

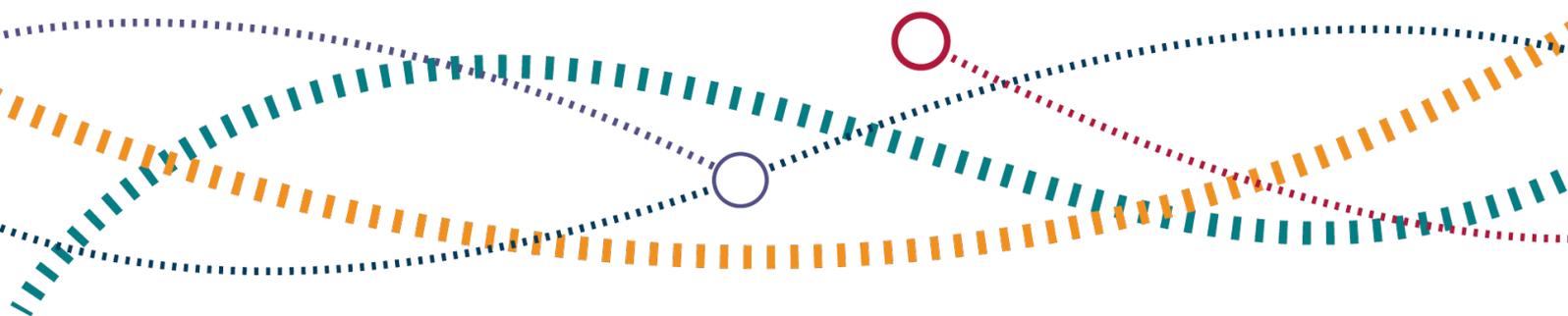


# Road Expert Panel

01 February 2023

Virtual Meeting on Teams

1000 to 1010	Welcome, setup, and declarations of interest
1010 to 1025	Update on items from the last meeting
1025 to 1040	Update from the Highways Team
1040 to 1100	Overview of TSC roles
1100 to 1145	Assessment of National Highways' carbon reduction plans
1145 to 1200	Break
1200 to 1230	Strategic programme management
1230 to 1255	REP forward look
1255 to 1300	AOB and close



## Welcome, setup, and declarations of interest

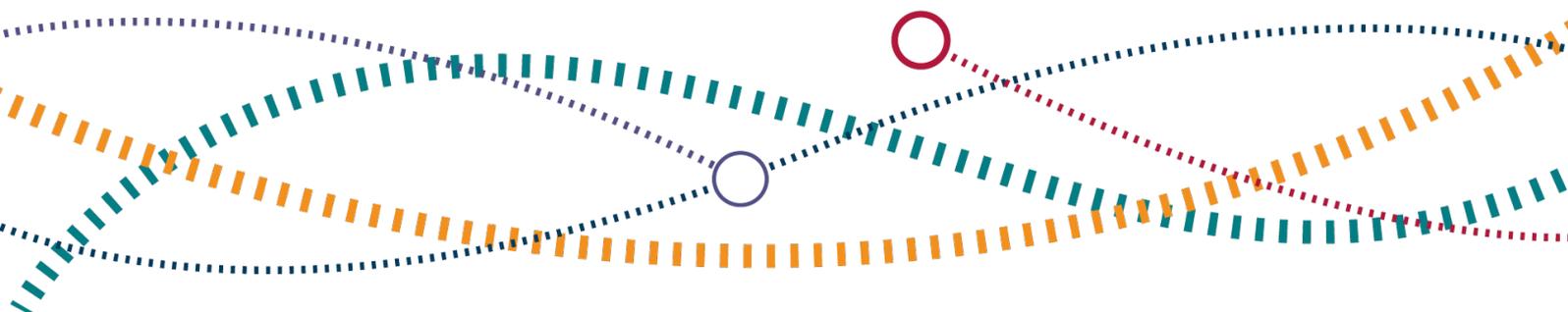
1. ORR welcomed panel members.
2. Panel members and new team members introduced themselves.
3. There were no declarations of interest from members.

## Update on items from the last meeting

4. ORR published its first annual assessment of safety performance on the SRN in December 2022. This included reporting on its work on recommendations 4 and 6 of the Transport Select Committee's (TSC) report on the roll-out and safety of smart motorways.
5. ORR updated the panel on progress for developing RIS3 and the current position in developing an appropriate set of performance indicators. The panel provided feedback on the indicators being considered. This included:
  - supporting the need for environmental indicators for carbon, biodiversity, air quality and noise;
  - advising that an indicator for ride quality could drive short term measures rather than maintaining the long-term integrity of the pavement; and
  - suggesting an indicator for road or lane closures due to unplanned maintenance.

## Update from the Highways Team

6. ORR provided an update on National Highways' performance in five areas:
  - the 10-minute response time to reach vehicles broken down in a live lane on sections of all-lane running smart motorways where places to stop are more than one mile apart;
  - key performance indicator (KPI) for efficiency;
  - predicted overspend in delivery of RIS2 enhancements;
  - KPI for reducing corporate carbon emissions; and
  - improving information sharing.



## Overview of TSC roles

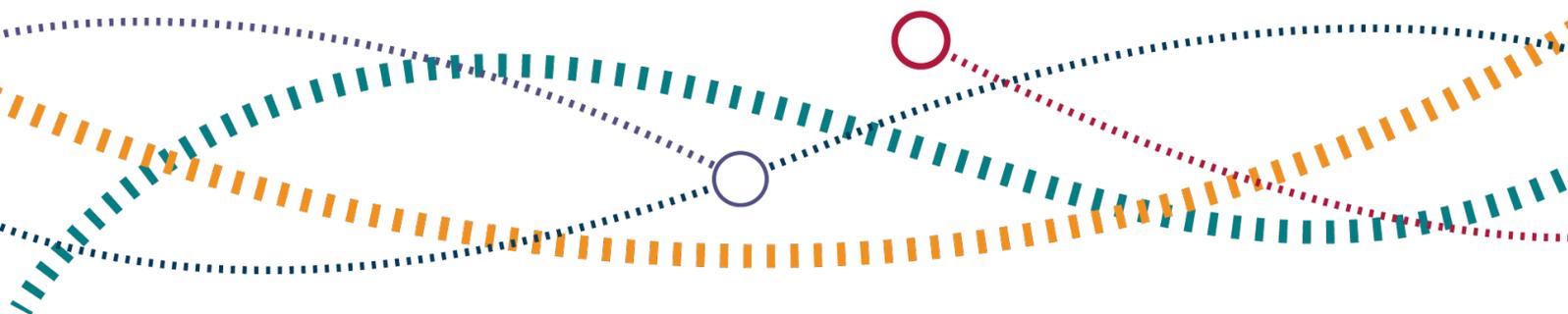
7. The Highways Team talked the panel through its recent restructuring in response to the extra resource provided as a result of the TSC smart motorways report, including the scope and purpose of the new safety and performance team and strategy and policy team.

## Assessment of National Highways' carbon reduction plans

8. ORR introduced National Highways' plan to cut its corporate carbon emissions to net zero by 2030, followed by maintenance and construction carbon emissions by 2040 and those from road users by 2050. Corporate emissions are around 80,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, with around 700,000 tonnes for maintenance and construction and 33m tonnes for road users.
9. National Highways' plan to reduce its own emissions focuses on reducing emissions from its electricity supply, from procurement, through installing more LED lighting and using its 'soft estate' as a carbon sink.
10. Proposals for reducing emissions on maintenance and construction were more high-level. They are structured around reducing emissions from materials, using lower emitting forms of transport and of handling of materials on site.
11. Panel members welcomed the work National Highways had done and the progress in its thinking on this issue. They provided feedback to ORR on the strengths and weaknesses of the plans, highlighting issues where they believed that the company would have challenges to deliver the plans and areas ORR should monitor.

## Strategic programme management

12. ORR asked panel members for their views on its approach to monitoring National Highways' enhancements programme.
13. Panel members advised that ORR should focus its monitoring at a macro level to get the assurance evidence that National Highways had both the necessary capabilities and was appropriately managing its enhancements programme. The panel also noted that closer scrutiny of individual projects both on a risk and audit basis, or to get the assurance that projects were being appropriately managed, was appropriate where this was lacking at a programme level.



## REP forward look

14. ORR said that the next panel meeting in March 2023 would be focused on its annual assessment of National Highways' performance and asked panel members for their thoughts on topics for meetings beyond that.

## Any other business

15. ORR asked panel members to share any suggestions or contacts for key individuals in the roads sector for senior stakeholder engagement.



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