



www.austroads.com.au

Welcome to the Austroads Newsletter. In this issue we have news about significant projects being undertaken, particularly those which emanated from the Council of Australian Governments' decisions on transport reform, as well upcoming events and information on our latest publications.

Our thanks to Austroads program managers, program assistants and ARRB for their contributions and support. Contributions for future newsletters are always welcome and should be emailed to austroads@austroads.com.au

More information on our publications is available through the Austroads publications website www.austroads.com.au

Audit of Rest Areas against National Guidelines

Austroads is undertaking a project to audit rest areas against national guidelines. This project was initiated by COAG (the Council of Australian Governments) and is part of a Work Schedule for Harmonising and Reforming Road and Rail Regulations.

While some road agencies may have undertaken audits of rest areas against local policy or guidelines, there has not been any nationally-consistent and publicly-available assessment of the adequacy of rest areas for drivers of heavy vehicles.

The project will involve the examination of the design and layout of a sample of 'heavy vehicle' rest areas across Australia to determine the degree to which they comply with the National Guidelines (prepared by ARRB for the National Transport Commission in 2005) and the level of national consistency that exists. The project is due to be completed by June 2007 in order to enable the provision of rest areas to nationally-agreed standards by the end of 2008.

Development of a Road Network for B-Triples

Austroads has a new project which aims to identify routes that could potentially be accessible by B-Triples. While the extra productivity that B-Triples provide is desirable, there are road use and infrastructure impacts, community resistance and rail competitiveness issues that need to be considered before implementing B-Triple access. This report is due for consideration by the Australian Transport Council (ATC) in December 2006.

Road Transport Compliance & Enforcement – Monitoring and Reporting

A national process for the use of available heavy vehicle compliance data is being undertaken to provide a picture of compliance with relevant road transport laws and establish trends in compliance.

The development of heavy vehicle reform proposals requires good quality empirical compliance data to ensure the proposals are well targeted and are proportionate to the problem identified. In particular, the 'second generation' of transport reforms currently under development require the ability to monitor national trends in heavy vehicle compliance over time.

In the longer term, and subject to ATC approval, an annual process for the collection, analysis and dissemination of the results will deliver a program for national heavy vehicle compliance management aimed at better informing jurisdictions in the development of mass, speeding and related policy proposals.

Economics of Performance Base Standards (PBS) and Heavy Vehicle Loading Standards at the Network and Route level

The major tasks of this project are to assess the impacts of PBS vertical loading standard (VLS) at network level giving consideration to pavement type, asset condition and vehicle composition and to develop analytical tools to assist asset managers in assessing the impacts of changes in the freight transport task, vehicle fleet composition and growth at network and route level.

The initial work has a deadline of September 2006. Good progress has been achieved however many assumptions have been made in order to achieve the deadline. The next stage will develop tools and guidelines to allow road authorities to model impacts of alternative loading standards and axle mass limits.

The National Transport Commission (NTC) is having the proposed standard reviewed. They are engaging leading independent pavement engineers to undertake 'A technical review and assessment of the Vertical Loading Standard'.

ARRB Roadshow

ARRB are organising a Roadshow to discuss the work and results of the first two years of the technical research program that has been undertaken with the support of Austroads. The Roadshow has been divided into three sections - Asset Management and Pavement Technology, Bituminous Surfacing and Road Safety Engineering.

The targeted audience will be technical staff and practitioners within the road authorities, staff from local government and consultants.

Roadshow sessions will be conducted between now and the end of the year in Perth, Hobart, Darwin, Alice Springs, Brisbane and Canberra. South Australia and Victoria will host seminars early in 2007. For more information, please contact Christina Chin at ARRB christina.chin@arrb.com.au or (03) 9881 1669.

Young Professional Study Tour to Canada and USA

An asset management study tour for young professionals from Austroads' member organisations will visit Canada and USA next month. Participants will also attend the Transportation Association of Canada annual conference in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

The purpose of the study tour is to examine how Canadian provinces handle asset management issues including whole of life costing, deterioration modelling, estimation of remaining service life, link between axle mass and pavement wear, customer input to intervention standards, management of skid resistance, optimisation of road agency and user costs, and road data collection and management. The group will also have discussions with US officials in Washington DC to learn about asset management practices in the USA before returning home.

The tour will be led by Gary Norwell, the Austroads Assets Program Manager from Main Roads WA. The tour participants are Michelle Baran (DMR Qld), Andy Excell (DTEI SA), Jack Hansby (TNZ), Pawel Potapowicz (ACT DTMS), Gary Rykers (VicRoads), Wesley Soet (MR WA) and Liam Terris (RTA NSW).

New Publications

Guide to Road Safety Part 1: Road Safety Overview

This publication is an overview of Austroads road safety publications, including those still in the preparation or planning stage. It commences with a discussion of road crash costs and road authorities' duty of care to provide safe travel.

Guide to Pavement Technology Part 4D: Stabilised Materials

This guide has been developed from a complete revision of the Austroads Guide to Stabilisation in Roadworks.

Guide to Road Design Part 2: Design Considerations

This guide gives detailed discussions of various important, general aspects of design.

Revision of Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice Part 8: Traffic Control Devices

This edition of Part 8 updates the previous edition published in 1988. It provides guidance to assist traffic engineers and road designers to implement safe and effective road signs and markings schemes.

All Austroads publications are available on the Austroads publications website www.austroads.com.au

Upcoming Publications

A number of parts of the new Austroads guides are nearing completion and will be available later this year.

These include:

Guide to Road Safety – Part 2 Strategy and Evaluation and Part 5 Safety for Rural and Remote Areas.

Guide to Asset Management – Part 5c Rutting and Part 5e Cracking.

Guide to Bridge Technology – Part 3 Bridge Procurement.

Visit the publications website and register for RoadWatch to receive an automatic advice when publications you may be interested in are released. www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/script/home.asp

Upcoming Events

6th Austroads Bridge Conference

The University Club of Western Australia, Nedlands

12-15 September 2006

www.impcom.com.au/austroadsbridgeconference

Main Roads Western Australia will host the 6th Austroads Bridge Conference. The theme of the conference focuses on 'Bridging the Gap' through knowledge, technology, research and development as well as needs versus delivery across generations and communities.

World Roads Conference 2006

Singapore Expo

27-29 September 2006

www.worldroads2006.com

The theme of the conference is 'Sustainable Strategies & Infrastructure'. It will include current topics of developing sustainable road systems through discussions and interactions among international transport professionals, government officials, academics, and road associations.

2006 Australasian Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference

Holiday Inn (formerly ANA Hotel), Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast

25-27 October 2006

www.astmanagement.com.au/rsrpe6

Queensland Transport will host the 2006 Australasian Road Safety Research Policing and Education Conference. With its theme of "Smarter, Safer", this year's conference will develop these issues to investigate how emerging technologies, and innovative education and enforcement practices can be applied to deliver improved road safety for all road users.

22nd ARRB Group Conference

National Convention Centre, Canberra

29 October - 2 November 2006

www.arrb.com.au

For over 40 years ARRB Conferences have promoted and facilitated discussion of issues relevant to the transport industry, and new research being undertaken on the local and international scene. The Conferences are held every two years throughout Australasia, and involve delegates from the local region and across the globe. A broad range of road and transport issues will be addressed through invited speaker sessions, technical sessions and workshops.

12th REAAA Conference

Manila, Philippines

20-24 November 2006

www.reaaaconference.com.ph

The 12th Conference of the Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia will be held in Manila, Philippines. The theme of the conference is 'On the Road to the Future'. The conference will serve as a venue where road engineering experts share their technical knowledge and expertise. The conference program includes special sessions, workshops and technical presentations on topics relevant to Road Engineering and related professions.

Transport – The Next 50 Years

Christchurch, New Zealand

July 2007

www.transport07.co.nz

The theme will cover transport in the wider context as opposed to focusing only on land transport and will have a strategic and long-term focus. There will be plenary sessions for keynote speakers and three or four concurrent streams dealing with infrastructure funding, the future of transport, the land use planning-transporting nexus, urban form, freight issues, public transport, modal shift and transport related social issues.

23rd World Road Congress

Palais des Congrès, Paris, France

17-21 September 2007

www.piarc.org/en/paris2007

The 23rd World Road Congress will provide a forum for professionals from all over the world in every facet of the development, management and operations of roads and road transport. The program includes technical sessions, exhibitions, special sessions, technical visits and social events where professionals from around the world will display and be on-hand to discuss solutions to road issues.

Austrroads will be coordinating an Australasian delegation to the World Road Congress. If you are interested in participating in the delegation please contact Murray Kidnie at Austrroads mkidnie@austrroads.com.au

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