



**IHT Position**  
Awareness and understanding of highway maintenance must be part of the training and continuing professional development of all transportation professionals.

## People, Training and Skills

Maintenance is vital to the highway network. In recognition of the key role that this plays in supporting economic prosperity and national well-being, it is essential that all transportation professionals have an appreciation of maintenance. Those engaged in maintaining highways have a requirement to develop and maintain their competence in line with professional and national occupational standards.



**IHT Position**  
Adequate and sustained funds must be provided for long term investment to maintain the highway network.

## Funding

The highway network is a major national asset with a requirement for long life. Its condition must be managed in the best and most efficient way by carrying out the right maintenance work at the right place and at the right time. There must be adequate and sustained sources of funding.

Effective maintenance requires long term sustained funding delivered at the right time to achieve minimum whole life cost.



*“ Streets are the arteries of our communities ”*  
– **Manual for Streets 2007**

### Further information

John Smart, IHT Director of Technical Affairs

[john.smart@iht.org](mailto:john.smart@iht.org)

### References

Maintaining a Vital Asset.  
Well Maintained Highways  
Well Lit Highways  
Management of Highway Structures  
National Road Maintenance Condition Survey  
Manual for Streets

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National Statistics  
DfT, CLG, WAG



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## IHT HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE POSITION STATEMENT

*“ Looking after the network should be a key priority ”*

– **Maintaining a Vital Asset 2005**



**IHT Position**  
The correct maintenance and funding of highways must be a fundamental part of UK transport policy for the social and economic well-being of the country.

## The Highway Network

The network of roads, footways, bridges, lighting and verges is a highly visible community facility and a major public asset. It is a dominant place in its own right and must be maintained so that it continues to serve the communities who use it.

The majority of people use the highway daily and it is fundamental to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the community. It makes important contributions to streetscene, economic development, regeneration, accessibility, social inclusion, community safety, education, health and to quality of life.

The highway has many facets, including major routes, urban, inter-urban, industrial, rural and residential roads. It supports many modes of travel, including walking, cycling, buses, goods vehicles, and cars. There are ever increasing demands on the network from travel growth and increasing numbers of vehicles.

The condition of the highway network varies with national roads generally in better condition than local roads. The whole network is important to different users in different ways and must be effectively maintained to improve safety and efficiency.

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**IHT Position**  
 Highway maintenance standards must meet the needs of all users.

*“ It is important that the future maintenance arrangements of streets .... are decided early in the design process”*  
 – Manual for Streets 2007

## Community Needs

The entire community uses the highway network for a wide variety of purposes including work and leisure activities. It enables long and short distance movement of people and goods, access to other transport modes such as rail, air and sea, and is a conduit for delivery of water, energy, information and waste. It provides links to community meeting places and is fundamental to the creation of a quality streetscene.

The needs of all users must be identified and appropriate maintenance standards developed and applied consistently throughout the life of the highway.

Maintenance work must be planned and executed in a way that minimises disruption and keeps highway users informed.



**IHT Position**  
 Highway maintenance makes a significant contribution to road and community safety, and that a culture of safety first when undertaking road-works is essential.

## A Safe Highway

The standard to which the highway is maintained has an influence on the safety of all users. A poorly maintained highway can lead to a wide variety of incidents and injuries.

Highway maintenance standards can also affect whether the community feels safe in using and living near the highway.

The safety of highway users and of roadworkers is paramount when maintenance is carried out.



## The Environment

The highway network is extensive and maintenance has a significant influence on energy consumed, materials used and waste produced. Sustainability can be improved and the carbon footprint of maintenance reduced through the reuse and recycling of materials, use of low energy techniques and by minimising the use of scarce resources.

Landscaping around and close to highways provides a varied habitat. Appropriate working practices during maintenance contribute to conservation and to enhancement of bio-diversity.

The appearance of the highway is an important part of its impact and proper cleansing must be part of maintenance strategies.



## Managing for the Long Term

The highway is an asset for the future and must be managed accordingly using sound Asset Management principles. Design of new works must have future maintenance liability as a key consideration and all schemes be subject to a maintenance audit.

Long term plans to maintain the highway in an appropriate condition at minimum whole life cost are essential. Reliable information on condition, lifecycle costs and the impact of reinstatements are fundamental to asset management, so that funding and competing priorities can be fully addressed.

Climate change is likely to affect maintenance needs of the highway over time. There will probably be more extreme events such as high temperatures and flooding to take into account in maintenance strategies.



**IHT Position**  
 Reuse and recycling of materials and use of low energy techniques must be first choice, not an alternative.

*“ Good transport is essential for a successful economy and society”*  
 – Maintaining a Vital Asset 2005



**IHT Position**  
 Maintenance for the long term must be at the heart of all highway design and maintenance strategies.

