

Communiqué

Austrroads Board Meeting No. 40
27 May 2021 | Teleconference



The Austrroads Board met on 27 May 2021 via teleconference. The meeting was chaired by Neil Scales, Director-General, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.

New Projects 2021-22

The Board approved the following projects for funding starting in the 2021-22 financial year.

Transport Infrastructure	
Assets	AAM6326 Guide to Digital Engineering AAM6327 Strategy and action plan for a national code of practice to manage utilities in roads
Bridges	ABT6328 Assessment of bridge structural capacity
Project Delivery	APD6336 Optimising project delivery performance – Stage 2
Pavements	APT6329 Method for considering remaining life in the design of pavement rehabilitation treatments APT6330 Improved mechanistic empirical procedure for reflective cracking in the design of asphalt overlays APT6331 Asphalt laboratory fatigue relationship – Stage 1 utilisation of the existing data APT6333 Inspection of Coober Pedy trial sites and testing of binders APT6248 AustPADS Update
Road Tunnels	ART6334 Design, delivery and testing of road tunnel aesthetic features – best practice approaches ART6335 Road tunnel wall panels – best practice approaches
Road Safety and Design	
Registration and Licensing	SRL6340 Heavy Vehicle Hazard Perception Test SRL6312 Assessing Fitness to Drive Implementation: Phase 1 and Phase 2 SRL6325 Driver Licensing Guidelines SRL6348 Digital Driver Licences
Road Design	SRD6320 Update to Guide to Road Design Part 1 – design exceptions and extended design domain SRD6319 Update to Guide to Road Design – detailed review of supplements SRD6321 Update to Guide to Road Design Part 3 – narrow medians, wide centre lines and central barriers
Road Safety	SAG6317 Update to Guide to Road Safety Part 2: Safe Roads SAG6323 Update to Austrroads online road safety applications SAG6343 National harmonisation of road safety audit practices SAG6316 National Roadmap on driver distraction: Stage 2 Implementation Governance and Delivery SAG6318 Update to Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme (LAMS)
Transport Network Operations (additional projects will be considered by the Board in August)	
Freight	NEF6349 Pilot Web-Portal to Provide Access to Integrated Heavy Vehicle Movement and Road Infrastructure Data
Future Vehicles & Technology	
	FCA6314 Connected vehicle and road agency data exchange FCA6339 Foundational research into the potential role of 5G technology in vehicle and infrastructure connectivity FCA6347 Consistent evaluation and reporting of automated vehicle trials FDI6338 Addition of electric, hybrid and automated vehicle attributes in NEVDIS
Environment and Sustainability	
	EAS6346 Environment and Sustainability Reporting Review
National Exchange of Vehicle and Driver Information System NEVDIS	
	NEV6350: Safety Recall Restrictions in NEVDIS NEV6251: Personal Property Securities Register (PPSR) Enhancements NEV6252: Austrroads Data Repository

Work Program 2020-21

There are 100 projects approved for the 2020-21 work program. The table below details the status of the projects as at 31 March 2021.

Status	Transport Infrastructure	Future Vehicles + Technology	Transport Network Operations	Safety + Design	Total
Complete	9	2	14	5	30
Active	30	8	11	17	66
Pending start	1	-	2	1	4
Total approved	40	10	27	23	100

Priority Projects

Road Asset Data Standard

The existing Knowledge Sharing Platform functionality is currently being extended to support automated reporting. The reporting functionality will be in place by June 2021 for user testing, with a proof of concept completed by September. Marsden Jacob have been engaged to develop costs and benefit estimates for a comprehensive Data Quality Improvement Program.

Temporary Traffic Management

An implementation project manager has been appointed to develop an implementation plan for consideration and endorsement by the Temporary Traffic Management Task Force.

Harmonisation of Funding for Class 1 and 2 Heavy Vehicles Permit Application Assessments

Austrroads is undertaking a nationwide review of the funding mechanisms for Class 1 and 2 heavy vehicles permit application assessments to identify options for national harmonisation. Frontier Economics has been engaged to undertake Stage 1 of this project. The project will be led by the Austrroads Freight Task Force under the Transport Network Operations Program.

Austrroads Technical Specifications

To date, 20 technical specifications have been published, 28 are out for consultation with industry groups, and six are with jurisdictions for feedback. The Austrroads Technical Advisory Group (ATAG) has approved the development of an additional 20 specifications.

Recycled materials in roads

Austrroads is undertaking five projects that could help to improve the use of material diverted from the waste stream in roads and road assets:

- AAM6255 Use of recyclable materials in roads and road assets (now complete)
- APT6249 Protocol for the assessment of waste materials in road surfacing (expected completion October 2021)
- APT6311 Use of crushed glass in road infrastructure (expected completion mid-2021)
- APT6305 Use of road-grade recycled plastics for sustainable asphalt pavement (expected completion early-2022)
- APT6173 National specification for crumb rubber binders in asphalt and seals (expected completion October 2021).

Review of the National Heavy Vehicle Driver Competency Framework: Stage 3

This project aims to develop an exemplar licensing framework for national implementation. The board approved the development of heavy vehicle hazard perception test materials. The project is due for completion in 2022.

Overseas Driver Licensing Policy Review: Stage 2

This project aims to ensure Australia and New Zealand maintain best practice licensing arrangements for overseas drivers for improved road safety outcomes. The project is on track to be completed by the end of 2021.

A National Approach to Measuring Non-fatal Crash Outcomes: Stage 2

This project will use data linkages to improve the measurement of non-fatal hospitalised road injuries in Australia. Austroads has obtained the appropriate ethics permissions and data custodian approvals for all Australian states and territories, except Western Australia. This project, and another project dependent on the data, has been delayed by the inability to access to Western Australia's health data.

Directors

This was the last Board meeting for Robyn Seymour, Deputy Secretary Network Planning and Head of Road Safety, Department of Transport Victoria, and Adrian Beresford-Wylie, Executive Director, Australian Local Government Association. Neil Scales thanked them both for their valuable contribution to the Austroads' Board.

Staff

Michael Nieuwesteeg has been appointed Program Manager, Road Safety and Design. Michael commenced on 22 March 2021 and will be based in the Department of Transport in Melbourne.

Paul Davies was appointed Program Manager, Future Vehicles and Technology, Environment and Sustainability. Paul commenced on 24 March 2021 and is based in the TCA offices in Melbourne. Shortly after commencing, Paul was appointed to act in the General Manager Operations role for six months. Vibeke Matthews of Queensland TMR has been seconded to the Program Manager Role for the period. She commenced on 3 May 2021.

Next Austroads Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday 5 August 2021.