

Comment

A safer future through designing for maintenance



HTMA Chairman
John Jackson

Founded in April 2005, the Highways Term Maintenance Association (HTMA) exists to enable member companies from this sector to work together in creating a better future for the industry. The association is a forum for debate, a powerful knowledge base and source of best practice, plus a lobbying group to drive positive change.

We share the Highways Agency's (HA) commitment to reducing the risks and casualties to road workers and we are highlighting the importance of designing for maintenance in improving worker safety. In the first half of 2005 there was an increase in the number of road workers killed. The industry must work together to improve safety by sharing best practice and pushing for changes that will improve the safety for workers, which is exactly what the HTMA is working towards.

Designing for maintenance can play a crucial role in improving road worker safety by decreasing the time and frequency those workers need to be on site and therefore reducing their exposure to risk.

HTMA members have a wealth of experience, having learnt important lessons from conducting maintenance under difficult circumstances.

We now want to see this experience translated into better design for the future benefit of the industry. Such is the HTMA's strength of feeling on this issue, it has a dedicated working group that is focused purely on safety.

Designing for maintenance is about changing the highway infrastructure to meet maintenance needs; looking at design and making highways as safe as possible to maintain. HTMA members are not just paying lip service to the concept of

designing for maintenance. Through ECI (Early Contractor Involvement) contracts, they are using their knowledge and experience to provide advice and innovative solutions that are built in to future projects.

This is demonstrating clear benefits in driving the closer collaboration and integration of the projects and maintenance sectors.

HTMA members include Accord, Alfred McAlpine, Amey, Atkins, Carillion, Colas, Edmund Nuttall, Fitzpatrick, Jacobs Babbie, May Gurney, Morrison Highway Maintenance, Mott MacDonald, Mouchel Parkman, McNicholas, RCS, Ringway, URS, Scott Wilson and WSP.

For more information on the HTMA, visit the association's website www.htma.co.uk