

New alliance calls for a better deal for roads



Road Users Alliance (RUA) is a new organisation set up by the AA Foundation and Refined Bitumen Association in a bid to get a better deal for all road users. Following its September launch, the RUA plans to highlight the importance of roads and the need for sustained investment to resolve transport problems in the UK.

"More than £41,000M is raised by road taxes each year but only £4,000M is spent on roads," said RUA director Tim Green. "Investment in the road network has been neglected for too long. Roads play an important role in creating an integrated transport system – contrary to popular belief just 7% of passenger travel in the UK is completed by rail."

According to Green, the RUA aims to represent all road users by promoting the need for more

investment, greater transport integration, reduced congestion and a road network for all. "We want a quality road network, with more new roads where necessary, but we also want adequate alternatives to car travel," said Green.

The RUA replaces and builds on the role of the now defunct British Roads Federation and will champion its cause through funding research and lobbying government. The alliance also aims to be a source of information and has just published the Road File which lays bare the facts and figures behind funding on roads in the UK.

Other partners to represent all road user groups are now actively being sought by the RUA. "We want to be a voice for all road users and we are looking to recruit members to represent everyone from cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders through to hauliers, utility companies and bus operators," added Green.

Single voice for surface treatment

Three road surface treatment associations have recently joined forces to form FoRSTA – the Federation of Road Surface Treatment Associations – to provide a better focus for the industry. The

Road Surface Dressing Association, High Friction Surfacing Association and the Slurry Surfacing Contractors Association are now working together through FoRSTA to address issues important to the road surface treatment sector.

Second success for asphalt conference



Attendance by more than 300 delegates marked the success of the second Asphalt Industry Alliance (AIA) Conference – Asphalt 2002 – on 1 October this year. Better ways of carrying out road construction and maintenance was the main theme of the conference which was held at the National Motorcycle Museum near Solihull.

Delegates were welcomed to the event by AIA Chairman Jim Crick; and Simon van der Byl, Director General of the Quarry Products Association, and Tarmac Group Technical Director David Cather chaired the morning and afternoon sessions, respectively.

Presentations given during the conference were split into five main topics: quality materials for better roads, achieving a better finish, doing things better – a local authority view, the MAC experience and safety aspects of highway works.

Highways Agency (HA) Team Leader John Williams and Tarmac Group of Technology & Quality Standard Director Colin Loveday jointly delivered the presentation on quality materials for better roads.



Williams charted the HA's move from specifier to procurer over the last decade and the improvements in both materials and services that have been achieved by the industry. Despite these successes there is no room for complacency according to Loveday and challenges such as surface evenness, base durability and increased sustainability need to be addressed.

Between sessions, delegates were able to browse round a number of trade stands from companies including the Highways Agency, Nynas Bitumen, RMC, Shell Bitumen, Tarmac, May Gurney, Hanson and Total.

New website to launch soon

MODERN ASPHALTS will soon be available online at www.modernasphalts.com and will give you access to the current issue as a downloadable PDF, along with a range of other features.

The new site is scheduled to go live on 11 November 2002 and will include links to the

sponsors' websites plus their contact details and an online reader reply service.

Details of features carried in previous issues of Modern Asphalts will also be available through the archive section of the website and copies (where available) can be ordered from the reader reply pages.