

Newsletter 7 March 2009

Roads Board Advisory Group (RBAG)

The inaugural meeting of the new UK Roads Board Advisory Group (RBAG) was held in Birmingham on 17th March 2009, with representatives from England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The objectives of meeting were to

- learn about the work programmes of the UK Roads Board technical groups
- discuss the progress and plans of the Pavement Condition Information Systems support contract
- discuss and agree terms of reference and method of working and arrangements for the future of RBAG.



The new Roads Board Advisory Group in Birmingham

The agenda included presentations and discussions on the following:

- Roads Board: Vision and Strategic Objectives
- Asset Management Group: Strategic Objectives and Work Programme
- Footways and Cycletrack Management Group: Strategic Objectives and Work Programme
- Pavement Condition Management Group: Strategic Objectives and Work Programme
- Pavement Condition Information Systems Support Contract
- UKPMS Review of Core Functionality
- Roads Board Advisory Group; Terms of Reference, Local Authority Members and Future Meetings

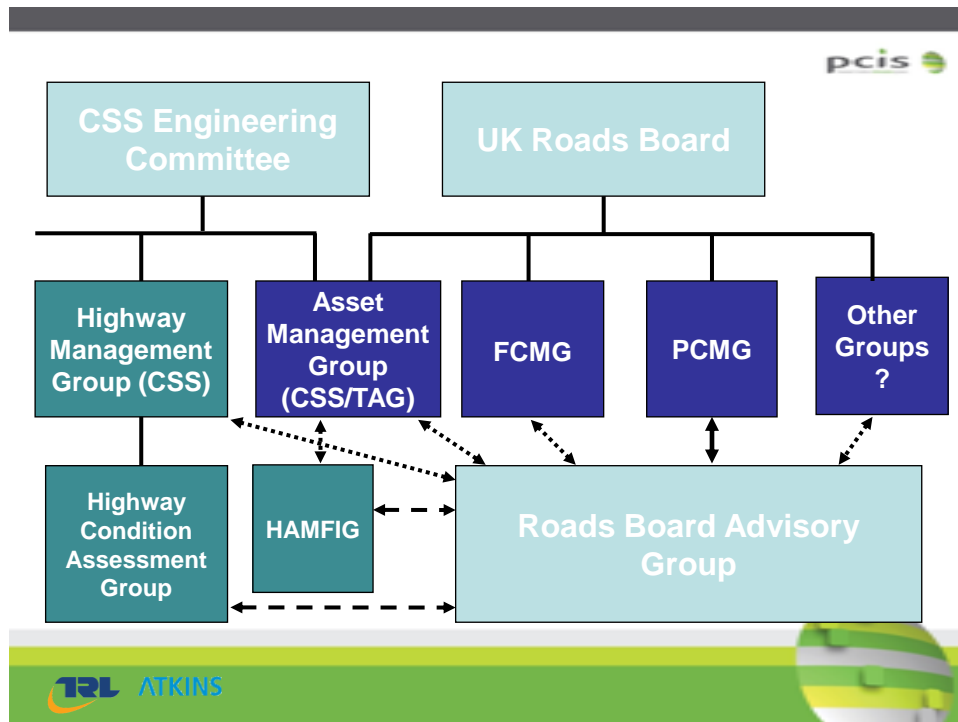


Pavement Condition Information Systems

(The contract which includes support for UKPMS & SCANNER)

Copies of the agenda and of the slides presented and discussed at the meeting will be placed on the PCIS (UKPMS) website at http://www.ukpms.com/tech_docs/techdocsdynamic.asp?techdocsID=59.

One of the main decisions is that local authority members will act as representatives and communicate information to and from existing national groups and regional groups around the countries.



Roads Board Advisory Group - Links with other Groups

This first meeting was a great success with agreement on the way forward and how the terms of reference should be set out. Future meetings will have a business focus based on the work needed to inform the UK Roads Board through the various groups including the PCMG, Asset Management Group, FCMG and others.

Pavement Condition Information Systems

(Including support for UKPMS, Visual Surveys & SCANNER)



UKPMS – requirements for 2009

The annual round for improvements to UKPMS commences in April, with the specification of requirements, leading to a list of requirements for the PCMG to approve in June. Once the list has been confirmed, the requirements for the annual health check and the revised rules & parameters will be developed, in consultation with UKPMS suppliers, and issued in September. The developers implement the new requirements and carry out the annual health check, usually by the end of the calendar year and then roll out the amendments to users early in the New Year, so that all systems are ready to deliver the changed functionality, using the new rules and parameters, by the start of the financial year.

As part of the gradual improvement of UKPMS, we are considering what amendments are required in 2009. So far, we have identified two main topics:

- The requirements of the Highways Asset Management Financial Information Group (HAMFIG) for amendments to UKPMS to accommodate pavement asset valuation, and
- The requirements of the Footway and Cycletrack Management Group (FCMG) for amendments to UKPMS to accommodate a new coarse footway survey.

We would welcome further suggestions from all those who use UKPMS for suggestions for other improvements, bearing in mind that the review of UKPMS core functionality is due to report in May 2009, which is likely to have significant implications for the future of UKPMS. As previously mentioned, the PCIS support team, led by TRL and Atkins, is undertaking this review of core functionality requirements.

Please would you send any suggestions to us at ukpms@trl.co.uk by 15th May 2009?

Review of SCANNER Accreditation, QA and Audit contract

The arrangements for SCANNER Accreditation, QA and Audit (SCANNER QA contract) were described in Newsletter 2 (October 2008). There is more information about the requirements in the SCANNER User Guide and Specification on the UKPMS website. The present SCANNER QA contract was originally let to TRL in 2005 and has been extended to 2010.

As part of the Pavement Condition Information Systems support contract we are required to review the performance of the SCANNER QA contract, and to develop a specification for a new contract which will follow on from it.

In order to separate the review of the SCANNER QA contract from the regular QA work, the review is being undertaken by Atkins, supported by a panel including local authority representatives, SCANNER survey contractors and other clients. The panel will be meeting for the first time in Birmingham on the 8th April.



Pavement Condition Information Systems

(Including support for UKPMS, Visual Surveys & SCANNER)



SCANNER Accreditation QA and Audit review panel members

Name	Affiliation
John Thorp	Lancashire
Will Bull	Southampton
Phil Woodhouse	Birmingham
Alistair Gow	Scotland (SRMCS)
Edward Bunting	Department for Transport
Ramesh Sinhal	Highways Agency
Christian Ivory	Yotta DCL
Chris Kennedy	WDM
James Kennedy	Jacobs

If you have any comments about the SCANNER QA process that you would like the panel to consider, please would you send them to Mike Gibb (Atkins) (mike.gibb@ukpms.com)?

We will be developing a short questionnaire to issue to selected stakeholders. If you would like to take part in the survey, please would you let Mike Gibb have your contact information?

Guidance on Reporting NI168 and NI169 in England

The Department for Transport has published guidance on reporting the National Indicators for 2009 on the DfT website:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/local/servicelevels/>

The Department advises local authorities to consider re-analysing survey information gathered in previous years (both TTS and SCANNER survey data) using the "revised" set of parameters, thresholds and weightings, to construct a time series of results for NI168 and NI169. This will enable local authorities to identify trends in the overall condition of their principal and non-principal classified road carriageways.

The guidance points out that local authorities should be aware that there may be practical difficulties, such as previous years' survey data no longer being available, or (in some instances) containing unreliable cracking data. Also, comparisons may be misleading if there have been significant network changes.

There is also guidance on the CONSISTENCY of results from SCANNER surveys. When comparing results from one year to the next or between different authorities, local authorities should be aware that any results that differ by less than twice the confidence interval (described in the guidance note) may not be statistically significant. Smaller differences may represent variability in the results, rather than real changes in the overall condition of the road network. Where there are large changes, the data should be examined and considered before any conclusions are drawn regarding network condition.



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Looking ahead

Late May / Early June	Pavement Condition Management Group to meet
16 th June	UK Roads Board meet in Northern Ireland
Late June / Early July	Roads Board Advisory Group meeting
September / October	First round of PCIS Regional Seminars
22 nd October	UK Roads Board meet

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 the circulation list please email your details to us at newsletter@ukpms.com.

We welcome your comments and questions at:	newsletter@ukpms.com
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