PDWG Task Group - Design Close Calls - 13th October 2021

Summary on a page

Purpose of the Meeting - to investigate whether a Design Close Calls process similar to that used by Network Rail might provide learning and sharing benefits for health, safety and wellbeing considerations for the National Highways community

Attendees
- Andrew Finch (Jacobs) - Chair
- Simon Westwood (Arup)
- Tim Bowes (Atkins)
- Natalie Mansell (Atkins) [*part only*]
- Pav Singh (Arcadis)
- Katie Harman (National Highways) [*part only*]

Apologies
- Toria Thomas (Atkins)
- Rob Butcher (Jacobs)
- Mark Lamport (Arcadis)
- Doug Potter (Arcadis)
- Tom Merry (National Highways)
- Adam Porter (National Highways)
- Richard Wilson (National Highways)

Andrew Finch ran through his presentation outlining the principles of the DCC concept (*previously given to PDWG#22 at the May 2021 meeting*).
He then presented additional material captured by Jacobs new internal DCC process to demonstrate how it can work in practice; and some sample Jacobs DCCs raised to date.
This was followed by a group discussion about the pros and cons of introducing a DCC process for the National Highways community.

Issues raised
- Significant concerns from the supply chain about exposure to reputational and commercial risks by divulging the circumstances of a DCC issue
- Requires active engagement to report and regular circular feedback in order to deliver value to the design community and to National Highways staff
- Benefits could be from Root Cause Analysis – and lessons learnt being shared
- Essential that it functions in a truly 'no blame culture'
- Wider benefits should be emphasised - such as those that are gained when contractors share their issues through Safety Alerts
- O&M contracts have an NCR process that enables lessons learnt to be extracted – something similar in MP could possibly provide a way of harvesting issues
- Need to consider Whole Life Design issues as a part of any DCC reporting process
- What lessons can be learnt about allowing sufficient space for temporary works including access?
- How do we make a database practical in terms of searchability? E.g. generate pan-industry/inter-industry learning (via ORR?) on a regular basis (similar to CROSS reports)
- What design-related issues might be shareable from AirsWeb reports?
- What are the practical implications of DfMA when site conditions don't turn out to be in accordance with design assumptions?

Outcomes and Next Steps
- It was concluded that a DCC process would add value for health, safety and wellbeing across the National Highways community
- To be effective it would require buy-in and resourcing from National Highways
- Katie Harman took an action to report back to her National Highways colleagues to determine what support there might be to develop a communal DCC process for NH
- Andrew Finch undertook to notify the Task Group when Katie reported back and would arrange a subsequent TG meeting if appropriate