New targets will shine spotlight on ‘A’ roads

Reducing deaths and serious injuries on the roads with the worst records will form a central aim of the new road safety strategy. Reducing speed limits will only be part of the solution – the rest must come from making the roadside more forgiving and here, surely, passive safety has a role to play. By Carol Debell.

A major consultation exercise is currently under way following the publication of A Safer Way: Consultation on Making Britain’s Roads the Safest in the World by Transport Minister Jim Fitzpatrick in April. The document includes a new target to cut road deaths by one third by 2020, to halve the number of child deaths and serious injuries on the roads and to halve the rate of road death and serious injury to pedestrians and cyclists per kilometre travelled.

Well received by road safety organisations, there was one community that was disappointed. Passive safety and the need for safer, forgiving roadides, which has emerged as a significant element in road safety engineering over the last 6 years, did not warrant a mention.

John Dawson, the chairman and managing director of EuroRAP AISBL. He says the consultation document puts the focus on how we design the road network to eliminate deaths and serious injuries.

EuroRAP (The European Road Assessment Programme) has been mapping and tracking the rate of death and injuries on the UK’s main roads and motorways since 2002. A major extension of this work takes place this month (June) when the Road Safety Foundation will publish the EuroRAP safety rating of the entire British ‘A’ road network outside large urban centres, some 55,000 km. This new EuroRAP network is expected to contain the majority of British road deaths. This is significant in the context of post 2010 targets because when published it will reinforce the need for urgent action on the ‘A’ road network as a top priority. John Dawson says the annual EuroRAP mapping will mean the performance of authorities in improving safety on...
This document discusses strategies and initiatives for improving road safety, with a focus on the potential for passive safety measures to reduce fatalities and injuries. The text highlights the importance of addressing high-risk routes and the need for local authorities to invest in safety improvements, backed by strong funding and economic justifications.

The document mentions the EuroRAP risk mapping system and its role in identifying safe road networks. It notes the importance of real-life test results, such as those from Virginia Tech, which demonstrated the effectiveness of certain safety measures.

The text also discusses the role of motorcycle safety, particularly in light of the high number of fatalities among motorcyclists. It highlights the need for dedicated funding and policy to support these initiatives.

The document concludes with a call for a preventive approach to road safety, emphasizing the need for ongoing investment and innovation to reduce the number of road deaths and injuries.
NEW TARGET TO CUT ROAD DEATHS

NEW HIGHWAY DEMONSTRATION CENTRE

If you want to see a practical demonstration of the latest highway and passively safe products, then a visit to a new facility at NAL's Worcester offices could be just what you are looking for.

Feargal O Connell sales director for NAL says the company has always been keen to physically show its products to customers – not merely on a PowerPoint presentation. 'We like to show them all at work, "doing as it says on the tin" so to speak.

As we were embarking on an extensive refurbishment programme to our Worcester offices and warehouse last year, we decided to make provision to incorporate a physical demonstration area to show visitors our own products at work. As we spoke to other manufacturers within the industry they expressed an interest in placing their latest products into the site as well – and so the site evolved into an innovation centre, not just for NAL products but for all types of innovative highway and passively safe products within the industry. It is our intention to constantly evolve the site as we work closely with the various manufacturers within the industry.'

The facility, which is laid out as a typical street scene, has been populated with a wide range of various passively safe traffic signal, signage and street lighting columns. All columns are fully operational with the latest technology installed onto them – including above ground electrical disconnection systems, LED traffic signals heads, light weight non corrosive traffic signal brackets, LED street lanterns, lightweight sign plates, environmentally friendly EL illuminated signs, non illuminated bollard systems and much more.

The demonstration centre also incorporates a wide range of non-passive illuminated and non illuminated street furniture such as guardrail, decorative bollards, seating, sign posts and much more.

As well as the latest innovations in above ground highway and passively safe products visitors get to view all the latest technology in underground products such as electrical disconnection systems, structural access chambers, cable holding equipment, cable jointing systems, carriageway loop boxes, and various ducting methods.

Alongside the street scene area NAL have installed a fully ducted knockdown site. This enables visitors to witness live knockdowns of passive and non-passive street furniture. Knockdowns are carried out by a JCB with a purpose-made attachment which replicates the front of a car/lorry/bus depending on the height at which it is put. As part of the day attendees are able to witness the SIS above and below ground passively safe electrical disconnection systems at work. After witnessing the live knockdown and electrical shut off, attendees can oversee the simple removal and replacement of all damaged columns within minutes from their innovative demountable retention socket foundation system.

Specific demonstrations are held weekly and are free to attend. At various times NAL will be hosting guest speakers who will give a variety of specialist presentations on relevant topics within the industry.

To book a demonstration please email sales@nal.ltd.uk or alternatively call 01905 427100.