



SUBJECT: Austroads Network Taskforce – Report of 18 May 2007 meeting, Canberra

From: Michael Blyleven, Austroads Network Operations Taskforce representative

Purpose To report on the meeting of the Austroads Network Taskforce meeting of May 2007.

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.

Austroads Council Matters

- Look to improve knowledge sharing.
- Setting budget for future programme.
- 07/08 work programme increased by 12% to cover NTC projects/CPEE.
- Need a research register, Austroads, members and others to identify what level of research is required.

Pending discussion at Council meeting

Austroads is nominated as the “road mode” group for SCOT. Good technical base but being questioned about abilities for policy development. Following SCOT meeting a new “road mode” group proposed for policy making, road pricing etc. Note: Pricing spans across into other modes/impacts.

In the past Austroads didn't have the mandate to do “policy”, but now it could. OR remain to provide good technical research to advise policy makers. Whatever approach is chosen, a clear terms of reference is needed.

PIARC Investigating cooperative vehicle highway systems.

- US include VII (Detroit) - auto car industry based, have DSRC.
- Europe include CVIS (\$40m) – Telecomms based

TC2.3 urban areas and sustainable transport. Reports coming forward. MegaCities need low footprint modes: PT, cycle. No MegaCity moving to sustainability! Tokyo, Paris, Japan population declining, Mexico City (development along US border).

Standards Australia	<p>Release of paint/markings standards (AS4049, AS2009) has raised issues (RTA VicRoads) with road user expectations. Sets high level standard that is <u>NOT</u> the policy in many jurisdictions. Need to be careful of wording in standards.</p> <p>ITO23 on Transport Information and Control not progressing much. But watching outcomes of ISO/TC204 for standardisation of intelligent transport systems. The Japanese have a good summary document.</p> <p>Other reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LG6 Traffic Signals Equipment - includes VMS (Dec 07), Traffic Signal Controllers (Jun 08), Vehicle Loop Detector (Dec 07) (current generation components). - ME64 - Access for disabilities: ongoing. - MS012 - Road Signs and Traffic Signals: ongoing. - MS049 - Retroreflective materials, part published.
Network Taskforce: Workplan/Budgets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7 new research projects, an extra for National approach to Traffic Control at Work Sites (agreed) - A number of ABC cycle projects considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intersection design, a key project. - Arterial on-road design next. - Traffic Management Guidelines won't have a Cycle Part 14. Will be main streamed into other sections. A project was suggested to prepare a glossary/map for cycling references. (for 08/09). Intersection design also proposed for 08/09 later consider Arterial Roads and High Demands.
Future Projects Proposed 2008/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freeway Incident Detection Techniques considering variable speed signs and ramp signalling. - Guidelines for Appropriate Model Selection. - Understanding Impacts of Road Pricing. - Review of Intelligent Vehicle and Infrastructure Applications. - Management arrangements for secured bandwidth (ITS). - Network management for freight vehicles: twice the task, larger vehicles and interaction with light vehicles.
Knowledge Sharing Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop one page of the programme. - Material developed; need more dissemination mechanisms by jurisdictions. - What's been done, what we're doing, what might be done.
Project Reports	<p>NS1017: Improving Incident Management, Final Report to Council.</p> <p>NZ1147: Understanding how operational changes impact network performance. Final summary report due by June 30.</p> <p>NS1148: Guidelines for evaluation of non-pricing travel demand management measures. Final draft report about to be released for endorsement.</p>

NS1149: Traveller information - Benefits to Users.

Draft report has been circulated to project members, then focus groups, and then compiled into guidelines.

NS1150: Improving levels of service to specific users, including freight, public transport and emergency services.

Summary report due for comment in June.

NS1204: Optimising freeway traffic flow under congested conditions
Contract to be let late May.

NS1207: National Performance Indicators for Network Operations.

Final report for review late May

New Indicators:

- Traveller efficiency (speed, variation from posted speed limit, intersection performance SCATS) - use loop detectors
- Travel Speed Reliability - coefficient of variability
- Productivity, 80kph speed times flow, 1800kph benchmarks
- Report segment, link and network level
- CGI will continue esp in small jurisdictions
- Need to roll out over time

NS1229: Austroads Microsimulation Standards.

Fundamentals workshop held. Technical notes 1 and 2 issued.

NS1206: Securing Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) spectrum for ITS applications.

Draft report with project team. Presentation highlights below.

- Safety is a key driver, crash reduction plateauing - human error
- Vehicle infrastructure integration (USA) - vehicle to vehicle, vehicle to roadside testing now eg optical brake light vs electronic, closer possibilities. Need dedicated band in advance of imminent crash.
10seconds down to 3s/3seconds down to 1s
 - o Frequencies 5.850 Ghz to 5.925 Ghz

NS1017: Improving Incident Management,

Final Report to Council.

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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.