

Communiqué

Austrroads Board Meeting No. 29

2 November 2017 | Auckland, New Zealand



The Austrroads Board met on 2 November 2017 in Auckland New Zealand and was chaired by Neil Scales, Director-General, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Annual General Meeting

The Austrroads Board met on 2 November 2017 in Auckland, New Zealand. The Austrroads Ltd, 2017 Annual General Meeting was held immediately prior to the meeting and was chaired by Neil Scales.

The current Executive Committee as appointed at Austrroads Board Meeting No.25 in October 2016 was unanimously re-elected until the AGM and Board meetings of November 2018.

The Executive Committee is:

- Neil Scales, DTMR QLD (Chair until October 2018)
- Shane Gregory, DSG Tas (Deputy Chair until October 2018)
- Nick Koukoulas (Chief Executive)
- Paul Gelston, DPTI SA
- Tommy Parker, NZTA NZ
- Peter Todd, VicRoads VIC.

Strategic Priority Projects

An update on the strategic priority projects identified by the Board is provided below.

- **Data Harmonisation**

This project is now moving into staged implementation. A series of pilots are to be organised where road agencies and local government are encouraged to adopt as much of the Standard as feasible to test the impacts. The initial pilot will include Victorian local government groups as part of Municipal Association of Victoria sponsored collaboration. This will provide learnings for other local government groups nation-wide. This process may also incorporate a 'proof-of-concept' using the Meta-Connect tool established by the New Zealand Transport Agency to assist data definition and ingestion processes.
- **Safety at Road Worksites**

The project is progressing well with the various Working Groups and the governance model all operating effectively. The development of the Guide to Temporary Traffic Management Practice which will consist of eleven parts has progressed. Parts 4, 5 and 6 are nearing completion and will be available for industry consultation later this month. Part 6 – Short Term Low Impact Works has been circulated to Board members for information. The tenders for Parts 7 and 9 are currently being assessed.
- **Road Cross Section Design for Road Stereotypes (including Network Safety Plans) and a Safe System**

A key output of this project will be world first performance based road design standards. The project will provide road design practitioners dimensional guidance when implementing recommended treatments proposed under the safe system assessment framework. Key outcomes are new design practices that will provide value for money in road design as well as create a safe motoring environment. The project is jointly managed by the Road Design and Safety Task Forces, and will incorporate local government and public consultations.

- **Mitigating the Growing Drug and Distraction Driving Risks**

This project is driven by the need to address the growing road safety challenge of distraction while driving (predominantly through mobile phone use), and people taking drugs and then driving, evidenced in infringement and crash performance statistics. The project undertook a quick scoping stocktake of possible opportunities to mitigate these two risk areas. The Board noted that further work in this area is being scoped (Drug Driving Mitigation and Distracted Driving Mitigation) for possible inclusion in the 2018-19 work program.

- **Australia and New Zealand Roads Capability Analysis 2017-2027**

This project is undertaking a workforce capability analysis for member agencies on the planned and forecasted infrastructure development requirements in Australia and New Zealand over the next 10 years. The project is focussing on the traditional and future skills required by road agencies. This work builds on a series of projects undertaken between 2006-2014.

The research and analysis phases are progressing well, and the Working Group has highly engaged representation from all jurisdictions.

Recommendations resulting from the research will allow road agencies to work collaboratively with industry, educational institutions and other Government Departments to ensure mid to long term strategic workforce planning is identified and implemented.

- **Austrroads Online**

The Austrroads corporate and publications websites are currently two separate systems. This redevelopment is an opportunity to consolidate the two sites into a single content management system, enabling greater flexibility into the future.

The broad priorities of this project are to:

- Improve users' experience
- Share knowledge and outcomes
- Communicate benefits effectively
- Better use of digital technology
- Achieve administration efficiencies.

As an additional outcome of the project Austrroads Guides will be made freely available from 1 July 2018 in a HTML or similar format, maximising accessibility and searchability for users. Hard copies will no longer be available for purchase.

A Project Manager and IT consultant have been appointed. An Austrroads Online project brief has been advertised and tenders closed on 1 November.

This is the most significant change in the presentation and format of Austrroads Guides since the Austrroads Council decision in 2004 to produce an entire new suite of Austrroads Guides building on the previous Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice (GTEP) series. The current suite of Guides was launched in July 2009.

Research Work Program

2016-17 Work Program – Overview

The table below details the status of the Austrroads projects at 30 June 2017 for the 2016-17 financial year. There were 125 projects approved in the 2016-17 work program, with 83 projects continuing from previous financial years and 42 new projects starting in 2016-17. There were 40 projects scheduled for completion in 2016-17. Fifteen were completed within that year. The number of late projects has generally continued to decline.

	Assets	Connected & Automated Vehicles	Network	Safety	Total
Complete	13	2	22	9	46
Cancelled / Abandoned	-	-	-	1	1
Deferred	-	-	-	-	-
Active	38	5	16	19	78
Total approved	51	7	38	29	125

2017-18 Work Program – Overview

There are 102 projects approved in the 2017-18 work program, with 78 projects continuing from previous financial years and 24 new projects commencing in 2017-18.

The table below details the status of the Austroads projects as at 12 October 2017.

	Assets	Connected & Automated Vehicles	Network	Safety	Other	Total
Complete	7	-	2	2	-	11
Cancelled / Abandoned	-	-	-	-	-	1
Deferred	-	-	-	-	-	-
Active	35	8	20	26	2	91
Total approved	42	8	22	28	2	102

Program Reports

Assets Program

In the current environment of rapid change, volatility and uncertainty for road agencies, the Assets Program seeks to provide best practice guidance and to facilitate projects that drive implementation of validated and effective technologies for road infrastructure management.

- Work on project AAM6068: Data to Support Heavy Vehicle Road Reform has commenced. This project is being managed to closely align with the further development and implementation of the asset Data Standard project ASP2112
- Under project AAM2103, a best practice guide for consistent emergency evacuation signage within tunnels is being developed. This will fill a gap in current engineering signage standards and avoid continuation of current variable, bespoke approaches to emergency evacuation signage within tunnels.
- Project AP1900 which involved a complete revision of the Guide to Asset Management is nearing completion with the formatting of all revised Guide parts now being concluded prior to the Board endorsement stage.
- Project ABT2064: Properties of General Purpose Cement with Increased Percentages of Limestone is continuing with all required test samples now having been manufactured.
- Project BT1830 which involved an update to the Austroads Guide to Bridge Technology (AGBT) is coming to completion with the last two Parts with the Board for approval.
- Continuation of significant pavements projects TT2046: Improving the Cost Effectiveness of Foamed Bitumen Stabilised Pavements and TT2044: Encouraging Pavement Design Innovations has been confirmed after a review of these projects.
- Project APT2040: Guidelines and Specifications for Bituminous Micro-surfacings is providing clear guidance on the wide range of new surfacings products. The previous guideline was 15 years old and in need of update.
- The most significant update of the Austroads Guide to Pavement Technology Part 2 on pavement design in a decade is currently being rolled out. The updates include a new approach to design traffic characterisation.
- Project APT1953: National Performance Based Asphalt Specification Framework is nearing completion, and this will map out the research required to allow performance specifications in support of the new project on national technical specifications identified by the Board.
- The new Guide to Construction Quality Assurance has been completed under project APD2038 together with an implementation plan and these project outputs will be forwarded for Board endorsement in October 2017.
- Work on APD2110: National Harmonisation of General Conditions of Contract now involves a broader approach through collaboration with the Australian Procurement and Construction Council (APCC).

- With the large number of new road tunnel projects now in construction or planned there are several new projects underway including ART6037: Dangerous Goods in Tunnels and ART6011: Use of a Driving Simulator as a Safety Assured Method of Assessing and Approving Alternative In-Tunnel Aesthetic Solutions.

Network Program

The Network Program supports road and transport agencies to improve freight and network operations, understand and embrace emerging technologies and integrate across transport modes.

- The Freight sub-program is progressing eight active projects, all on schedule, supporting the movement of Over Size Over Mass (OSOM), high productivity and light freight vehicles across Australia and New Zealand.
- The Network sub-program is delivering eight active projects, all on schedule, supporting the operation of safe transport networks through the development of technology solutions, tools and investigating available data. Since the July 2017 Board Meeting, the program has completed the following:
 - NP2023: Guide to Traffic Management Part 6: Intersections, Interchanges and Crossings
 - NS1994: Techniques for Incident Management to Support Network Operations
 - NEG2087: On-road Public Transport
- The Traffic Management sub-program is undertaking four active projects, all on schedule, to ensure that Austroads continues to provide comprehensive traffic management guidance to traffic engineers, road designers and road safety practitioners. A strategic review of the Guide to Traffic Management was recently published and three parts of the Guide are nearing completion.
- Commencing this financial year, new project Safe System in the Austroads Guide to Traffic Management will improve the alignment of the Guide series with Safe System principles. In the areas of passing lanes – safety and performance will investigate the performance benefits of passing lanes in terms of safety, journey performance and customer experience.

Safety Program

The program has three sub-programs – Road Safety, Road Design and Registration and Licensing focussing on designing managing and building road transport systems that will protect road users and reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries.

The Road Safety sub-program aims to mitigate the factors causing serious road trauma by mapping the current and emerging safety risks and challenges facing jurisdictions. It focuses on: collaboration across the industry; consolidating and sharing knowledge; and seeking out best practice to support member agencies to implement safe system principles and thinking.

- The Austroads Road Safety Task Force is working with the Commonwealth to oversee the development of the National Road Safety Action Plan 2018-2020 in cooperation with road and transport agencies. The Action Plan supports the implementation of the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020. It will be submitted to the Transport Infrastructure Council meeting in November 2017.
- The Road Design Task Force has been progressing the Board priority project Road Cross Section Design for Road Stereotypes (including Network Safety Plans) and a Safe System
- The Registration and Licensing sub-program is running well, with all projects on target and is working in identifying opportunities for national driver licence harmonisation practices.

Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAV) Program

The Austroads CAV program is focussed on establishing frameworks and operational arrangements that can effectively support the local introduction of CAVs, and optimise their potential benefits with regards to road safety, transport efficiency, mobility services and the environment.

- CAV2109: Cooperative ITS – Operational Framework includes spectrum management and device licensing for ITS use of 5.9 GHz band; standards assurance and device authorisation; threat vulnerability and risk assessment (TVRA).
- CAV6057: Directions to C-ITS Deployment will consider telecommunication technology options to support C-ITS and identify and assess the emerging aspects of C-ITS nationally and internationally in the last 5 years, and consider an updated strategic planning approach for future C-ITS deployment.

- CAV6060: Strategic Direction for Security in C-ITS will set the strategic direction and requirements for C-ITS security, which will be needed to ensure that C-ITS that is deployed locally has a consistent and effective approach to security management.
- CAV2107: Automated vehicles – Framework for Road Operations has commenced. It is anticipated the project will be completed in mid-2018. It will identify and assess a range of emerging and likely on-road use cases for AVs (e.g. platooning, automated highway pilot, stop/start urban driving, drop-off/pick-up, etc). Priority use cases will be identified and analysed, with recommended actions developed for road operators on how to best support them.
- CAV2108: Automated vehicles – Framework for Registration & Licensing has commenced. The project will assess high-level impacts of the NTC proposed Safety Assurance System (SAS) for automated vehicles.
- CAV6056: Implications of traffic sign recognition systems on road operators commenced. Scheduled for completion in late 2018, it will include recommendations for changes to Austroads' Guides, Australian Standards, and road operator practices and policies. This project will investigate the issue that in-vehicle sign recognition systems are not able to read all current road signs, particularly speed signs.

Information on all Austroads projects is available from the Austroads website at: www.austroads.com.au

Collaboration

Reports on activities associated with Austroads were also considered from:

- ARRB
- ALGA
- BITRE
- NTC
- CPEE
- NHVR
- ACRS

Presentation

Kaikoura Rebuild

During lunch, New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) Board member, Tommy Parker, provided a presentation on the 2016 Kaikoura earthquake. This was a magnitude 7.8 earthquake in the South Island of New Zealand that occurred two minutes after midnight on 14 November 2016.

A 110km stretch of the Kaikoura Coast was uplifted following the earthquake dramatically effecting wildlife and severely damaging the coastline and road and rail infrastructure.

With close to a million cubic metres of rock and material falling onto the coastal transport corridor, Kaikoura and the surrounding rural communities were isolated – all roads and the rail network in and out of the area were damaged and closed by the slips.

This major event disrupted the lives of many. The North Canterbury Transport Infrastructure Recovery alliance was set-up to restore the road and rail networks. Reopening is scheduled for December 2017.

NZTA has been presented with many challenges in the rebuild, including, engineering, environmental including wildlife and human. Community engagement has been key in the process.

Next Austroads Meeting

The next Austroads Board meeting will be held on Thursday 12 April 2018 in Sydney, NSW.

Subsequent meetings are currently scheduled for:

- Thursday 5 July 2018, Darwin NT
- Thursday 1 November 2018, Brisbane Qld.