

## Newsletter 12 August 2009

### ***PCIS – 1st year review meeting***

As you are aware, the PCIS support contract was awarded to TRL and Atkins at the end of June 2008. Work on the contract began following the inception meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July. To mark the end of the first year, Chris Capps (Cambridgeshire) who chairs the Pavement Condition Management Group and manages the PCIS support contract for the UK Roads Board, held the first year project review meeting at Crowthorne to:

- Review progress over the first year of the PCIS support contract and
- Discuss plans and programme of work for the second year.

The slides discussed at the meeting are available on the UKPMS website (at [http://www.ukpms.com/tech\\_docs/techdocsdynamic.asp?techdocsID=59](http://www.ukpms.com/tech_docs/techdocsdynamic.asp?techdocsID=59)).

Chris is very pleased with the progress of the project, highlights of which have been summarised through the year in these Newsletters.

Looking forward, he thought that putting the recommendations of the Review of UKPMS Core Functionality into practice would be the most important opportunity and challenge. It will need investment from the Department for Transport (DfT) to fund research to support the technical developments, and by the UKPMS developers to put the changes into practice. Following consultation with the Roads Board Advisory Group, and other parties, the revised final report is currently with the UK Roads Board for their endorsement (see PCIS Newsletter 11, July 2009, for more details).

Chris would welcome any feedback which you may like to share with him regarding how the support contract has gone in its first year. If you have any comments, suggestions or criticisms (hopefully constructive) please send them to him at [chris.capps@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.capps@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

### ***Two new working groups***

The DfT has set up two new “task and finish” working groups, which met in London for the first time on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July. TRL is providing support to both groups under the national database project. Two further meetings are being arranged in September and October.

### ***Road Condition Publication Group (RCPG)***

The remit of this group is to determine the form and content of the 2008 English road condition publication, due to be published by the end of 2009.

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At this first meeting the RCPG agreed its terms of reference; reviewed the results of the 2006 NRMCS user consultation; discussed a detailed presentation on the scope of the national database; considered the future requirements for the skidding resistance survey and the carriageway work done survey; and agreed the future work programme for the group.



The group, which is chaired by Anna Heyworth (DfT, statistics) includes representatives from Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire, Scotland, Sheffield, Transport for London, the Highways Agency and the DfT, although not all could be present at the first meeting.

## **Unclassified Road Condition Data Group (URCDG)**

The remit of this group is to determine the need for unclassified road condition data at a national level and develop a feasible implementation plan for gathering them.

In November 2008 Matthew Lugg wrote to local authorities on behalf of the CSS, inviting them to contribute the results from their CVI surveys on unclassified roads as the basis for a national report on their condition. (Newsletters 5 and 6 and the special bulletin published in March 2009). The data was collected and analysed by TRL on behalf of the CSS.

At this first meeting the URCDG agreed its terms of reference, discussed presentations on the results of the CSS survey and the research project on smaller, quicker, cheaper carriageway condition surveys for minor roads (also known as mini-SCANNER) and hence agreed the future work programme for the group.

The group, which is also chaired by Anna Heyworth (DfT, statistics), includes representatives from Birmingham, Cambridgeshire, Devon, East Ayrshire, Hampshire, Leicestershire, Scotland and the DfT, although not all could be present at the first meeting.



## **UKPMS proposed changes for 2010**

The annual round for improvements in UKPMS commenced in April, as announced in Newsletter 7, March 2009. The Rules and Parameters 9.01 are currently being tested by the UKPMS developers, in preparation for the 2009 Annual Health Check.

There are three main changes proposed for this year (which will be available to users early next year):

- Incorporating the new Footway Coarse Network Survey, developed by the FCMG (Newsletter 5 – January 2009)
- Incorporating a method of calculating Depreciated Replacement Cost from CVI, or DVI or SCANNER survey results, using a method developed on behalf of the HAMFIG (Newsletter 9 – May 2009)
- Introducing Edge Treatment Rules based on SCANNER data.

These are interim changes, intended to keep UKPMS up to date until there is a decision on implementing the recommendations of the review of core functionality.

## **SCANNER QA review**

As part of the Pavement Condition Information Systems support contract TRL's performance of the SCANNER QA contract is being reviewed through the PCIS contract. A specification for a new contract will follow on from the review. In order to separate the review of the SCANNER QA contract from the QA work, the review is being led by a panel including local authority representatives, SCANNER survey contractors and other clients, supported by Atkins (Mike Gibb) and Andrew Gallagher. The panel met for the first time in Birmingham on the 8<sup>th</sup> April (Newsletter 7 – March 2009).

The panel includes representatives from the Highways Agency, the DfT, the three SCANNER survey contractors, the SRMCS, Lancashire, Southampton and Birmingham.

The panel will be meeting again on 25th August, to consider our findings from the review; our proposals for the new approach to SCANNER acceptance testing, QA and audit, and our proposals for the specification for the new SCANNER QA contract.

If you have any comments about the SCANNER Accreditation, QA and Audit contract, please would you send them to Mike Gibb ([mike.gibb@ukpms.com](mailto:mike.gibb@ukpms.com)).

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## **Roads Board Advisory Group**

The next meeting of the UK Roads Board Advisory Group will be on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September. This meeting is expected to take place in Derby.

If there are any issues you would like us to bring to their attention, please send them to Layla Baldachin ([lbaldachin@trl.co.uk](mailto:lbaldachin@trl.co.uk)) as soon as possible.

## **Regional Seminars – Getting the most from Pavement Condition Information Systems**

A series of one day seminars for those involved in pavement asset management within local authorities and their service providers will be held in September and October.

The events in Newcastle and Manchester are very soon now so if you would like to attend these then please let us know as soon as possible.

With interest expected to be high, attendance may be limited to two delegates per organisation, so booking is essential. If you wish to attend these free events please send your contact details and preferred location to us at [smcrobbie@trl.co.uk](mailto:smcrobbie@trl.co.uk).

### **Venues and dates**

- Newcastle, 10<sup>th</sup> September
- Manchester, 11<sup>th</sup> September
- Bristol, 24<sup>th</sup> September
- London, 9<sup>th</sup> October

With guest speakers from local highway authorities that are leading the way in pavement asset management, you will see examples of good practice and learn ways to maximise the benefits the data and systems offer and how these can lead to significant, measureable cost efficiencies.

For further information, please contact Stuart McRobbie: ([smcrobbie@trl.co.uk](mailto:smcrobbie@trl.co.uk)).



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## Contact details

You are welcome to pass a copy of this bulletin on to anyone else who may be interested in the subject.

If you wish to be added to the circulation list for future newsletters, please email your details to us at [newsletter@ukpms.com](mailto:newsletter@ukpms.com).

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