



World Road Congress

The 23rd World Road Congress was held in Paris between 17 and 21 September 2007 and was attended by more than 3,000 delegates. The total Congress participation including partners and exhibitors was over 4,500. The theme of the conference, which marked the centenary of the World Road Association, was 'sustainable development'. The Congress focused on the World Road Association's four main themes of activity; Governance and Management of the Road System; Sustainable Mobility; Safety and Road Operations; and the Quality of Road Infrastructure.

To coincide with the centenary, an historical exhibition and series of historic displays showcased the development of roads and motorised road transport over the past 100 years. Australia's contribution to the historical exhibition, prepared by VicRoads was about Collins Street in Melbourne.

Delegates attending the Congress had a range of technical tours available, including a visit to the Paris tramway and a ride in a bus equipped with an information system used for the dynamic management of traffic flow. Poster session topics included the development of rural roads, road safety and human powered mobility in urban areas.

Austroads coordinated the Australian and New Zealand involvement in the Congress. As part of the Australian and New Zealand national committees' exhibition, Austroads organised a national committee display which contained information about Austroads, its involvement with the World Road Association and general information about Australia and New Zealand.

More information on the Congress is available on the [Congress website](#). Congress proceedings are expected to be available online in early 2008.

World Road Association (PIARC) technical committees

Austroads representatives from several of the technical committees contributed to selected technical sessions at the World Road Congress in Paris. Their presentations reported on the work they have conducted over the last four years. Technical committees are made up of representatives nominated by World Road Association member countries to work on various subjects in the road and road transport field. Australia and New Zealand are both member countries of the World Road Association.

This edition of the newsletter looks at work of the technical committee on Road Safety.

Road Safety technical committee

Austroads representative - Phil Allan, Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure South Australia

The goal under the strategic theme for the Road Safety technical committee is to *'Improve the safe and efficient use of the road system, including the movement of people and goods on the road network, while effectively managing the risks associated with road transport operations and the natural environment'*.

The Road Safety technical committee has produced a number of documents for publishing by the World Road Association covering the following subjects; Road safety inspection guideline; Road safety audit guideline; Catalogue of design problems and possible countermeasures; Accident data base guideline; ITS and road safety improvements; and Human factors. The technical committee

reports will be available on the [World Road Association website](#) later this year. In the meantime a broad outline of each document is provided below:

Road safety inspection guideline

This document defines an inspection as an on-site systematic review of an existing road or section of road looking for deficiencies which could lead to a crash. A road safety inspection (RSI) needs to be carried out by experts taking into account any unusual circumstances at the site. The guideline details the RSI process, including the preliminary work, on-site inspection and the structure of the final inspection report. It includes two examples along with checklists which can be used to carry out the inspection.

Road safety audit guideline

This guideline defines an audit as a review of safety for a road to be constructed. Similar check lists for various stages from design through to completion are provided along with details of the process to be followed.

Catalogue of design problems and possible countermeasures

This extensive catalogue features around 80 design issues and proposes a range of countermeasures with a relative cost provided for each. The issues are categorised into the same issues as provided in the checklists and guidelines for RSI and road safety audit (RSA):

- function – role of the road and necessary design, speed limits
- cross section – includes drainage and shoulder issues
- alignment
- intersections – including railway crossings
- public and private services; service/rest areas – includes public transport
- vulnerable road users
- traffic signing, markings and lighting
- roadside features – includes passive safety installations
- pedestrians/non-motorised vehicles/motor cycles.

Accident data base guideline

This provides a basic outline of the key matters that should be included in a crash (accident) data base. It includes discussion of collision diagrams, ways of confirming the location of a crash and the various types of crashes (categorisation).

ITS and road safety improvements

A range of proven ITS applications are detailed, including vehicle based, such as electronic stability control and intelligent speed adaptation, and infrastructure based such as camera technology and vehicle activated signs.

Human factors

This outlines various issues regarding how the human brain works (perceptions/judgements etc) that should be taken into account when designing or modifying roads.

The outputs generated by the Road Safety technical committee are directly relevant to Australian and New Zealand jurisdictions. In addition to clear definitions, information regarding operational practices is informative. The range of countermeasures and ITS projects and initiatives will prove valuable for setting budgets. As with all of the World Road Association technical committees, the benefits are also intended to be focused on developing countries and outputs from the Road Safety technical committee are likely to be of greatest use in countries where road safety is emerging as an issue, and other more developed countries where motorisation is increasing. For more information on technical committees visit the [World Road Association website](#).

[Austroads/ARRB fellowship](#)

Austroads provides funding to ARRB for fellowships to encourage and support young engineers carry out postgraduate roads research. The fellowships are aimed at both supporting research and

developing researchers of the future. Recipients of the fellowships enrol with a university as a PhD candidate and also work closely with researchers from the ARRB Group.

Applications are currently being sought for a suitable candidate. The fellowship arrangements include a generous study stipend commensurate with the applicant's academic qualifications, followed by attractive employment conditions with ARRB Group, including a competitive remuneration package. More information about the fellowship and how to apply is available from the [Austroads website](#). Applications close on Friday, 19 October 2007.

[Austroads publications](#)

Austroads is widely recognised for its comprehensive range of high quality guides and research reports, which assist road and road transport authorities in the planning, design, construction, maintenance, operation and stewardship of roads. A structured approach is used for the development of new publications and the review and revision of existing publications. Austroads is continuing to develop a range of guides covering the subject areas of asset management, bridge technology, pavement technology, project delivery, project evaluation, road design, road safety, traffic management and road transport planning.

Currently over 400 publications are available through the [Austroads publications website](#). Most publications are available for download as a PDF or they can be ordered for delivery in hard copy. When new publications are released they will be reported in future editions of the Austroads newsletter. You can also register for RoadWatch to be notified of new or updated releases by email (see below).

Four new guides are due to be published in the coming weeks. They are:

Guide to Traffic Management Part 1: Introduction to Traffic Management

The Austroads Guide to Traffic Management has 13 parts and provides a comprehensive coverage of traffic management guidance for practitioners involved in traffic engineering, road design and road safety. Part 1 provides an introduction to the discipline of traffic management and an overview of the structure and content of the Guide. It outlines the breadth of the subject, the distribution of content among the various parts of the Guide, and the relationship with other Guides such as those for Road Design, Road Safety and Road Transport Planning.

Guide to Traffic Management Part 6: Intersections, Interchanges and Crossings

Part 6 of the Guide to Traffic Management is about traffic management at all types of intersections where the various road users must join or cross another stream of traffic. It focuses on traffic management issues and treatments related to intersections, interchanges and crossings.

Guide to Project Delivery Part 1: Overview

The Austroads Guide to Project Delivery consists of four parts. Project delivery in a general sense may be described as the process by which the aim or goal of a project is realised or achieved. Part 1 of the Guide explains the context of project delivery and describes the four stages mentioned above. It also provides some guidance on the principles to be considered in developing a project brief, in establishing good project governance, in selecting a project delivery strategy and defining a project delivery plan.

Guide to Project Delivery Part 2: Project Delivery Planning and Control

This document provides guidance to project delivery practitioners on a number of concepts relating to planning and control of the delivery phase as opposed to the preceding initiation phase and subsequent operational phase of a project. It covers a range of topics at a principles and considerations level, leaving the details to be sourced from the preferred practice of the jurisdiction for which the project is intended. Key among these issues are risk, procurement strategy, change control, performance monitoring and community engagement. The appendices contain valuable information and examples to assist practitioners in delivering quality outcomes on the projects they deliver.

Revisions have also been made to the *Guide to Asset Management Part 5B: Roughness* and *Guide to Asset Management Part 5C: Rutting*. The revised versions of these Guides will also be available in the coming weeks.

Notification service – ‘RoadWatch’

RoadWatch is an email based service that provides users of the Austroads publications website with a customised notification alert. Subscribers can nominate to receive alerts about specific publications and/or subject areas, or all publications and subject areas. They are advised by email of any new publications that are released, or changes to existing publications, relevant to their specific areas of interest. For more information, or to register for RoadWatch, visit the [Austroads publications website](#).

[Other road-related publications/reports](#)

Psychological and Social Factors Influencing Motorcycle Rider Intentions and Behaviour

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau has released a report that explores the psychological and social factors influencing motorcycle rider behaviour. The report also examines a rider risk assessment measure, a tool for identifying high-risk riders by assessing rider intentions and self-reported behaviour. Motorcycle riding is rapidly increasing in popularity in Australia, attracting a much wider demographic of people than in decades past. Unfortunately, whilst the overall number of road deaths in Australia has generally been reducing, the proportion of motorcycle-related fatalities has been rising in recent years. Further, the proportion of motorcycle-related fatalities in Australia is unacceptably high compared with other OECD countries. To reduce motorcycle-related fatalities on Australian roads, there is an urgent need to consider motorcyclists as distinct from other road users. For more information about the research conducted, or to download a copy of the report, visit the [Australian Transport Safety Bureau’s website](#).

Vehicle Design for Pedestrian Protection

The Centre for Automotive Safety Research at the University of Adelaide has released a report that examines regulation of vehicle design as it relates to the protection of a pedestrian in the event of collision. The report explores current approaches and activities associated with regulation in this area, including European and Japanese regulations. A copy of the report is [available here](#) in PDF.

Generalised Linear Modelling of Crashes and Injury Severity in the Context of Speed-Related Initiatives in Victoria during 2000-2002

A report has been released by the Monash University Accident Research Centre that explores the application of generalised linear modelling to monthly casualty crash frequencies and injury severity outcomes in Victoria from 1998 to 2003. This period included the introduction of three speed enforcement initiatives during 2000-2002, plus a number of related changes in the area of urban speed limits, speeding offence penalties, mass-media advertising about speeding, and controversies which arose about fixed speed cameras near the end of 2003. A copy of the report is [available here](#) in PDF.

Overall Impact during 2001-2004 of Victorian Speed-Related Package

The Monash University Accident Research Centre has released a report that examines the impact of a series of speed enforcement initiatives that were implemented in Victoria from 2000 to 2002. The initiatives included more covert operations of mobile speed cameras, including flash-less operations; a fifty percent increase in speed camera operating hours; and lowering of cameras’ speed detection threshold. A copy of the report is [available here](#) in PDF.

[Calendar of forthcoming events](#)

ARRB knowledge transfer workshops

ARRB develops and delivers training workshops and explanatory seminars, many of which are based on Austroads publications, using internal technical experts, specialist consultants and road authority staff.

ARRB is running a series of workshops throughout Australia and New Zealand covering subjects such as intersections at grade, roundabouts, road network management, traffic engineering practice, community road safety and bridge inspections. For detailed information about times, dates and locations visit the [ARRB website](#).

Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference

17 - 19 October 2007, Melbourne

The theme of this conference is 'The Way Ahead' and will focus on the application of road safety research at practical and local levels into the future. The key objectives are to share information about the latest road safety research and initiatives; identify the best examples of translating research into action; and identify key areas for action in research and policy for the future. For more information visit: www.roadsafetyconference2007.com.au

AITPM National Conference

31 October – 2 November 2007, Canberra

The theme for this year's conference is 'National Convergence – lets sort out our differences'. The key objectives are to develop a better understanding of some of the guiding principles for the provision of transport systems, including the significance of network and systems quality; to provide opportunities to learn from the local and interstate experiences of others based on numerous case studies; to raise awareness of the practical measures that can be applied by traffic and transport professionals to achieve more consistent transport outcomes and the specific tools for their implementation. In addition to the main conference activities, an Austroads workshop on the latest Traffic Engineering Management guidelines will be held on Wednesday 31 October. It will be followed by an ecological sustainability workshop and a technical tour of major traffic and transport infrastructure in the ACT. For more information visit: www.aitpm.org.au

Road and Public Space Lighting Workshop

26 – 28 November 2007, Adelaide

The Australian Asphalt Pavement Association (AAPA) and Centre for Pavement Engineering Education (CPEE) are presenting a three-day workshop on the latest practices applying to road and public space lighting design and practice. To support learning in the workshop the *Austroads Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice Part 12 – Roadway Lighting* will be used as a general guide to road lighting standards and practices applicable to traffic routes. For more information email: john_ccg@bigpond.net.au

2nd International Surface Friction Conference

11 – 14 May 2008, Cheltenham, England

Transit New Zealand and the UK Highways Agency are sponsoring the International Surface Friction Conference with the theme 'Reducing Accidents, Saving Lives'. The conference is targeted towards an audience involved in highway design and maintenance, road network management, skid resistance, accident reduction, law enforcement, transport research, and motoring and transport organisations. There will be sessions on managing road and runway surfaces, applying good practice and improving safety. If you are interested in attending, more information is available from: www.saferroads.org.uk

ARRB conference

30 July – 1 August 2008, Adelaide

ARRB conferences promote and facilitate discussion about issues relevant to the transport industry, and new research being undertaken on the local and international scene. Conferences are held every two years throughout Australasia, and involve local and international delegates. The next ARRB conference will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Discussions will be held about local and international research and case studies which provide innovative and practical solutions to current and emerging issues. More information is available from: www.arrb.com.au/conferences

The Austroads newsletter is developed and distributed bi-monthly.

Contributions for future newsletters are always welcome. Please send via email to the Communications Manager, David Armstrong, at darmstrong@austrroads.com.au

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