor, flashing lights (LED), timer to turn off, solar powered, \$6k

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>NS 1014 —Understanding network performance provided to road users Project complete. Forms the basis for new project NS1207, National Performance Indicators for Network Ops, joint with SCOT Urban Congestion Working Group</p>
<p>NS 1015 —Review recent developments in road pricing, including freight Stage 1 report approved for release to Productivity Council. The task force discussed the terms of reference for the COAG review of economic costs of freight infrastructure and efficient approaches to transport pricing.</p> <p>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 it is approved by Council 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 Project complete. ARRB to run workshop in mid-October to disseminate information, aim to develop expertise/understanding of microsimulation, and other modelling.</p>
<p>NS 1017 —Improving incident management Progressing to dissemination phase.</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 Issues with CD released for testing. Will then public and release.</p> <p>This is a tool for practitioners, and replaces the obsolete earlier version – need to disseminate that it will again able to be used.</p>
<p>NS1147 —Understanding how operational changes impact network performance Continuing. Conceptual way of thinking.</p>
<p>NS1148 —Guidelines for evaluation of non-pricing travel demand management measures Scope changing to assessment of appropriate tools. Looking for workshop representation from jurisdictions. (follow-up with LTNZ, Ian Melsom)</p>
<p>NS1149 —Traveller Information – benefit to users Scope changing to assessment of appropriate tools. Looking for workshop representation from jurisdictions.</p>

Project managers reports

NS1150 —Improving levels of service to specific users, including freight, public transport and emergency vehicles

Looking for 2 demonstration studies, with freight travel times. Will then look at PT. Concern raised about ABS freight forecasting numbers, and difference between freight growth on key corridors versus across entire network.

Looking for feedback on report.

NS1186 —PBS Administrative Guidelines

Continuing.

New Projects

NS1149: Traveller information —benefits to users.

Investigating temporary vs portables, placement etc. Concern raised about increased private company use of signs. Jurisdictions have been asked to display “common good” notices, eg drought information

NS1204: Optimising Freeway Traffic Flow under Congested Conditions.

Looking at identifying occupancy/density parameters to guide ramp metering and the likes. Seeking working group representation

NS 1206: Securing Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) spectrum for ITS applications.

To develop business case (for Govt Agencies) to take to Spectrum Management Agency

NS 1207: National Performance Indicators for Network Ops.

Joint with SCOT Urban Congestion Working Group. Follows NS1014 framework, congestion as the indicator, methods to measure travel time/minutes of delay. Ties with NS1150

NS1229: Austroads Microsimulation Standards,

to ensure jurisdiction knowledge of how micro-simulation can be used and understood. Seeking working group representation.

AP1175: Guide to Asset Management Part 3 —Asset strategies

Needs a road use section (requested of Network taskforce). Must clarify aim and overlap with investment strategy.

PIARC reporting relevant to the Network Task Force

ST1.1 —Road System Economics

Representative: Barry Moore, didn't attend, But Ian Melsom did

ST1.4 —Management of Network Operations

Representative: John Erceg, no report, verbal update

ITS systems, tech report on CD, due Mar 2007, for conference Sept 07

Also considering new items: training of professionals, freight/intermodal, incident management, new technologies, management of congestion, heavy vehicle access

Asking the question, where do we see ITS heading in the future? Feedback requested to John Erceg

ST2.2 —Interurban Roads and Integrated Interurban Transport

Representative: Rob Richards, no report

ST2.3 —Urban Areas and Integrated Urban Transport

Representative: Ted Vincent, report available

Congestion and non-motorised research awaiting return of fact sheets

Mega cities research, defines sustainable transport (can apply to any city), once out of control mega-cities start to self-regulate, implementation of transport plans always dependant on political will!