



Meeting of the IRF Working Group "Safer Roads"

held on 24 April 2009
Paris, France

Minutes

Present

Vorster	Hilton	South African Road Federation
Lalo	Jean	SOMARO
Christodoulou	Haris	Public Works Department, Ministry of Communications and Works of Cyprus
Heinrich	Jaroslav	HBH Projekt
Sinha	Naresh Kumar	Intercontinental Consultants & Technocrats Ltd.
Malabat	Joel	Aximum
Pereira	Nathalie	IRF

Apologies

Evdorides	Harry	University of Birmingham
Lee	George	Road Safety Markings Association / Highways Industry Confederation
Nuytens	Rik	3M Europe SA
Courson	Anne-Claire	Signature
Dinitz	Arthur	Transpo Industries, Inc.
Roffé	Jean-Claude	Colas SA France

1. Opening, apologies, adoption of agenda and last meeting's minutes

Before the WG meeting, Jean Lalo made a Colas presentation followed by a tour of the training facilities where a number of barriers were displayed. After at the Research and Development site, a demonstration of the driving simulator was given.

Jean Lalo welcomed the Working Group members, and introduced the new chairman of the working group, Mr. Hilton Vorster.

Hilton Vorster thanked Jean Lalo followed by a call to the Working Group members to have a reconfirmation of their commitment to the Working Group.

The minutes of the kick-off meeting in Geneva on September 15th 2008 were adopted. Last meeting minutes will be signed by former Chairman Jean Lalo.

2. Work Plan on selected themes

Prior to the meeting Hilton Vorster distributed a discussion document on "Guidelines for the Development of Road Safety Master Plans and gave a presentation on "Dealing with hazardous locations where little or no information is available".

The Working Group addressed the 8 topics which the Working Group had agreed to work on at the kick-off meeting in Amsterdam on 3 April 2008 separately in light of the documents circulated by the secretariat and determined the following work plan:



An online knowledge base will be created on the IRF Geneva web page devoted to road safety where road safety practitioners could get easy access to best practices in relation to various issues as listed below. Specific guidelines will also be available for developing countries. * *Please see note on Summary of decisions*

i. Accident statistics

Hilton Vorster gave a presentation on "Dealing with hazardous locations where little or no information is available". The discussion concentrated on Chapter 4: Community Involvement and Chapter 9: Prioritisation of Low-Cost Safety Treatments from a model currently being tested in the City of Tshwane, South Africa.

Chapter 4: Community Involvement deals a process of identifying hazardous locations through community consultation. This is used where limited accident data is available. The process involves the establishment of a community based road safety project team who identifies accident locations guided by traffic engineering practitioners. Safety inspections are carried out, projects verified, prioritized and implemented. Accident data management systems should be developed in parallel to this process. In many instances in S.A. and other developing countries onsite reporting is good but offsite reporting is difficult because of many factors, eg. Roads are not named.

Chapter 9: Prioritisation of Low-Cost Safety Treatments, "How to prioritize low cost measures". The preferred method of prioritising safety measures is an economic appraisal. A simplified method has been developed for low cost safety treatments eg pedestrian sidewalks and speed calming measures. A screening process has been developed to eliminate unwarranted measures. There is a prioritization system for sidewalks and speed traffic calming measures. The prioritisation system gives priority to vulnerable road users such as seniors, scholars and people with disabilities.

Comments:

Chapter 4: Community Involvement - Some suggestions were made by members where GPS devices can be used to locate positions of accidents. Haris Christodoulou will provide a document "Community database on Accidents on the Roads in Europe (CARE) and the European Road Safety Observatory (ERSO)", which is a combination of various database to be circulated among the group.

Chapter 9: Prioritisation of Low-Cost Safety Treatments – Jean Lalo gave the example of road marking providing warning information on the road surface which it is a cheaper measure than providing sign-poles. Jaroslav Heinrich indicated that it could assist to "Cut the forests of the signs".

Presentation made at the WG meeting will be uploaded to the website along with the Guidelines for the development of road safety master plans document. Members to provide comments on the documents which were distributed. Hilton Vorster will circulate the final document for comments by the end of May 2009.

ii. Road accident knowledge base

A clearing house of road safety countermeasures shall be constituted, where the countermeasures are split into categories in accordance with the type of safety hazard and linking them to various measures that could be applied on the basis of theoretical research supporting such solutions in order that the user could obtain a full picture of all the elements taken into account for each individual measure.

Haris Christodoulou's contribution to i. on European database is a combination of i. and ii. Jaroslav Heinrich contributed www.erso.eu

The secretariat needs contributions from WG members of before/after pictures of projects they realised in developing countries. Links to other websites with information on best practices in road safety shall also be provided.



iii. Road safety guides

In reference to the past meeting, "it is very important to provide feedback from practitioners in developing countries through an online forum to collect information on success stories and report missing information." Jaroslav Heinrich will send information regarding PIARC who has produced information on road safety inspections, as well as the European program ROSEBUD. Harry Evdorides has contributed a number of documents and links which have been uploaded to the Members section of the IRF Geneva website. The secretariat will check with ERF for examples available.

iv. Sharing the roads

We need more contributions to this point from WG members. As a revision, this section should constitute a database of traffic calming measures and other measures aimed at pedestrian safety (such as communication campaigns) that have been applied in developing countries will be constituted. In addition, the WG members decided to include mixed traffic in this section. Include "Speed traffic control devices".

v. Road safety management training courses

IRF Geneva with the secretariat will offer information on seminars such as the Cyprus seminar in 2008. Members agreed that seminars should not be duplicated but that content of seminars, from the program, could be reproduced. Secretariat will follow up by putting up the programs of past seminar online and Haris Christodoulou will send the secretariat the presentations which was presented at the Cyprus seminar to be uploaded to the site.

vi. Skid resistance

Renamed to 'Road safety characteristics' and this should be included in the road safety website.

3. Participation in the work of ISO/PC 241

Jean Lalo was not able to participate in ISO Project Committee 241 to develop a new management system standard for improving road safety, because no information was circulated. Secretariat will find out what came out of the ISO Project.

4. IRF Guideline on safe road infrastructure

It was decided that members who attended should take a look at the WHO guidelines which Hilton Vorster distributed, make comments on it and send them to the Secretariat. The Proposed Outline of the IRF Guideline on safe Road infrastructure must be circulated. WG members must compare the outline with the WHO guidelines and determine "gaps" in the above document and decide whether to proceed with the development of a separate document. The proposed WG Guidelines on Safe Road Infrastructure could include some of the material which IRF Geneva has already contributed to the WHO guidelines, but should not be a duplication of the document.

5. Other business

i. Communication

It is proposed by the Chairman and supported by members attending that the WG should communicate at least every 3 months by email or set up teleconferences to keep the communication and participation flowing between the WG members. Between the Secretariat and Chairman, we need to suggest times and dates and give time periods to receive response from WG members. We will also send out an update of activities and will contact WG members in order to consolidate the updates from everyone.

Physical WG meetings should be set up around the time of other conferences/events and take advantage of a larger number of attendance from the WG members in order to be more efficient.

ii. Terms of Reference

The Chairman and the secretariat suggested that a Terms of Reference (TOR) for the WG to be drawn up. We need input from every member in order to consolidate the TOR and define the WG's work, aims, and

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what the WG members want to achieve. Hilton Vorster will clarify principles of the responsibilities of the WG with the Director General and communicate such to the members of the WG. Members should provide input and suggestions in this regard within the next two weeks and we will then consolidate it and disburse the Terms of Reference.

Some input regarding the above already given by the WG members present at the meeting include the following:

- a) Dissemination of road safety information
- b) Creation of a wider awareness of road safety
- c) Provision of relevant information and packaging it for use of other members of IRF
- d) Provision of information on the effectiveness of road safety measures
- e) Provision of information on measures to reduce accidents
- f) Looking towards the future to update the road safety infrastructure and keep it going

6. Next meeting

It was proposed for the next meeting to take place in Lisbon 2010 around the schedule of the 16th International Road Federation World Road Meeting from 25 May 2010 - 28 May 2010. This meeting can be scheduled the day before or day after the World Road Meeting.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The Chairman thanked Jean Lalo for his work as Chairman of the WG as well as the pre-meeting activities which added value and technical experience to the overall day.

8. Summary of decisions

i. Decisions to be followed

- a) Secretariat: Circulate presentation given at the General Assembly on WG activities and IRF Road Safety activities
- b) Secretariat: Will draft a program of activities for 2009 document in order to see how the WG members can get involved and for members to have time to send abstracts if necessary
- c) Secretariat: Circulate among WG members agendas for future conferences/seminars etc on Road Safety by IRF in order to receive comments and feedback
- d) Hilton Vorster: Will circulate information link on PIARC conference on vulnerable road users
- e) Secretariat: Re-circulate IRF proposed outline of IRF Guidelines for Safe Roads Infrastructure which Maria Novikov proposed last year and compare with WHO guidelines
- f) Secretariat: Will find out what came out of the ISO Project.
- g) All members of the WG: Input for terms of reference sent to the secretariat by May 15th 2009
- h) Secretariat: The secretariat will check with ERF for examples available on road safety guides
- i) Secretariat: Will follow up by putting up the programs of past seminar online
- j) Haris Christodoulou: Will send the secretariat the presentation which was presented at the Cyprus seminar
- k) Hilton Vorster: Will provide documents and presentations given at the WG meeting

***NOTE:** IRF Geneva is currently replacing the current webmaster and the new person will take over uploading all the new documents once he/she starts.

ii. Continued from last WG meeting 15 September 2008

Last meeting on September 15, 2008 the Working Group "Safer Roads" decided to constitute a road safety web page on the IRF Geneva website offering a knowledge base for use by practitioners in developing countries on the following topics:

- I. Accident statistics
- II. Road accidents knowledge base (FAQ, glossary, e-learning)
- III. Road safety guides

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IV. Road safety management training courses

V. Skid resistance

The secretariat will constitute a web page in accordance with the observations of the Working Group and post it on the IRF Geneva website. IRF members who feel they could contribute in any of the above activities are invited to contact the secretariat at npereira@irfnet.org or by phone +41 22 306 02 60.

Geneva, April 2009

SIGNATURE

signed: Hilton Vorster