

MfS vs DMRB

(Insert photos here)

This provocative title attracted a capacity crowd from a variety of professions from all over England to IHIE's January evening discussion. Alan Young, WSP, one of the Manual's authors, and Steve Proctor, TMS, a leading safety auditor, entering into the spirit of the debate, lead off with some provocative observations. Richard Fitter, Director of Entran Ltd ably steered the discussion.

Audience straw polls elicited that:

- Only a third knew about LTN 1/08 which adds to the MfS guidance. Awareness of other allied documents and research was also low.
- Few used the SSD formula instead of following the table. Research in the south west confirmed that engineering judgement is not being applied to streets outside the comfort zone of <200 vph where MfS clearly applies or DMRB standard roads, as "Guidance" is too often interpreted as "rules to be followed".
- Similarly, practitioners were reluctant to accept MfS outside lightly trafficked streets.
- Placemaking based on the function of a street is still not a priority

Stopping Sight Distances tended to dominate the discussion. Alan Young tried to distinguish the applicability of TRL 661 and TRL 332 research which he felt lay behind many engineers' reluctance to extend the use of MfS guidance. Steve Proctor illustrating the difficulty of applying a formula, never mind an illustrative table, when human factors can vary widely.

There was general agreement that more research on driver perceptions and the spread of acceptable reaction times was called for.

The Big Bang Fair

(insert 'Big Bang' logo here)

March 4 sees the launch of the UK's first Science and Engineering Fair.

This exciting venture is backed by the Engineering & Technology Board and all the engineering institutions.

IHIE is proud to be a sponsor.

Here are some of the activities taking place for children and parents:

- 200 project stands showcasing highly innovative science and engineering projects, including the National Science Competition and Young Engineers for Britain.
- Displays and demonstrations from leading UK-based organisations showcasing how science and engineering are part of our everyday live.
- Inspirational and engaging shows and presentations explaining what the future holds for science and engineering, and how we're going to get there.
- Workshops giving young people the chance to say what science and engineering mean to them and find answers to their many questions about career directions.

www.thebigbangfair.co.uk

Bill Taylor HonFIHIE

H.S. (Bill) Taylor, IHIE's founder, died in February aged 95.

In 1962 Bill first proposed to the then Institution of Highway Engineers (now IHT) that technicians should have their own organisation. "AHT" came into being in January 1965 run by a board of trustees. Its reincarnation as "HTTA" was also overseen by Bill who continued as Chairman until 1972.

Read about his life and contribution to IHIE on www.ihie.org.uk/about/ihie-at-40/

Maintenance in May

Highway maintenance engineers will find much of value at the *IHIE / Highways 2009* Conference and Exhibition on 20 May 2009 in Northampton.

Recognising the increasing importance of drainage and road surfaces, speakers will look at the surface water management plan pilots and identifying the contribution of drainage assets to surface water flooding problems by mapping across the country.

Continuing the sustainability theme, there's Northampton's experience of climate-friendly asphalt, Rhinophalt's new road preservation system offering potential budget savings of one third, and advice from TRL and WRAP on sustainable choice of materials.

Staff issues are the focus for the afternoon – improving roadworker safety, the impact of EU regulations on driver training and hours and Birmingham's award winning scheme linking contractors' pay to public perceptions.

Contact deputy@ihie.org.uk

IHIE in Action

- Several organisations have been sampling the engineering institutions with lunchtime presentations or courses from IHIE, IHT and ICE. The institute has been invited to TfL and the London Borough of Redbridge in recent months.
- Members can attend these conferences at specially discounted delegate rates
 - **Designing Safer Roadsides**, 9 March, London SW1. Includes a copy of 'Designing Safer Roadsides – a handbook for engineers' for which the IHIE President wrote a preface.
 - **Road Safety Beyond 2010** – 22 April, QE II Centre, London
 - **The changing face of Speed Management – policy, practice and enforcement** – 19 March, London WC1

www.ihie.org.uk/events/related-courses/

- **Mark Ralph MIHIE** Director of Traffic Solutions has formed a joint venture called Total Signals with ERH Communications. The company has also opened offices in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Canterbury.
- Congratulations to Bob Greenwood FIHIE, just promoted to Principal Engineer to the MD and Associate Director of Sanderson Associates. Bob has 30 years experience in transportation planning before joining Sanderson's two years ago.

Free Professional Development Programme

A **free** five day training programme developed by ConstructionSkills Partnership initiative and the Construction Industry Council (CIC) aims to expand the skills that employers are looking for in their staff.

This programme is designed to ensure that those who have recently entered the profession (having just graduated, changed career direction or are on an undergraduates work placement) get the best out of their primary years in employment.

The Programme runs for one full week and includes the following modules:

- Health and Safety in Design
- Presentation Skills
- Personal Development & Business Skills (including Project Management and Leadership)

Cambridge: 30th March to 3rd April 2009

London: 15th to 19th June 2009

Contact Liz Reading on 020 7399 7430 or lreading@cic.org.uk

Salary Survey

A few highlights from ICE's annual survey fortuitously completed before September 2008 and the great freeze.

- Two-thirds of UK members received a salary increase during 2008. Recent Graduates were the most likely to have received a salary increase (75%). For MICE it was 63%. Only 46% of TMICE said they received an increase.
- The large majority of members claimed to be satisfied with their current role, and employer, which was a positive result and equal to the 2007 figure. Satisfaction was highest for those at the more senior levels.
- Reduced workload and more holidays were the key demands to improve working life, followed by working from home and a shorter working week.
- In 2008 the average working week remained 43 hours, as observed in the 2007 survey.
- Nearly nine out of ten members had either identified their next year's training needs or planned to do so.

Congratulations to Michelle Maguire

(insert group photo)

IHIE Membership Manager, Michelle (nee DaCosta) married John Maguire at Christmas surrounded by family from around the world.

Bridesmaid Cheryl Brown (far left) who previously worked for IHIE, is expecting her first child in April.

Floating farms

The charity Practical Action, whom IHIE supported in the Institute's anniversary year, has launched an appeal for Bangladesh flood victims. Typically, Practical Action is promoting an ingenious project, to help families construct a garden that floats above where they once grew crops and rises with the floods. The garden is built up from layers of water hyacinths, bamboo, more hyacinths and finally, ready for the new crops, a layer of compost and cow dung – all easily and readily obtainable materials.

www.itdg.org

Training and Development

Traffic Signal Control: implementing the design

6-9 April 2009, Nottingham

IHIE's annual course for signal engineers on implementation and maintenance.
£895 fully residential.

Preparing for your Review

31 March, London, WC1

19 May, Taunton

In depth advice and support in going for CEng, IEng and EngTech

Introduction to Development Control

28 April, Bristol

Start here for newcomers to DC: An overview of planning law and policy and the role of highway development control staff.

Improve your skills in Traffic Signs

7 May, London

The course to maintain your expertise in direction and warning signing

Supported by DfT

Durable Surfaces

A third course delivered by Jeff Farrington. Date to be arranged. Email if interested deputy@ihie.org.uk

Annual Highway Maintenance Conference & Exhibition

20 May 2009, Northampton

The IHIE/Highways annual conference: Innovation and sustainability.

Speakers on site waste management, drainage, surfaces for a wetter climate, EU driver regulations.

Annual Development Control Conference

3 June 2009

New venue: Austin Court, Birmingham

Bottoms up to the Highway Engineer

13 May 2009, Winchester

IHIE Southern Seminar

The latest in road construction from excavation to surfacing £70. Contact tony.suter@btinternet.com