



World Road Congress – Mexico 2011

The World Road Congress was held from 26 to 30 September 2011 in Mexico City. There were approximately 3,000 delegates. The Congress was opened by the President of Mexico. There were 33 ministers participating in the ministers' session, including 20 full ministers and 13 vice ministers.

The Australian and New Zealand delegation was 34 people including the Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, The Honourable Anthony Albanese MP and the National Infrastructure Coordinator, Michael Deegan. The Australian Ambassador to Mexico hosted a reception for members of the delegation and other guests on the evening of Sunday 25 September. This was well attended and well received.

The Congress itself was very successful with a large number of high quality papers and presentations. Australian and New Zealand delegates chaired or made presentations at a number of sessions.

Menno Henneveld, Main Roads Western Australia Managing Director, participated in the opening ceremony, announcing and introducing the winners of the essay competitions, as the Chair of the Communications and International Relations Commission and the President of the judging panel for the competition.

Austroads national office prepared material outlining the operation of the Australian and New Zealand national committee of World Road Association (WRA) which was displayed in the national committees' area of the Congress venue. A presentation on the work of the national committee was also made at the Congress.

New Austroads Publications

Local Government Reminder

All local government organisations can access all Austroads publications electronically for free. This includes the guide publications. For further information please email Austroads. This is only available for electronic copies, hard copy publications still need to be purchased.

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Austroads technical and research reports are available **free** as PDFs from the Austroads website www.austroads.com.au. Please sign up for [RoadWatch](#) to be alerted of all Austroads publications as they become available.

Documentation and Quality Control of Benefit-Cost Analyses (AP-R390-11)

The purpose of this document is to develop and present a catalogue/checklist of items, which can be employed by transport agencies and their practitioners and consultants to properly document the methodology, data, analysis and results of project appraisals. In the past, there have been deficiencies in the way benefit cost analysis (BCA) has been documented and implemented across road transport projects in Australia. In particular, this document presents a 'metadata' analysis framework to promote organisational learning and quality improvement in the processes of project appraisal, funding and budgeting, and prioritisation of investment, as well as repeatability and consistency of project evaluation analysis, when required. [Link to AP-R390-11 here.](#)

Valuation of Travel Time Reliability: A Review of Current Practice (AP-R391-11)

This report introduces key methodologies and the associated challenges with regard to defining and measuring travel time reliability, in particular, for improving the valuation of travel time in project appraisal by Australian jurisdictions. This is in line with the main objective of the project to conduct a review of international practice on key methodologies on the valuation of travel time reliability for road transport project evaluation. [Link to AP-R391-11 here.](#)

Small Travel Time Savings: Treatment in Project Evaluations (AP-R392-11)

The purpose of this report is to identify, review and compile existing literature on small travel time savings, and the current practice of considering the notion of small travel time savings in project evaluation. The review discusses both work and non-work travel time savings. In Australia and New Zealand, current practice does not distinguish between small and substantial travel time savings in project evaluation. [Link to AP-R392-11 here.](#)

Speed-flow Relationships: Implications of Project Appraisal (AP-R393-11)

The report includes a literature review of speed-flow curves, review of practices across jurisdictions, implications of speed-flow curves for project appraisal, harmonisation of speed-flow curves. A range of speed-flow curve relationships is currently in use by road authorities across jurisdictions in Australia. These speed-flow relationships are used by these authorities in carrying out road project evaluations of mostly urban and, to a lesser degree, rural road projects in Australia. The way some of these relationships are specified becomes more critical when volume-capacity ratios (VCR) approach and exceed a value of 1.0 because different queuing speeds are assumed at different VCR levels. [Link to AP-R393-11 here.](#)

Establishment of a New Pavement Maintenance Database - Stage 1 and 2 Analysis (AP-R394-11)

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Pavement Maintenance database creation, including documenting the cleaning and filtering of the results. The analysis was performed on SA, VIC, NSW and QLD datasets to identify relationships between periodic maintenance (resealing, surface corrections, patching, etc.) and road condition/usage. A state-of-the-art method of analysis referred to as the minimum message length tool developed for the project (MML NTC) was used specifically for this analysis and is documented within the report. The Database, a joint Austroads/NTC funded project, was developed for the state road authorities of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory. [Link to AP-R384-11 here.](#)

Review of Structural Design Procedures for Foamed Bitumen Pavements (AP-T188-11)

This report presents a review of the available structural design methods for foamed bitumen pavements, as a first step in the development of thickness design procedures. Six design procedures were found in the literature, most of them based on well known pavement design methods (e.g. South African Mechanistic Design Method, Austroads, United Kingdom Transportation Research Laboratory) with some variations to accommodate the observed or assumed behaviour of foamed bitumen pavements into the pavement design. The last part of the report summarises the design methods and presents a case study in which the rehabilitation of one granular pavement was designed using the six design methods. [Link to AP-T188-11 here](#)

Update of Vehicle/Road Relationships Underpinning Road User Costs and Externality Costs – Literature Review (AP-T189-11)

This publication reviews current methodologies for estimating vehicle operating costs (VOC). Recent Austroads work highlighted the need to improve the VOC-road roughness relationship. This report achieves this by conducting a literature review of overseas and local models and establishes if overseas models and recent Australasian work have improved the link between VOC and road roughness. [Link to AP-T189-11 here.](#)

Austroads Publication feedback:

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Austroads Bridge Conference

The conference "Sustainable Bridges: The Thread of Society" to be held from 31 October to 5 November at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre will showcase the achievements from many of the world leaders in the specialist field of bridge engineering.

The conference program includes international speakers, 36 concurrent sessions with 123 oral presentations, challenging topics and workshops complimented by a variety of interesting social events and ending with a technical tour on Saturday 5 November 2011. A conference program can be located [here](#).

Some 50 exhibitors will feature the most up to date information, products and technology available. The exhibition is set to be the primary networking arena for delegates, sponsors and exhibitors.

If you would like to register for the conference or become an exhibitor please visit [here](#).

The newsletter is developed and distributed every two months.

Contributions for future newsletters are always welcome. Please send via email to the Communications Manager at:

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