

ROAD SAFETY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 5 February 2014, 13:00, Conference Rooms 4 and 5, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

Minutes

Attendees

David Middleton (DM), Transport Scotland
Neil Chisholm (NC), Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland
Neil Greig (NG), Institute of Advanced Motorists
Michael McDonnell (MM), Road Safety Scotland
Assistant Chief Constable Bernie Higgins (BH), Police Scotland
Assistant Chief Officer David Goodhew (DG), Scottish Fire and Rescue
Jill Mulholland (JM), Transport Scotland
Bob Muir (BM), Scottish Safety Camera Programme
Luke Macauley (LM), Scottish Safety Camera Programme
Willie Munro (WM), SOLACE
Stuart Wilson, Transport Scotland
George Eckton (GE), COSLA
Robert Freeland (RF), COPFS

Officials

Graham Thomson (GT), Transport Scotland
Mike Berry (MB), Transport Scotland
Jessica Milne (JM), Transport Scotland

Apologies

Donald Carmichael, Transport Scotland
Andy Duff, Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland
Karen McDonnell, RoSPA Scotland
Donald Henderson, Scottish Government
Kyle Thornton, Scottish Youth Parliament
Craig Clement, Association of Directors of Education

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. He welcomed new Board members Neil Grieg and Luke Macauley. This being Bob Muir's final Board meeting before his impending retirement, the Chair acknowledged his contribution to road safety during his career, and wished him a happy retirement.

2. Approval of minutes of Joint Strategic Partnership Board / Operational Partnership Group Meeting on 24 September 2013

2.1 Members approved the minutes of 24 September 2013. MB will now arrange for these to be posted on the transport Scotland website.

3. Annual Report 2013: Distribution to Members

3.1 MB circulated a copy of the draft Road Safety Framework Annual Report 2013 along with two design options. He explained that that this year the intention was to produce a more accessible document with a broader contribution from partners, designed to appeal to a wider audience. To improve accessibility further, it was proposed that 1500 hard copies of the Report be printed in addition to the usual electronic publication that appears annually on the Transport Scotland website.

Action 1: Mike Berry to circulate an electronic version of the report following this meeting. Strategic Board members to consider the content and format of this report and pass any comments or suggestions to Mike Berry no later than 21 February.

4. Framework Governance: Role of Members – Jill Mulholland

4.1 JM explained that, as there had been a significant recent turnover in Board membership, this might be a good time to revisit the governance arrangements in order to consider whether these remained appropriate and relevant. A Governance paper had been circulated prior to the meeting, and a short discussion took place on the roles and responsibility of Board Members. Members indicated that they were content with the current governance arrangements.

4.2 Board members agreed that we now had a good broad range of representatives across the Operational Group and Strategic Board, however it was suggested that the lack of a health representative needed to be addressed and board members were asked to consider nominations. LM advised that he had an NHS contact with whom he would discuss membership.

4.3 Given that the mid-point of the Framework period was approaching in 2015, it was suggested that there might be a review and re-launch of the commitments to remind stakeholders of our vision and targets. In addition there was a need for the Board to be aware of which commitments have been met, which have still to be achieved, as well as emerging priorities and making sure we remain on track to meet all our casualty reduction targets. In this regard there was an acknowledgement of the emerging role of the Operational Partnership Group in tackling specific issues, monitoring progress, developing ideas and proposals and presenting these to the Board for consideration.

Action 3: Transport Scotland Road Safety Team to review the commitments and report to members in May with requests for updates and a reconsideration of commitments

Action 4: Luke Macauley to supply contact for potential NHS Board representative.

5. Framework Budget: Debate on future use (Paper AGM-14-3); also approval of 2014-15 MAST database license.

5.1 Mike Berry gave an overview of how the Framework budget had been used in recent years, with examples of projects that had been funded.

5.2 Jill Mulholland led a short discussion regarding how best to encourage more partners to put forward appropriate proposals, ensure that a wide range of work can continue to be supported through the Framework, and increase awareness of the availability of funding. She stressed that there had been little call on the funding and encouraged partners to publicise the fund and submit bids. Partners agreed that the current criteria was very bureaucratic and MB suggested that he look again at the criteria with a view to simplifying the process whilst still maintaining. Partners also agreed to advertise the funding in their respective organisations and encourage bids.

5.3 MB explained the MAST is an online road safety data resource that partners find useful in planning their road safety work. It encompasses several useful datasets into one easily accessible and usable system. A Scotland-wide licence had been funded through the Framework in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Feedback from partners indicated that this resource continued to be useful. MB proposed that funding of £13,000 should be provided for 2014-15 to allow local road safety practitioners to continue to have access to “MAST”.

Action 5: Mike Berry to arrange purchase of a MAST licence for Scottish users for 2014-15.

Action 6: MB to review funding criteria of the innovation fund and provide members with proposals by May.

Action 7 Board Members will advertise the funding in their respective organisations and encourage bids.

6. Frequency of Statistical Bulletins and their Purpose (Paper AGM-14-4)

6.1 JM proposed that, from August 2014, Transport Scotland should issue a quarterly statistical release in line with the DfT stats bulletins, giving provisional headline figures for Scotland up to the last-but-one quarter.

6.2 This would need to be agreed by the Minister for Transport and Veterans and the exact format and content of the release would then be discussed with stakeholders, including the Operational Partnership Group, the Liaison Group on Road Accident Statistics (LGRAS) and ScotStat (the wider statistics consultation network) to ensure it meets their requirements.

6.3 Following a short discussion the Board indicated support for quarterly statistical bulletins.

Action 8: Officials will submit the proposal for quarterly statistical bulletins to the Minister for his consideration.

7. Update on festive drink-drive campaign: ACC Bernie Higgins

7.1 BH gave an overview of the 2013 Festive Drink/Drug Drive Campaign. This was considered to have been successful, with indications of a possible reduction in offending.

7.2 It was considered the RSS media campaign, which focussed on offenders receiving a 20-year minimum criminal record may have been a factor in this success.

7.3 Members agreed that the message still needs to be – “don’t drink at all when driving”, and expressed a hope that, when the limit is changed, drivers’ behaviour will change for the better.

8. Update on the National Campaigns Working Group programme for 2014/15: ACC Bernie Higgins

8.1 BH gave an update on the campaigns working group programme for 2014/15. A hard copy was circulated.

8.2 It was noted that Police Scotland had run a Motorcycle Safety Campaign in 2013 and would do so again in 2014, from April onwards.

9. Scottish Safety Camera Programme Review: Oral Update: Luke Macauley

9.1 LM updated members on the current status of the review of the Scottish Safety Camera Programme. The Review hierarchy includes a range of relevant stakeholders across its Executive Board, Management Board and Project Team levels. . A full public 12-week public consultation was due to commence shortly, and the consultation document had been prepared. The Review is concerned with delivery and outcomes of the Safety Camera Programme, and the scope of the consultation document includes matters such as the purpose, remit, structure and governance of the safety camera partnerships.

10. Road Safety Policy Update: Graham Thomson

10.1 *School bus safety*: GT advised members that Scottish Ministers were awaiting a response from the UK Government to their request for powers in relation to school transport to be devolved under section 30 of the Scotland Act. In the event of a positive response, legislation could be introduced during the next parliament requiring all vehicles used for school transport to be fitted with seatbelts.

10.2 *20 mph zones & limits*: GT advised members that the DfT issued revised guidance in Circular 01/2013 "Setting Local Speed Limits" on 18 January 2013. TS has considered its content and is developing further guidance on 20 mph limits and zones in partnership with SCOTS. This will provide greater clarity for local authorities on the options that are available to them when considering introducing 20 mph speed limits.

11. Trunk Roads Update: Stuart Wilson

11.1 SW gave an update on the range of activity taking place across the trunk road network.

11.2 He noted that four new members of staff had joined his team recently. He highlighted issues such as fatalities on the Trunk Road Network as well as overtaking on the A9, and indicated that the team was working towards identifying causes and remedies in relation to these and other issues.

12. AOB

12.1 BH informed the Board that Road Policing in Scotland is currently being inspected by HMIC, and is also in the process of setting objectives for 2014-15.

12.2 He also wished to clarify the position regarding police enforcement of the law; contrary to some public perceptions, they still do give warnings and do not take action on most occasions. They have not lost their discretion and from 1 April to 30 September 2013, over 900,000 PNC checks resulted in 125,000 tickets being issued or charges preferred. This is a 50% increase on vehicle checks from the previous year but equates to a 23% increase on drivers being reported

12.3 DM thanked Members for their attendance and contributions, and closed the meeting.

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