

The Australian Bicycle Council (ABC) held its 50th meeting in Brisbane on Thursday 17th September 2015. The meeting was chaired by Craig Moran (Austroads Network Program Manager) and the secretariat was Tony Arnold. The meeting was opened by Neil Scales (Director General, TMR, Queensland and Austroads Board Member) and was attended by members of the ABC as well as Nick Koukoulas (Chief Executive, Austroads) and Peter Duncan (CEO, RMS, NSW and Austroads Chair). The next ABC meeting will occur in Canberra in February 2016.

The ABC Beyond 2016

The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development have committed to funding the administration of the ABC until the end of 2016. This coincides with the end of the current National Cycling Strategy. The Department has also indicated that it will not fund the administration of the ABC after this time.

Austroads and the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development have indicated that, in future, cycling should be considered in the context of a broader “active transport” framework. The mechanism for the governance and management of a National active transport governance framework is not currently defined. The ABC will develop a road-map for the creation of a National Active Transport Strategy that will engage not only transport agencies, but also other agencies such as health, planning, tourism, police, environment etc. The road map will be tabled at the next Austroads Board meeting in October 2015.

National Cycling Participation Survey

The results of the National Cycling Participation Survey were published in July 2015. The material included a National report, a National fact sheet, eight state/territory reports and eight state/territory fact sheets. The report can be found here:

<https://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/items/AP-C91-15>

National Cycling Strategy – Implementation Report 2014

The National Cycling Strategy Implementation Report is an annual report that documents progress on the delivery of the National Cycling Strategy. The 2014 Implementation Report has been signed off by the Transport and Infrastructure Senior Officials’ Committee (TISOC) and the Transport and Infrastructure Council (TIC). The report was made public in June 2015 and can be downloaded here:

<https://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/items/AP-C93-15>

National Road Safety Strategy – Action Plan 2015-17

The ABC discussed the National Road Safety Strategy Action Plan 2015-17 and considered how current or future work may be influenced by the actions defined in the plan. Several case studies were discussed that tackle various actions from the plan. Examples include:

- Western Australia is developing a bicycle boulevard.
- South Australia have low speed limits (25 km/h) in school zones.
- New Zealand have achieved safety improvements from bicycle education programs.

Cycling Communications

The ABC agreed that each meeting should include an agenda item to discuss communications campaigns and strategies. This agenda item will allow members to give and receive feedback on future campaigns and to learn from past experiences.

Professional Driver Training

The Secretariat updated the ABC on mechanisms currently in place for the training and assessment of heavy vehicle drivers. The Heavy Vehicle Assessment Guide and the Heavy Vehicle Driver Handbook was discussed. The jurisdictional representatives agreed to review the Heavy Vehicle Driver Handbook in their jurisdiction and to recommend improvements if necessary. Some areas to consider include the addition of minimum passing distance information and to increase awareness of the dangers presented by heavy vehicles making left turns in close proximity to people on bicycles.

Austroads Projects Managed by the ABC Secretariat

Projects in the 2014-15 financial year:

- **NT1998 – Bicycle Wayfinding**
This project aims to develop guidance for practitioners designing wayfinding signage, road marking and other provisions to aid bicycle users to navigate bicycle networks. The reports have recently been published by Austroads:

Literature Review - <https://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/items/AP-R493-15>

Main Report - <https://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/items/AP-R492-15>

Projects in the 2015-16 financial year:

- **NT2011 - Cycling Aspects of Austroads Guides**
This project will ensure that the Cycling Aspects of Austroads Guides document is updated with the latest content as published throughout the various Austroads Guides. The project has been awarded to ARRB and is currently underway.
- **NS1996 - Bicycle Parking Review**
This project will provide updated content on bicycle parking and end of trip facilities for Austroads Guides and Research Reports. The project has been awarded to GTA consultants and is currently underway.

Other Austroads Projects

TP1885 – National Guidelines for Transport System Management

The NGTSM provide guidance for transport planners and enable the identification, assessment, appraisal and evaluation of proposed transport initiatives. The current project looks to incorporate active travel in these guidelines for the first time, providing an improved ability to compare the costs and benefits of transport policy decisions across all transport modes.

Stage 1 of the National Guidelines for Transport System Management (NGTSM) content has been published. The first draft of the Active Travel project evaluation methodology and parameter values will be released for public comment with the Stage 2 NGTSM content. The ABC will provide feedback on the Active Travel content when it is made available.

NT1783 – Development of the Accessibility-Based Network Operating Planning Framework

The purpose of this project is to incorporate accessibility planning concepts into the network operations planning (NOP) framework such that issues of accessibility are properly considered and addressed in the process of NOP.

A webinar has been conducted on the project and can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wlgU0yVgirY>

The final report will be published before the end of the year.

NP1718 – Update to the Guide to Road Design

The “Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4B: Roundabouts” is currently being reviewed by the Austroads Road Design Task Force. The ABC has proposed changes to this guide to address safety concerns regarding bicycle lanes in roundabouts. These recommendations have been adopted, with changes made to the guidance on bicycle lanes in roundabouts. The guide revision process is ongoing.

NT2013 – Update to the Guide to Traffic Management

The ABC has made recommendations to the Traffic Management Working Group for an improvement to a diagram (figure 4.7) that is used in the Austroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 4: Network Management. The replacement diagram is based on recent guidance provided by Sustrans in the UK. The ABC also recommended the addition of guidance that helps in the selection of appropriate path widths and separation for bicycles and pedestrians depending on volumes of pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The additional guidance on shared paths is based on guidance published by Queensland TMR.

The recommendations provided by the ABC have also been adopted in the latest draft of the Guide to Road Design Part 4. The guide revision process is ongoing.

TT1967 – Bicycle Safety at Roundabouts

This project aims to identify the factors associated with bicycle-related crash types at roundabouts and the manner in which these factors may be remediated. The project will include a literature review, an analysis of crash data involving cyclists at roundabouts, identification of roundabouts with a high number of cycling crashes, detailed roundabout design analysis of high-risk roundabouts and a report featuring recommendations for improvements to roundabout design.

The project has produced an interim report at the conclusion of year one. The project will continue for a further year.