

The Australian Bicycle Council (ABC) held its 45th meeting in Perth on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th of February 2014. The meeting was chaired by Craig Moran (Austroads Network Program Manager) on Wednesday and Murrery Kidnie (Chief Executive of Austroads) on Thursday. The secretariat was Tony Arnold.

ABC Strategic Direction and Secretariat Update

The secretariat provided an update on the work progressed over the past few months. In addition to preparing the meeting papers and writing the 2013 Implementation Report, significant progress has been made on the new ABC brand, website, communications strategy and a document defining the roles and objectives of the ABC and its members.

There was general support for the strategic direction outlined in the roles and objectives paper. The role of each of the members was discussed and it was agreed that, in general terms, state/territory representatives should liaise with state/territory agencies and Commonwealth representatives should liaise with Commonwealth agencies.

It was agreed that it would be useful to develop guidelines or even complete marketing campaign materials that help smaller players such as local councils leverage best-practice behaviour-change messaging.

National Cycling Strategy – 2013 Implementation Report

The draft 2013 Implementation Report was circulated before the meeting and was supported. The report will be finalised in the next 2 weeks and submitted to the upcoming TISOC and Transport and Infrastructure Council meetings.

Austroads Projects Managed by the ABC Secretariat

There are currently two Austroads projects being managed by the ABC Secretariat. Both projects aim to develop case studies that illustrate best-practice interventions. These projects are:

- **NS1779 – Low Cost Interventions to Encourage Cycling**
This project will identify effective low cost measures that encourage people to use bicycles for short transport journeys including journeys to work. This project will identify hard and soft infrastructure interventions along with behaviour change programs that are cost effective and can encourage cycling.
- **NS1780 - Urban Cycling Infrastructure Design Resource**
This project will produce an online collection of case studies showcasing innovative planning and design.

Both projects were reviewed and the feedback was positive. ABC members will provide additional case studies in the next week as both projects are now near completion.

Other Austroads Projects

TP1885 – National Guidelines for Transport System Management

The NGTSM are the Australian standard for guiding transport planning and the identification, assessment, appraisal and evaluation of proposed transport initiatives. The current project will incorporate active travel in these guidelines which will provide an improved ability to compare the costs and benefits of transport policy decisions across all transport modes. There is no significant work to review at this stage, however, the ABC will remain involved in the project.

NP1718 – Update to the Guide to Road Design (Part 4)

A Road Design Task Force project has been put forward to do a literature review of material regarding bicycles and roundabouts including a review of the references from a recent Austroads report on Bicycle Lanes in Roundabouts. Work is going to be done to evaluate the effectiveness of some existing roundabouts.

NT1788 – Level of Service Metric

The Level of Service Metric project aims to develop multi-modal metrics for measuring level of service. The project has developed a set of metrics and has started testing their application through a number of case studies. The ABC had reviewed the work before the meeting and was satisfied with the approach being taken.

Proposed Austroads Projects

The ABC Secretariat has proposed three projects for the consideration of Austroads. These projects may become part of the work program for the next two years.

NS1996 – Bicycle Parking Review

The Bicycle Parking Review aims to:

- provide recommended bicycle parking content for GTM Part 11: Parking.
- provide bicycle parking case studies for the Australian Bicycle Council website.
- effectively utilise the contents of the draft ABC Guide to Successful Bicycle Parking.

NT1998 – Bicycle Wayfinding Signage

The Bicycle Wayfinding Signage project aims to provide guidance to practitioners on the design of bicycle wayfinding signage.

NS1997 – Bicycles and Kerb-side Lanes

The Bicycles and Kerb-side Lanes project aims to examine the actual and perceived safety of curb-side lane treatments for bicycle users and to recommend changes to the Austroads Guides (particularly the Guide to Road Design Part 3 and Guide to Traffic Management Part 11) to improve the guidance provided.

Queensland is investigating “Bicycle Lanes and Car-park Design” which will need to be considered in any research on bicycle and kerb-side lanes.

Standards Work

An update was provided on standards work that relates to bicycles and their use. The Bicycle Parking standard (AS 2890.3:1993) has recently been revised and is almost ready to go to public comment. The Bicycle standard (AS/NZS 1927:2010) has been reviewed to allow handlebars of any width to be sold. The helmet standard (AS/NZA 2063:2008) is currently being reviewed. A review of the child carrier seats standard (AS/NZS 4287:1995) has commenced. The Australian standard doesn't currently include seats in front of rider but the new standard will. Trailers are not currently included, but the new standard will likely include them.

The European Standard for Power-assisted Bicycles (Pedelecs) is now used as the Australian Standard. ACMA has objected based on EMC radiation concerns. A new international standard was released for "bicycle lights and reflective devices" last week and is likely to be adopted in Australia.

Queensland Parliamentary Enquiry

The Queensland Government response to the enquiry will be tabled by 29th May 2014. They have already approved the adoption of the recommendation to legislate a 1 metre minimum passing distance and 1.5m above 60 km/h. This will be applied from 31st March. The Minister has ruled out changes to helmet laws.

Guest Presentations

Department of Parks and Wildlife

Rod Annear informed the group of the progress that has been made through collaboration with mountain bike groups. The collaboration has helped address the issue of unauthorized trail construction. Kerstin Stender provided some information on the construction, governance and maintenance of the Munda Biddi Trail.

City of Perth

Laura Donovan gave a presentation on the work that City of Perth is doing to encourage cycling.

Bicycle User Groups

Presentations were given by Clint Shaw (West Cycle), Jeremy Murray (Bicycling Western Australia) and Heinrich Benz (Bicycle Transport Alliance) to introduce the work they are doing and to provide ideas that their organisation feel are important for bicycle planning.

Next Meeting

1-day meeting on the 26th May 2014 in Adelaide to coincide with Velo City.