

## Newsletter 15 December 2009

### *Season's Greetings*

The PCIS contract team send you their best wishes for the Christmas holidays and the New Year.



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### *PCIS support contract progress*

The PCIS support contract was let at the end of June 2008, for three years and the end of December 2009 marks the half way stage. The main objective of this contract is:

**"to support local highways authorities in their use of information technology to deliver their road service".**

This commission, awarded on behalf of the UK Roads Board, is intended to help all stakeholders perceive stability, consistency and commitment in the development of road condition measurement and pavement management systems. We were specifically required to:

- Promote the use of pavement management systems (PMS) and SCANNER in local authorities;
- Support commercial suppliers in the implementation of future UKPMS and SCANNER specifications; and
- Support the industry in the development of other data sources and their interface with PMS.

We hope we have met your requirements and expectations and welcome feedback and suggestions from you on any aspect of PCIS.

## UK Roads Board

The UK Roads Board last met in London on 30<sup>th</sup> October when it approved its business plan for the next three years.

At this meeting the Board received a detailed report on the work of the Road Condition Publication Group and the Unclassified Road Condition Data Group (described in PCIS Newsletter 14).

Also received and discussed were reports from the, Asset Management; Footways and Cycle Tracks; and Pavement Condition technical subgroups along with feedback from the Roads Board Advisory Group (RBAG; and a number of other topics were considered. Its next meeting will be on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

The Roads Board website: <http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/roads/index.htm> has been revised and updated – for example with the new business plan, and the minutes of meetings.

## Pavement Condition Management Group

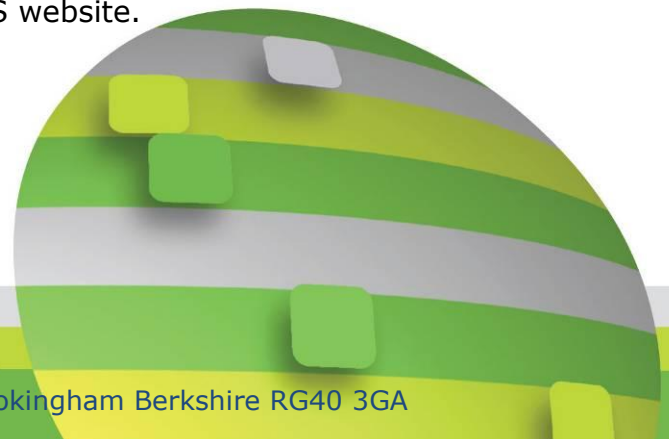
The PCMG met on 4<sup>th</sup> November at the DfT in London. The Group received feedback from the Roads Board; discussed service levels and user preferences; progress of the PCIS contract; the recommendations from the review of UKPMS core functionality; condition of unclassified roads; calculating DRC for carriageways; UKPMS developments in 2009 and the requirements of the Annual Health Check; SCANNER accreditation and QA; and future work plans for the RBAG and the PCMG.



Andy Bailey (formerly with Hertfordshire Highways), who has joined the DfT team to strengthen their road asset management team, attended the meeting.

Andy is on the left, with Chris Capps (Cambridgeshire) who chairs the PCMG and Edward Bunting (DfT) on the right.

Summary information about the topics discussed is available on the PCIS website (<http://www.pcis.org.uk/index.php?p=1/5/0>) under "Groups"; "PCMG". All papers from the meeting can be viewed by PCMG members (log in with a password), However, in the future we intend to make some (but not all) of the documents available to everyone via the PCIS website.



## **PCIS project team meeting**

The PCIS project team met at TRL on 13<sup>th</sup> November. We reviewed progress to date and discussed the critical success factors for the project. These were listed under the headings:

- Making a difference
  - Reputation
    - Communication
      - Usefulness
        - Relevance
          - Technical quality

We will monitor our progress against these critical factors at future meetings to help ensure we deliver the service you need.

We also reviewed the progress and plans for each of the four work streams within the project:-

- Liaison and Project Steering
  - Product Development
    - Accreditation, QA and Audit
      - Technology Promotion

Among this year's particular achievements we identified setting up the Roads Board Advisory Group, completing the review of UKPMS core functionality, opening the new PCIS website and the successful round of Regional seminars in the autumn.

Looking forward, the most important external driver is developing the support for asset management required by roads authorities. Pavement Condition Information Systems are one of the key elements within an asset management plan approach, as carriageways and footways are together the most valuable part of local authorities transport assets, and generally require the greatest part of maintenance expenditure.

The single most critical decision in delivering the business requirements of roads authorities is whether funding can be found to take forward the recommendations in the Review of UKPMS core functionality. The UK Roads Board has endorsed the report and recommended it to the DfT for funding. The project report is being published as TRL Published Project Report PPR 458.

## Unclassified Road Condition Data

Matthew Lugg (Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management at Leicestershire County Council) has written to local highway authorities in England about continuing to monitor the condition of their unclassified roads.

*"I write as the chairman of the CSS Engineering Committee, to ask for your continuing support for our initiative to maintain consistent reporting of the condition of unclassified roads in England, and to remind you to plan surveys to collect information on the condition of your footways next year.*

*"Many local authorities have continued to use regular UKPMS visual surveys to measure the carriageway condition of their unclassified local roads, as the basis for managing their maintenance programmes, and to support the delivery of their asset management plans. Until a better alternative is developed, I strongly recommend that you should continue to carry out regular surveys of the condition of your unclassified roads using the accredited CVI or DVI surveys.*

*"These surveys, processed through UKPMS accredited pavement management systems, are also being used by the Department for Transport (DfT) to produce an overall national assessment of the condition of unclassified roads.*

*"In response to my letter last year, more than 80% of the local highway authorities in England have contributed the results from their CVI (and DVI) surveys, covering more than 90% of the length of unclassified road carriageways, to a national data gathering exercise. As a result of this excellent response, the DfT has agreed to include the results in their forthcoming publication "Road Condition England 2009.*

*"I do hope that your authority will continue to support this initiative to ensure that you have consistent and reliable information on the condition of your unclassified roads that are so important for all your local residents."*

TRL has offered to assist the CSS gather and collate these data, and Tom Evans ([tevans@trl.co.uk](mailto:tevans@trl.co.uk)) will be writing to all local authorities in England, to invite them to contribute their results.

## **DCD software accreditation**

The Data Capture Device (DCD) forms one important link in the chain from the highway inspector's eye to the pavement management system. The software in the DCD is designed to make the process of recording and reporting the observed defects, and pavement condition, as simple and straightforward as possible. But it also needs to be consistent between different manufacturers and service providers, and between different generations of the software.

DCD software was originally tested some years ago. Since then there have been changes in the UKPMS specification, specifically in volume 2 of the UKPMS User Guide, which replaced the Visual Survey Manual in 2005, was amended in 2007, and revised earlier this year.

Over past months we have been working with the developers of the DCD software to produce a new set of acceptance and accreditation tests. As a pilot test, they have been applied to one developer's system and will now be refined, and issued to all DCD software developers for their comments.

If you provide DCD software to load visual survey data to UKPMS accredited systems, and would like to be consulted about the final format of the tests, or to have your system(s) tested, please would you contact Matt Evans at TRL – [mevans@trl.co.uk](mailto:mevans@trl.co.uk) (01344 770657).

## **SCANNER Accreditation, QA and Audit**

The Department for Transport has extended the contract with TRL for SCANNER accreditation, QA and Audit for a (final) fifth year, until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

TRL's report on the contract in 2008-09 has been published as TRL Published Project Report PPR457, and a copy will be placed on the PCIS website.

One part of the contract is to investigate difficulties local authorities may have with data provided from SCANNER accredited machines. Although the resources for this task are limited, TRL would welcome enquiries from local authority clients who have concerns about SCANNER data. You can write to the SCANNER e-mail address ([scanner@trl.co.uk](mailto:scanner@trl.co.uk)) or telephone the help desk (01344 770480).

## Visual Survey Inspector Accreditation

The system of inspector testing and accreditation, provided by Scott Wilson; Yotta and WDM and co-ordinated on behalf of the UK Roads Board under the PCIS support contract, has continued to be well supported. So far, in 2009 42 inspectors have been tested, of whom 36 have passed the accreditation test.

With the introduction of SCANNER surveys on all classified roads, and the development of the new Footway Network Survey, the requirements for inspector accreditation have been evolving. Inspectors may be accredited to carry out CVI surveys – either walked or driven; to carry out DVI surveys – either DVI footways (alone) or DVI footways and carriageways (combined) or the new Footway Network Survey. In future we anticipate developing and offering a combined accreditation for DVI footways and FNS as a further option.

If you would like to arrange an inspector accreditation test, please contact [visualsurvey@trl.co.uk](mailto:visualsurvey@trl.co.uk).

## UKPMS Annual Health Check

The 2009 UKPMS Annual Health Check is now well under way. The test package was issued to developers on 1<sup>st</sup> October, and the developers have been working through the tests. There are three main areas of change for UKPMS in 2009:

- incorporating the requirements for calculating financial information for assets, (GRC and DRC)
- incorporating the requirements for the Footway Network Survey, and
- adding edge treatment rules for SCANNER data

As there had been some delays in finalising requirements for asset financial information (with HAMFIG) and for footway treatment rules (with FCMG) it has been agreed to extend the time for completing the tests this year. The revised completion date for the 2009 AHC is now 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

Several local authorities have asked about the requirements for data and processing to produce National Indicators (in England). None of the four national governments (England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland) has requested any changes in the requirements for gathering and processing survey data for reporting carriageway condition (and hence performance). Therefore the requirements for reporting in 2010 will be unchanged from 2009.

## Future Newsletters

The really keen eyed readers may have noticed that there was no PCIS Newsletter issued in October. We originally planned to issue Newsletters every couple of months or so, but there has been more than enough to report most months since we started in September last year.

Just a note to say that in future we may not issue a newsletter every month (if there is nothing really newsworthy). They are numbered in sequence, so you can easily check and see whether you may have missed any since the previous one. Furthermore, you do not need to keep your own copy, as there is an archive on the PCIS website (<http://www.pcis.org.uk/index.php?p=4/2/0>).

## Contact details

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

If you wish to be added to (or removed from) the circulation list please email your details to us at [newsletter@ukpms.com](mailto:newsletter@ukpms.com).

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| We welcome your comments and questions at: | <a href="mailto:newsletter@ukpms.com">newsletter@ukpms.com</a>     |
| The PCIS website is at:                    | <a href="http://www.pcis.org.uk">http://www.pcis.org.uk</a>        |
| If you require further information about:  | you can contact us at:   |
| UKPMS                                      | <a href="mailto:ukpms@trl.co.uk">ukpms@trl.co.uk</a>               |
| SCANNER                                    | <a href="mailto:scanner@trl.co.uk">scanner@trl.co.uk</a>           |
| Inspector accreditation                    | <a href="mailto:visualsurvey@trl.co.uk">visualsurvey@trl.co.uk</a> |
| Telephone help desk                        | 01344 770480   |
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