

Monthly round-up of news from the Institute of Highway Engineers



FOCUS

Industry news

The 2010 **Passive Safety UK** Guidelines for the specification and use of passively safe street furniture on UK local authority roads is now published. To obtain a free copy, go to www.ukroads.org/passivesafety/scripts/news.asp?refid=289

● **NAL** invites you to a passive safety demonstration (half) day at its Worcester site. Demonstrations include post installers/retention sockets for signal poles, access chambers, lighting column for shallow foundations, pedestrian guardrails and flexible bollards.

☎: Sales@mal.ltd.uk

● **Read Road Safety GB's** powered two-wheeler seminar for current ideas in the 3Es. Go to 'Free resources' then 'motorcycling' on www.roadssafetygb.org.uk

● **PTRC** evening courses on an Introduction to the foundations of traffic and transportation are now available as a modular e-learning

programme. The cost for 17 courses is £615 plus VAT each – individual rate for a one-year subscription – or there's a bulk discount rate of £2,500 plus VAT.

● *Understanding place-making* is an online course which provides an understanding of place-making by working with built environment professionals, community workers and volunteers to gain a shared understanding of how to create and manage sustainable communities. Each course consists of five facilitated workshops, enabling students to:

- develop a real understanding of the term 'sustainable community'
- explore the national and regional policy context and perspectives
- consider the roles, responsibilities and skills of the various organisations and individuals responsible for delivery.

☎: skills.homesandcommunities.co.uk/understanding

Members' news

● Read IHE incoming vice president, **John Nightingale's** article in TEC's April issue to find out how to ensure that traffic signal designs are practical and deliverable.

● The incoming president, **Steve Spender**, has assumed the chair of the UK Footway group, and joined the UK Roads Board.

● Two fellows, **Nick Newton** and **Alan Rookes** spoke at the Aston conference on *Road safety audit in the EU*.

● In the East Midlands, a group of members has set up a local **IHE Centre in Nottingham**. They hope to run occasional technical meetings and a self-help group for engineers preparing for their professional review.

● **Martyn Grimwood**, 33, an IHE member profiled in September 2009 (pictured), died in April following a collision in Witham, when he was a passenger in a taxi and was found in the road with serious head injuries. Martyn was a highway design engineer for Capital Highways, the company's CAD manager and co-managed its traffic management department – one of the company's foundation team from 2003.

His fluency in CAD enabled him to develop his highways design skills to a high level. He was recently seconded to Essex working as a design engineer on the three-year, £4.2m programme to deliver the Colchester Cycle Town.

Recently, Martyn had gone on a charity trip to Croatia for three weeks, using his skills as a civil engineer to help build an orphanage. He also cycled the length of Hadrian's Wall to raise funds to build a hospital wing for leukaemia sufferers.

In his spare time, Martyn played football



for the Braintree Old Boys and loved snowboarding.

His mother, Jean Upson, said: 'Martyn's proudest achievement was his civil engineering degree. He had worked hard to finance his education and make his way through his degree. He was very self-motivated and wanted to be the best he possibly could be at everything he did.'

'Martyn loved his nieces and nephew who, in turn, idolised him. He would do anything for anyone, and was good in a crisis, and would go out of his way to help people.'

'He was very loyal to both his friends and family. We are very proud of Martyn and love and miss him very much.'

What's on www.theihe.org

Resources added to the **Road safety** pages include:

- the Sheffield procedure for documenting RSA responses and comments
- speed camera-site selection case studies
- links to TMS' new road safety certificate for the RoSPA course
- links to courses on using the evidence-based approach to safety schemes
- Sussex safer roads partnership's YouTube hit advert on wearing seat belts – 'embrace life'

On asset management: The institute has added this new section to its web-based Knowledge Network. A recent upload is news of the **CIPFA code of practice on transport infrastructure assets: Guidance to support asset management, financial management and reporting** (March 2010) just published.

Hardly light reading and expensive, the new code of practice from CIPFA provides guidance on the development and use of financial information to support asset management, financial management and reporting of local highways infrastructure assets.

It has been prepared at the request of the Government and implements a key recommendation from the CIPFA review of local authority transport assets, which reported in 2008.

On roads

A quirky history of Britain's motorways by Joe Moran has been nominated for the Samuel Johnson Prize.

On roads tells the story of 50 years of the UK motorways, celebrating the work of Percy Shaw, the inventor of the cat's eye, Jock Kinnear, and Margaret Calvert, who designed our road signs and some 'fascinating facts' including: singer Bob Geldof was a ganger on the M25; 250,000 fish were moved before 'Spaghetti junction' was built; and migrating birds love the A34.

IHE team visits new transport museum

The IHE Scotland visited the new Transport Museum in Glasgow, which is due to open in spring 2011.

The Riverside Museum Project is a £74m project which will see the creation of a new home for Glasgow's Museum of transport, and the relocation of its collections to a new, purpose-built building on the River Clyde.



IHE training news

● The list of National Vocational Qualification at level 3 (NVQs) recognised by IHE as directly accessing the 'Technician review' has been revised.

Contracting construction operations, design and drafting, laboratory and associated technical activities join Transportation (NTQs), highway maintenance, site inspection, and construction site supervision as approved for EngTech.

Holders of recognised NVQs/SVQs can quickly match their units to the 13 EC statements to show their assessed achievement making for a simpler EngTech review submission.

● IHE's foundation training course in 'Transport development control' has been recognised by the Homes & Communities Agency.

The next six-day assessed course is on 14-16 September and 7-9 December 2010, in Leicestershire.

Delivered by TMS, the course gives candidates the knowledge they need as a DC officer in highways.

Delineators for shared-space environments

TfL has sponsored research at UCL's pedestrian facility – PAMELA – to try to determine the suitability of different road surfaces for alerting mobility and visually-impaired pedestrians to a shared-space environment – the perennial problem being that people with mobility impairment should be able to cross the shared surface at the same time as blind or partially-sighted people can detect the surface. Solutions to one requirement usually compromise the other. For example, mobility disabled people cannot cross 120mm kerbs which the blind can easily detect. The UCL report, now published, tested

many types of surfaces, slopes and widths in different laboratory layouts. The more positive layouts identified now need to be tested further in a street environment.

The authors commented that the direction of the delineator did matter. Guidance path surface paving in line with the direction of walking was difficult for many to detect. Corduroy hazard-warning paving (6mm) laid 800mm wide had comparable detection and overpass scores to traditional Blister paving; and 400mm-wide paving of any variety was not reliably detected.

☎: www.theihe.org/knowledge-network/public-realm

Improving the workplace

Anyone looking for advice, case studies, statistics, toolkits and the latest news about how to create workplaces which work for both men and women, should look no further than www.opportunitynow.org.uk

● **Opportunity Now** empowers employers to accelerate change for women in the workplace because it makes good business sense. It works with its membership of 350 employers, from the UK's largest to some of the smallest, in the private, public and education sectors to offer tailored, practical and pragmatic advice on workplace issues.

Adapting to climate change

The Government has commissioned research to identify opportunities arising from the need to adapt to a changing climate.

The consultation *URN 10/849 – Meeting the low carbon skills challenge* seeks views on the priorities, challenges and gaps identified; on how businesses can best be incentivised and encouraged to respond so that they have the skills they need at all levels; and on how the education and skills system can respond so that it is strongly focused on the needs articulated by businesses.

Diary dates

● **Annual development control conference**

Postponed to September. London

● **Traffic signs conference and exhibition**

23 September, Loughborough

The TSRGD 2010 revisions explained

● **Transport development control**

Six-day foundation course, 14-16 September, and 7-9 December 2010