

PARLIAMENTARY ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TRANSPORT SAFETY

**Minutes of PACTS Members' Meeting
Tuesday 4th March 2014: 3pm- 4.30pm
Thatcher Room, Portcullis House**

Chairman: Viscount Simon

Present: Appendix 1

Apologies: Appendix 2

1. Welcome

- Viscount Simon welcomed members and speakers to the meeting.

2. Presentation: Andrew Miller, Chief Technical Officer, Thatcham Research, 'Autonomous Emergency Braking – on the road to autonomous cars'.

Members' questions/comments included:

- The Government will say that the market will deliver AEB though lower insurance premiums. How would the incentives in terms of savings on insurance measure up against the cost of having the technology installed? AM said that there would be a range of different systems for different budgets.
- Some doubts as to the validity of the data used to give projections on how this technology would reduce road casualties. AM offered the opportunity to view the data.
- Did not address other technologies that are far less expensive to install but effective, such as seat belt and speed limit reminders and alcolocks.
- Will there be research into driver adaptation and how technology affects driver behaviour? AM: AEB only cuts in at the last minute – you would not choose to rely on it.
- Would there be strict monitoring to ensure that the technology is kept in working order, and would vehicles be subject to periodic testing in order to make sure there are no malfunctions? AM agreed that this would be necessary. The controls would be secure so they could not be disabled.
- Can the technology be fitted to older vehicles? AM felt that this would be too costly and probably not viable.
- Road surfaces and maintenance would come under scrutiny and would be a concern.
- Would upgrades cause malfunction as technology moves forward. AM answered that strict standards of process with regard to repair and maintenance would have to be in place.
- There will be a presentation on AEB (*Stop the Crash*) to Parliamentarians and others by Thatcham on 25th March at Parliament.

3. Working Party Reports were circulated and summarised by the Chairs (where present) providing information on the key issues discussed during their most recent meeting (September 2013) with the:

- Air Safety Working Party Report by David Davies in the absence of Chris Seal
- Rail Safety Working Party Report by David Morris
- Road Environment Working Party Report by Heather Ward
- Road User Behaviour Working Party Report by Oliver Carsten
- Vehicle Design Working Party Report by Julian Hill

A number of members made comments and asked questions about aspects of the reports which were noted by the Working Party chairs.

4. **Minutes from last meeting** (4th November 2013) were accepted as a true record.
5. **Treasurer's Report** was given by John Field. He highlighted the increase in membership, particularly in the corporate membership category. PACTS has secured sponsorship from Direct Line and esure, as well as financial contributions from FIA, GEM and IAM for reports and briefings. The ending of Volvo Car's sponsorship (but not membership) has had an impact. The Transport Safety Commission is now launched, an independent commission for which PACTS will provide the secretariat. The Commission is supported by grants from Rees Jeffries Road Fund and the Safer Roads Foundation. PACTS has joined forces with Landor LINKS for the Spring conference, which should ensure a higher profile for events. For the year ahead, the budget has been approved, and the future aim is to rebuild reserves.
6. **Executive Director's Report** As time was running short, this was circulated but not discussed. David Davies highlighted the PACTS Calendar of Events for 2014.
7. **Dates of the next meetings**

3pm 1st July 2014, 1st July AGM 2014, and 4th November 2014.

Copies of the above reports are available on the PACTS Members Area.

<http://www.pacts.org.uk/login/>

Appendix 1 – Present

Amy Aeron-Thomas	Road Peace
Prof Richard Allsop	UCL
Steve Arscott	Romex
Peter Bradley	West Sussex County Council
Stuart Bulmer	Alliance of British Drivers
Kate Carpenter	Jacobs/CIHT
Oliver Carsten	ITS Leeds/PACTS
Alan Charles	ACE Consultancy
Simon Copeman	3M
Jon Crockett	PACTS Board Member
David Davies	PACTS Executive Director
Andrew Evans	Imperial College London
John Field	PACTS Board Member
Becky Hadley	Hadstrong
Julian Hill	PACTS and Loughborough University
Andrew Hugill	CIHT
Saul Jeavons	Transafe Network
Katherina Lewis	3M
Jo Mackel	PACTS
Andrew Miller	Thatcham Research
John Plowman	PACTS Board Member
Simon Rewell	Insure the Box Ltd
Michael Selfe	RAC Foundation
Barry Sheerman MP	House of Commons
Viscount Simon	House of Lords
Nick Starling	Consultant
Rob Tunbridge	Consultant
Adrian Walsh	Road Safe
Heather Ward	UCL/PACTS
David Williams	GEM Motoring Assist
Mike Wilson	Highways Agency
Eric Woodgate	Eric Woodgate and Associates Ltd
Martyn Morris	Tullow
Paul Beeton	IAM

Appendix 2 - Apologies

Richard Burden MP	House of Commons
Jim Fitzpatrick MP	House of Commons
John Leech MP	House of Commons
Darren Lindsey	Michelin
Chris Lines	Consultant
Clive Neal-Sturgess	The University of Birmingham
Judith Stamper	Drivewise
Iain Stewart MP	House of Commons