



Institute of
Public Works
Engineering
Australia
(NSW Division)



IPWEA (NSW) ROADS & TRANSPORT DIRECTORATE

Merry Christmas



National Local Roads & Transport Congress

The 2011 National Local Roads & Transport Congress was held in Mount Gambier on 16th to 18th November 2011. The Congress was attended by about 300 delegates including a substantial contingent from regional NSW.

The Congress theme *Better Roads are Safer Roads* specifically drew attention to the need to implement Safe System principles on our roads, which includes shoulder sealing, linemarking and pavement maintenance. The cost of such improvements together with funding the existing funding gap also formed an important aspect of the Congress leading to launch of the ALGA Campaign to have R2R funding increased and the programme made permanent. Representatives from both Federal Political Parties confirmed their support for the existing R2R programme but stopped short of confirming it as a permanent funding programme. There was no commitment given on an increase of funding above the existing levels other than that the programme will be “adequately funded”.



The R2R campaign launch involving approximately 300 council delegates

8th Austroads Bridge Conference

The 8th Austroads Bridge Conference was held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre on 31st October to 5th November. The Conference theme was *Sustainable Bridges: The Thread of Society* and provided 36 concurrent sessions with 123 presentations. The Conference programme is still available on the website at <http://abc2011.com.au/program.html>.

Dave Andrews who chairs the Roads & Transport Directorate's Bridge Working Party, attended the congress and confirms that there were a wealth of excellent papers presented covering all aspects of bridge maintenance and construction. Copies of these papers are available through the R&TD in either hard copy or digital format. Email the Directorate to request copies of specific papers.

Committee / Working Party Meetings

November / December has been a busy time for meetings of various Roads & Transport Committees. Recent meetings have dealt with a variety of agenda items that are listed below. More detailed information on any of the items can be obtained by phoning or emailing the Directorate.

Management Committee Meeting

- 2012 Local Roads Congress
- Technical Sub-Committee
- Land Matters Manual
- International Infrastructure Management Manual (IIMM)
- Rest Areas – Responsibilities
- Asset Management of Unsealed Roads Project

Technical Committee Meeting

- Project List Update
- New Projects
- Road Assets Condition Assessment Manual
- 4th Power Project
- Land Matters Manual

Bridge Working Party

- Training – Bridges
- Overload Permits
- Timber Bridge Performance Monitoring Project
- VicRoads Structures Inspection Manual
- 8th Austroads Bridge Conference

Austroads Projects

As advised in previous Newsletters, the Roads & Transport Directorate is now actively involved in a variety of ongoing Austroads projects. If you are interested in more information on any of these projects or have contributions you would like to make please contact the Roads & Transport Directorate. Involvement is currently concentrated on four projects which are outlined below.

ST1427 Improving Roadside Safety

This project is in the final year of a four year programme. The project aims to improve the safety performance of roadsides by investigating the effectiveness of:

- providing more forgiving roadside hazards, such as frangible poles
- safety barrier selection and placement including retrofitting of safety barriers for improved motorcycle safety
- protecting against impacts with roadside hazards through clear zone selection.

The Roads & Transport Directorate has been invited to contribute a Local Government perspective to the final project report.

AT1536 Good Practice Reseal Management

This is the second stage of a two year programme consisting of three parts:

- Gathering information and turning it into a guidance document on spray seal program development
- Preparing documentation that can be used to inform non-technical / financial / senior management officers of the various benefits of spray sealing as a valuable maintenance technique, with the documentation able to be a useful contributor to budget negotiations etc. This part will also examine the risk profile / residual risks associated with different levels of investment in spray sealing.
- Development of an embryonic visual tool displaying the risk profile (and how it adjusts) as the level of investment alters, and identifying the scope of the visual tool for application to resurfacing programs (in general) and other maintenance work types and how they interrelate.

The Roads & Transport Directorate has facilitated the input of four regional councils into this project and has an ongoing involvement in promoting local government's position on the project.

AT1691 Managing Asset Management related Civil Liability Legal Risk

Despite the positive impact of civil liability legislation enacted in most states and territories of Australia during the period 2002/03, third party (civil) claims brought by road users against road authorities remain a significant issue across Australia. The claims environment varies between jurisdictions (states and territories) and a large variation has been found in the understanding, urgency and policy responses to civil liability issues as they relate to highways.

This is a two-stage project, involving the undertaking of research, information gathering and the collation of current pertinent information with the objectives of:

- building on work by Austroads in 2001 following the abolition of non-feasance
- identifying policy context, case and statute law changes since 2001
- identifying any processes and measures adopted by Australian road authorities to consolidate knowledge and develop consistent understanding
- developing a detailed framework for an Austroads guidance document.

AT1692 Asset Management within a Safe Road System Framework

This project provides a review of how the States and Territories manage the development and implementation of spray seal programs on their road networks. Five Australian state road authorities were interviewed during the 2010/2011 financial year to determine how they put together a resurfacing program. The interviews have since been supplemented by fact-finding conducted at the beginning of the 2011/12 financial year, to provide an overview of the practices of the New Zealand Transport Agency and four local road authorities (Roads & Transport Directorate Councils) operating in New South Wales.

The aim of the project is to develop best practice guidelines to assist each jurisdiction develop their resurfacing program. The development of the resurfacing program differed for each jurisdiction in details but followed the following broad outline:

- Initial draft program developed through a review of performance data, visual appraisal, or both.
- Review to assign priorities and potential treatments. Mostly this was done by head office staff but this was not always the case.
- Visual review of the prospective projects to decide whether the project can be delayed or assign final priorities, stipulate the scope of the project, and select an appropriate treatment.
- Assemble a funding bid which may be reviewed to compare it with other bids from other regions.
- Funds allocated by treasury or similar funding body.
- Disbursement of funds by head office to the regions.
- Review of completed projects.

FEEDBACK

Your comments or reactions to any of the above issues are welcomed. Please email me at: msavage@ipwea.org.au

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