

Communiqué

Austrroads Board Meeting No. 25
13 October 2016 | Melbourne



The Austrroads Board met on 13 October 2016 in Melbourne, Victoria. Neil Scales, Director-General for the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads chaired the meeting.

Governance

The Austrroads Ltd Annual General Meeting was held immediately prior to this meeting and chaired by Peter Duncan. He advised his two-year term as Chairman of Austrroads was now complete and coincided with his retirement.

The Austrroads Board determined new appointments to important leadership positions on the Board and Executive Committee:

- Neil Scales be appointed to the office of Chairperson of Austrroads Ltd for a two-year term.
- Shane Gregory be appointed to the office of Deputy Chairperson of Austrroads Ltd for a two-year term.
- Three directors be appointed to the Executive Committee until the Board meeting of October/November 2017 in addition to the Chair, Deputy Chair and Chief Executive. The Executive Committee comprises: Neil Scales - DTMR QLD (Chair), Shane Gregory - DoSG Tas (Deputy Chair), Nick Koukoulas (Chief Executive), Paul Gelston - DPTI SA, Tommy Parker - NZTA NZ and Peter Todd VicRoads Vic.

In accepting the position of Chairperson, Neil acknowledged the excellent work of outgoing Chairperson, Peter Duncan AM who has served on the Austrroads Board for five years and as Chair since November 2014. Peter had recently been appointed to the position of Chair of the ARRB Board which provides a line of continuity and direction for that organisation.

Neil is the first Queensland Chair of the Board since Mr Alan Tesch, former Associate Director-General held the role from 2007-2009. As Director-General of the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Neil has responsibility for an operating budget of \$6.021 billion, capital budget of \$3.133 billion and managed assets worth \$57.5 billion. He is also the current Australian first delegate to the World Road Association international road organisation.

Strategic Projects

The Board has identified a number of high priority strategic streams of work and an update on these are provided below.

- **Funding and Financing Options for Remote and Regional Roads, Including Developer Contributions**
This project is now complete. The [final report](#) was published on 22 August 2016.
- **Community Service Obligations (CSOs) for Roads**
Consultancy Agreement with Marsden Jacob has been signed and work is underway. A suitable methodology for identifying CSOs, establishing baseline service standards and valuing the CSOs will be the main objective of this work. It is expected that the project will be completed by June 2017.
- **Investigation of Potential Registration and Licensing Issues with the Introduction of Automated Vehicles (AVs)**
The first draft of the final report was delivered in early July, and has been distributed to the CAV steering committee and R&L task force for review. The final draft report is anticipated 30 October.
- **Assessment of Key Road Agency Actions to Support Automated Vehicles**
The consultant Parsons Brinckerhoff is working through feedback received and updating the draft final report. Intention is to have a final draft report by 30 October.

- **Data Harmonisation**

Stage 3 of the Data Standard for Road Management and Investment in Australia and New Zealand project has commenced. This stage involves further development of the Data Standard to enable its implementation in Australia and New Zealand. It also includes refining and updating the implementation strategy, business case and impact statements.

- **Congestion and Reliability**

The meeting considered the summary of the key findings of the Congestion and Reliability Review. It was agreed that the Congestion and Reliability Review be published, including the Main Report (with appendices) and Summary Report.

TISOC also noted that Austroads is currently progressing a review of work that has been undertaken by jurisdictions around congestion and reliability monitoring with a view to informing potential cost effective options for ongoing reporting.

- **Safety at Road Worksites**

Safety at road worksites is a strategically important issue for Austroads member agencies and industry. The Board has previously endorsed a four-part reform program to facilitate the introduction of a harmonised approach to Temporary Traffic Control at Road Worksites across Australasia.

It is proposed that Austroads will assume responsibility for the establishment and management of a Guide to Temporary Traffic Management Practice. A preliminary framework for the ten-part Guide series will be based on the holistic approach adopted by the New Zealand Code of Practice to Temporary Traffic Management.

- **OECD/ITF Safe System Implementation**

[The final report](#) has now been released. The report describes a paradigm shift in road safety policy, being led by a handful of countries, according to the principles of a Safe System. Austroads has provided significant investment in the development of this high profile and important report and the Board recognised the work of Iain Cameron and Colin Brodie in this project. Iain Cameron, representing Austroads, chaired the OECD/ITF Safe System Implementation Working Group in recognition of Australia's work progressing the Safe System. Colin Brodie was invited to participate as a chapter lead in recognition of the practical safe system implementation being progressed in New Zealand.

Research Work Program

The Board recognised that the implementation of the new Program structure has been very smooth and the new Program Managers and Coordinators are doing an excellent job. The Board has confidence in the Program Managers to lead their respective programs of work and provide the outcomes the Board is seeking.

2015-16

There were 148 projects approved in the 2015-16 work program, with 99 projects continuing from previous financial years and 49 new projects starting in 2015-16. There were 37 projects scheduled for completion in 2015-16. Seventeen were completed on schedule.

During 2015-16 a total of 62 projects were completed, two projects were cancelled and one was deferred, making a total of 65. At 30 June 2016, there were two projects overdue by more than 12 months and a further one by more than six months.

2016-17

The 2016-17 work program has commenced with a total of 121 active projects – 83 projects have carried over from 2015-16 and there are 38 new projects. Sixteen projects have been completed and there are currently 105 active projects.

The status of the 2016-17 work program as at 16 September 2016 is summarised in the table below.

	Assets	Network	Safety	Connected and Automated Vehicles	Other / NEVDIS / NGTSM	Total
Complete	5	9	2	-	-	16
Cancelled / Abandoned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deferred	-	-	-	-	-	-
Active	46	28	27	4	-	105
Total approved	51	37	29	4	-	121

Program Reports

Assets Program

Investment was endorsed for the digital engineering strategic initiative, collaborative work with Building SMART and Swinburne University, to investigate location referencing systems.

Network Program

A review of the National Cycling Strategy 2011-16 is currently being undertaken by the Commonwealth. The current Strategy expired in December 2016 and its extension to December 2017 was endorsed by the Ministerial Council (TIC) at its August 2016 meeting. It has been agreed that any future strategy should address active travel. The bi-annual cycling participation survey will be undertaken mid-2017.

Safety Program

David Bobbermen was invited to attend the Federal Minister's RoundTable convened by the Honorable Darren Chester at Parliament House on 5 September to identify ways to address current national road safety issues. A document, which collated the current directions of the Austroads Safety Program was submitted and well received. He will also be attending the next Federal Minister's RoundTable meeting in Perth on 3 November, the day prior to the Ministerial Council (TIC) meeting.

The Hazard Perception Test project is progressing well. South Australian Company, Monkeystack, has completed the production of the animated storyboards and preliminary greybox clips which is the first stage of clip production. Monkeystack has also completed the production of 10 car and 10 motorcycle 3D CGI clips which have been provided to the Australian Council of Educational Research (ACER) for usability testing.

Strategic Priorities 2017-2018

The Board identified the following priority work streams: skills and capabilities; declining revenue streams; and road safety. Project proposals addressing these strategic streams are to be developed for submission to the April 2017 Board meeting.

Ongoing strategic priority work will continue and be further developed in the following streams: connected and automated vehicles; safety at road worksites; and data harmonisation / digital engineering / Building Information Modelling.

Australian Transport Assessment and Planning (ATAP) Guidelines

Stage 2 of the review of the National Guidelines for Transport System Management in Australia has been completed. The Transport and Infrastructure Council agreed to release of the Guidelines under the new name of the Australian Transport Assessment and Planning (ATAP) Guidelines.

The ATAP Steering Committee is scoping the next stage of work and prioritising future research projects and will take the potential work program to TISOC out-of-session.

During the Guidelines update a need was identified to commission new research in four areas: value of travel time reliability, distribution of values of travel time savings, value of time savings for freight and value of time savings for light commercial vehicles (LCVs).

Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAV)

The Ministerial Council (TIC) endorsed the National Policy Framework for Land Transport Technology in August 2016. The document includes policy principles and actions (14) that are specific to automated vehicles (AVs). Austroads has responsibility for three and involvement in a further four.

Austroads has been working closely with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), the regulator of radiofrequency spectrum in Australia. ACMA announced in early August 2016 that is commencing public consultation on its proposal to formally allocate ITS use of the 5.9 GHz band. A consultation paper and proposed device licence was released. Austroads will make a submission.

The CAV program of work for 2016-17 and additional resourcing was endorsed by the Board at its meeting in July 2016. The recruitment and selection process has been completed and two Project Managers and two Technical Support staff have been selected.

The Board supported a Roads Australia proposal to host a major forum in Brisbane in early 2017 to discuss autonomous roll-out next policy steps. More details were requested on a Roads Australia proposal to hold an international study tour in April 2017 to update members on international preparedness for the autonomous roll out.

National Exchange of Vehicle and Driver Information System (NEVDIS)

The NEVDIS Major Projects Governance Model was endorsed by the Board. The NEVDIS Administration Unit (NAU) has embarked on a major project to re-platform and rewrite the NEVDIS application. The evaluation of cloud service providers, the first stage of the re-platform project, has now been completed.

World Road Association (WRA) and 2023 World Road Congress

The World Road Association (WRA) Council meeting took place on 21-22 September 2016 at Cape Town South Africa. Neil Scales has been nominated to the Strategic Planning Commission and Nick Koukoulas to the Communications Commission for the current four-year cycle.

The 2015 World Road Congress was held in Seoul, South Korea and the 2019 Congress will be held in Abu Dhabi UAE. At the TISOC meeting held in Hobart on 16 September 2016, it was agreed that Austroads would explore the opportunity to bid for the 2023 World Congress for Australia.

Austroads Bridge Conference 2017 (ABC2017)

The 10th Austroads Bridge Conference, being held 3 to 6 April 2017 in Melbourne, is being hosted and organised by VicRoads. At this stage there is significant interest in the conference. More information is available on the conference website www.abc2017.com.au

Next Austroads Meeting

The next Austroads Board meeting will be held on Thursday 6 April 2017 in Hobart Tasmania.