

Communiqué

Austroads Strategic Planning Workshop and Board Meeting No. 20

Canberra, 25-26 March 2015



Austroads Strategic Planning Workshop- 25 March

A planning workshop was held on 25 March to forge the shared strategic intent that will position Austroads for 2020 and guide the development of the Strategic Plan. The workshop was chaired by Peter Duncan, Chief Executive, Roads and Maritime Services New South Wales and facilitated by Lynette Glendinning, Tempo Strategies.

While it is recognised that Austroads is well respected and provides good value, the workshop identified the need to re-invigorate and re-shape the organisation to ensure it continued to meet the needs of member organisations and other stakeholders.

The Executive Committee will develop a first draft of the strategic plan for presentation at the June Austroads Board meeting.

Austroads Board Meeting – 26 March

The Austroads Board met on 26 March 2015 in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory. Peter Duncan, Chief Executive, Roads and Maritime Services New South Wales chaired the meeting.

Strategic Project Report

At the June 2014 meeting the Board identified five new strategic streams of work. An update on these work streams are provided below.

- **Data Harmonisation and Assets Register** The project business case has identified a potential \$100 million a year in savings for road agencies. The Board approved the development of an Austroads Asset Management Information Standard. Data standards will be developed for inventory, works, demand, condition, performance, and classification. Vehicle access and customer service level definitions will also be considered.
- **Developer/Government Contributions** This project will be undertaken in four stages with Stage 1 providing a summary of the current funding and financing for the road network in Australia. Road agencies and local government will be asked to provide investment information for all road classifications including the source of funding. The project will identify funding and financing options, including developer contributions, for remote and regional roads in Australia.
- **Community Service Obligations** The Commonwealth is working with the Northern Territory to develop the project proposal.
- **Network Productivity and Congestion** A project manager has been appointed from Transport for NSW. A jurisdictional project working group, including BITRE, held an inception meeting on 6 March to review scope of project and progress development of a project brief which will be distributed to the market.
- **Safety at Road Work Sites** The project team is identifying partnership opportunities with industry and key stakeholders.
- **Registration and Licensing – A Way Forward** The national registration and licencing strategy will provide opportunities to look at new and different ways of conducting business and potential benefits to be realised through the use of technology. Research, the development of a strategic model and project checkpoint to review findings are due at the end of March.

2014-15 Research Work Program

The status of the 2014-15 work program as at 28 February 2015 is summarised in the table below.

	Assets	Freight	Network	R & L	Safety	Technology	Other	Total
Complete	3	1	9	5	5	7	-	30
Deferred/cancelled	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	4
Active	16	16	21	11	29	37	1	131
Total approved	20	17	30	18	35	44	1	165

Assets Program

A strategic issues progress report for 2014-15 and a proposed work program and budget for 2015-16 were provided. David Darwin made a presentation and advised the current and future work programs continue to work towards the Program's objective of providing road services that meet community needs at least long term cost.

One new project, focusing on the key challenge of improving understanding of the sustainable delivery and funding of pavements, is proposed for 2015-16. The proposed program of new and continuing projects focusses on the strategic priorities of customer service and asset management. It defines customer levels of service for freight and other customers, addresses the network impacts of providing better access for freight to improve productivity, provides guidance on the asset management of ITS and similar infrastructure supports heavy vehicle reform. It will also provide an updated Guide to Asset Management which reflects advances in pavement management.

The work of the Assets Program has been endorsed by Ministers and is currently meeting the requirements of the reform agenda. Complementary work is being undertaken in the Freight Program in the area of community service obligations in conjunction with BITRE and NTC.

Freight Program

A strategic issues progress report for 2014-15 and a proposed work program and budget for 2015-16 were provided. Marcus James made a presentation and advised the program continued to work towards fulfilling its objective of improved productivity and safety in meeting the freight task. To date four projects have been completed and published in the current financial year and there are 14 active projects which are progressing well. The Program's projects will contribute to increasing the efficiency and productivity of road freight movements and expand access measures where appropriate to do so. A number of projects currently being undertaken are highly relevant to the National Reform Agenda.

Network Program

A strategic issues progress report for 2014-15 and a proposed work program and budget for 2015-16 were provided. Craig Moran made a presentation and advised the Network Program is an operationally based program working with jurisdictions to improve the efficient, reliable and safe operation of their road networks.

The life cycle of the Network work program will be complete in June 2016 in parallel with the completion of the Austroads Strategic Plan. All projects will be completed with the exception of some continuing work in the area of Cooperative ITS.

The review and update of the Guide to Traffic Management is critical to the work of the Program. This will be complete by June 2016. In addition the primary focus of the Program for 2015-16 will be the transition of research into Guides and jurisdictional practice.

Registration and Licensing

A strategic issues progress report for 2014-15 and a proposed work program and budget for 2015-16 were provided. Chris McNally made a presentation and advised the current emphasis of the Program was on project completion. To ensure this the Program is addressing the starting phase of projects ensuring there is a timely commencement.

Work is being undertaken to establish a national library of Hazard Perception Test scenarios for motor vehicles including motor cycles (a world first). Once a preferred development approach and cost estimate have been established the Program will return to the Board for a decision on progressing and funding. The Program has proposed seven new projects for 2015-16. Five of these build on current work and the remaining two address emerging issues.

The Board considered that in the area of identity security. Cooperative work in this area is underway being led by the Commonwealth.

VicRoads is testing a proof of concept to convert the publication Assessing Fitness to Drive into HTML pages. This is the first step in moving the publication from a book to an online knowledge resource. The Board endorsed a new project to examine the future delivery of Assessing Fitness to Drive as a priority project for 2015-16.

Safety Program

A strategic issues progress report for 2014-15 and a proposed work program and budget for 2015-16 were provided. Iain Cameron made a presentation and advised the primary emphasis of the Program is the implementation of the Safe Systems approach. A key component of this is the work being undertaken in project *SS2016: Translating Safe System Infrastructure Research and Knowledge into Practice* which is progressing well and scheduled for completion in June 2016.

The Program has completed reviews of the Guide to Road Safety and the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 with the resulting National Road Safety Action Plan 2015-2017 endorsed by the Transport and Infrastructure Council in November 2014.

Technology

A strategic issues progress report for 2014-15 and a proposed work program and budget for 2015-16 were provided. John Spathonis made a presentation and advised that road managers face constant change and must continually develop new knowledge and improved solutions to ensure provision of cost effective and sustainable infrastructure outcomes. Reductions in staff numbers in jurisdictions and the resultant loss of expertise has meant there is now an increased focus and need for the Austroads Guides.

The work program proposed for 2015-16, builds upon the current work program. It include two strategic priority projects:

- Assessment of Bridges for Higher Mass Limits (HML) – opening up the network to improve productivity and economic growth. This project will assess whether the NSW bridge evaluation process can be developed and harmonised around Australia to provide better and more consistent access to the road network for road freight and in particular HML vehicles.
- Review of Standards Australia Bridge Code AS5100 and the Austroads Guide to Bridge Technology. With the release of the new AS5100 – Bridge Design Standard later this year, the Austroads Bridge Guides will be outdated. The Standard has undergone a comprehensive review incorporating major loading changes including earthquake and will feature two new sections for timber bridges and bridge rehabilitation.

The next Austroads Bridge Conference will be in Melbourne in 2017 and preparations are being managed by Nigel Powers from VicRoads.

Review of National Guidelines for Transport System Management (NGTSM)

The first stage of the NGTSM is nearing completion. The first stage documents were released for public comment on 17 December 2015, and the deadline for public comments closed on 9 February 2015. TISOC will consider publishing the first stage documents. A number of elements of Stage 2 of the update are already underway, including consultancies on active travel and public transport.

Cooperative ITS (C-ITS)

A progress report on the C-ITS project was provided, which also sought approval for the proposed interim and ongoing management arrangements for C-ITS and a budget and program of work for 2015-16.

Three key pieces of work are being undertaken in consultation with TCA:

- Spectrum management and licensing.
- Standards Harmonisation and Compliance.
- Security Management.

The proposed work program for 2015-16 continues to maintain focus on design, management, framework standards and adopting international management practices. Governance will also be addressed.

The Board endorsed a new strategic priority for 2015-16 which will focus on providing guidance to road agencies and other key stakeholder on the changes required to support and optimise the outcomes from the introduction and use of automated vehicles.

International Activities

The next four-yearly World Road Association (WRA) Congress will be held from 2–6 November 2015 in Seoul, Korea. The Congress theme is Roads and Mobility – creating new value from transport. It will include a ministers' session with the theme: Evolution of road policy for the next generation. Austroads national office will coordinate arrangements for an Australasian delegation.

WRA Committee 1.5: Risk Management met in Adelaide on 10-13 March. The four day agenda included an International Risk Management in Road and Traffic Operations Workshop on 12 March.

Austroads Safety Program Manager, Iain Cameron, is the Chair of a new OECD Working Group on Implementing the Safe System Approach to Road Safety Improvement. The group comprises more than 30 top-level road safety experts from 25 countries and from the World Health Organisation, the World Bank, the International Road Assessment Program (iRAP), the Global New Car Assessment Program (Global NCAP) and the FIA Foundation. This is twice the size of usual OECD/ITF Working Groups demonstrating strong interest from countries and international organisations.

Other Reports

Austroads also considered reports and presentations from:

- Centre for Pavement Engineering Education (CPEE)
- Australian Asphalt Pavement Association (AAPA)
- Sustainable Built Environment National Research Centre (SBEnc)
- ARRB
- Australian Local Government Association
- Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
- National Transport Commission

Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 25 June 2015 in Melbourne Victoria.