



Austroads Board Meeting No. 10
Auckland
10 November 2011

COMMUNIQUÉ

The Austroads Board met on 10 November in Auckland New Zealand. Gary Liddle, Austroads Chairman and Chief Executive of VicRoads chaired the meeting. There had been a teleconference Board meeting on 8 September to discuss and agree on a new Partnership agreement with ARRB and new member contributions to cover the cost of the new ARRB charge rates. The previous Board meeting was in July.

In opening the meeting Gary Liddle noted the resignation of Michael Bushby from the Austroads Board. Michael had been Chief Executive of RTA NSW, and Board member of Austroads Ltd. Prior to that he had been an Austroads program manager and an active task force and reference group member. Gary Liddle advised that he had written to Michael Bushby on behalf of Austroads to thank him for his contribution.

With the creation of the new agency, Roads and Maritime Services NSW, from 1 November, a new Chief Executive, Peter Duncan, has been appointed. He will be the member representative for RMS NSW and a director of Austroads Ltd.

New Program manager

Julie Holmes from DPTI SA has taken over the role of R&L program manager from Martin Small who has moved to a new role in DPTI focussing on road safety.

Strategic Planning

A further draft of the Austroads Strategic Plan for 2012–16 was considered at the meeting as well as a more detailed draft operational plan.

The draft Strategic Plan proposes that the current program management approach and program structure are maintained. The strategic priorities from the earlier draft of the plan have been retained and the relationship between the priorities and the programs more clearly explained.

The draft operational plan has been further developed in conjunction with programs. For each program there is an objective and a series of outputs which are intended to be produced over the life of the plan and contribute to the achievement of the objective. Fully developed project proposals and budget for 2012-13 to 2013-14 and indicative budgets for 2014-15 to 2015-16 are to be submitted to the March 2012 Board meeting.

The current structure of task forces, review panels and associated sub-groups is to be reviewed by program managers and submitted to the Board for approval in March 2012.

Partnership agreement between Austroads and ARRB

A new partnership agreement for 2011-12 and subsequent years was approved by the Board at its telephone meeting in September with further work to be undertaken by ARRB on the performance measures in the ARRB business plan for the November meeting. A small ad hoc group has been established to develop performance measures for the ARRB business plan and the partnership agreement.

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National Broadband Network

Austroads has advised the Commonwealth Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy that Austroads will coordinate the individual road agencies on the migration of public infrastructure services such as traffic lights and related traffic management infrastructure onto the National Broadband Network. A working group has been established for this purpose under the auspice of the Network program. An update report was provided.

Cooperative ITS

Cooperative ITS is a new form of intelligent transport system (ITS) that has the potential to achieve substantial improvements in safety, productivity, efficiency and environmental outcomes from the road system. It has been a major area of focus for Austroads in recent times.

Several key milestones have been achieved to date through the Austroads Network program, with input from the Austroads Safety and Freight programs, along with the National Transport Commission, and Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Transport.

Austroads will propose to ACMA that Austroads take on the role as the entity responsible for the management of the spectrum for cooperative ITS applications in Australia in the short to medium term.

This role will be undertaken by the national office with additional resources for that purpose and with a steering committee and an industry reference group comprising representatives from authorities and industry providing support and advice.

Accreditation for Australian standard certification of helmets and child restraints

Austroads has been seeking a uniform regulatory approach to improve assurance on certification to Standards Australia. The Austroads Safety task force has been investigating appropriate standards. Comparative assessments of helmets have been undertaken using a number of different international standards to enable evidence-based decisions on their acceptance. The report on this work is expected to be available shortly.

Traffic Speed Deflectograph Data

There is considerable community investment in Australian and New Zealand road pavements which must be maintained in order to continue to provide an effective service to the road users. Road authorities have been examining the value of network level strength data and the ways this data could improve decision making. In 2009-10 New South Wales Roads and Traffic Authority engaged the Danish Road Directorate to bring a new technology for traffic speed strength data collection, the Traffic Speed Deflectometer (TSD), to Australia for trials. Austroads conducted a small project in conjunction with this work to develop an independent national perspective on the applicability of the TSD to Australian conditions and practices. The potential for this technology to be adopted across jurisdictions is still under consideration. Further work is to be undertaken by the Assets program to further examine the value of network level strength data and a report produced for consideration in mid 2012.

Mexico Congress

The World Road Congress was held from 26 to 30 September 2011 in Mexico City. Austroads coordinated the Australian and New Zealand delegation which included the Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon Anthony Albanese and the Infrastructure Coordinator,

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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. 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.

Recognition of Austroads as the WRA national committee for Australia and New Zealand

Currently there is a separate Australian and New Zealand National Committee of the World Road Association (WRA). In practice Austroads operates as the national committee for WRA. The WRA criteria for national committees were recently changed to allow an existing organisation to be recognised as the national committee for WRA by way of a memorandum of understanding between the organisation and WRA. As a result, at the recent WRA meetings in Mexico, AASHTO was recognised as the national committee for the USA.

Austroads will seek to have WRA recognise it as the national committee for Australia and New Zealand with WRA in the same way as AASHTO has been recognised. A draft MoU has been prepared and submitted to WRA for its consideration.

Austroads office bearers for 2012

The Board appointed Gary Liddle as Chair for a further one year term. Peter Todd was appointed Deputy Chair for a one year term. The Executive Committee will be Gary Liddle, Peter Todd, a person to be advised from DoIT, Colin Crampton and Murray Kidnie.

Austroads awards

Austroads awards are made to recognise the contribution of individuals to the work of Austroads. The awards are important because Austroads operates on the basis that the people doing work for Austroads, usually staff of Austroads member organisations, are doing that work in addition to their regular work for their own organisation. Austroads Achievement Awards were made to:

- David Pratt – RMS NSW
- Lisa Steinmetz – ARRB Group
- Tony Carbone – DPTI SA

Progress with the work program for 2011-12

Project status as at 30 September was:

Program	Active	Completed/deferred	Total
Assets	16	4	20
Capability	6	0	6
Freight	8	0	8
Network	20	0	20
R&L	11	0	11
Safety	21	2	23
Technology	39	5	44
Total	121	11	132

Details of the projects in the 2011-12 work program are available on the Austroads website.

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Reports

Austrroads also considered reports from the following organisations:

- ARRB Group
- Australian Local Government Association
- Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
- National Transport Commission
- Transport Certification Australia Ltd.

Future meetings

The next Austrroads Board meeting will be in Hobart on 29 March 2012.