

## **Developing Cyclopath – a survey technique for cycle ways**

**Mark Stephenson**

*Head of Consultancy Services., W.D. M. Limited*

**Richard Dal Lago**

*Head of Electro-mechanical Engineering, W.D. M. Limited*

This paper will report on experience gained in developing a bespoke Cycle Path maintenance assessment survey vehicle, known as Cyclopath. It will highlight its use in London on the Cycle Super Highways, and the popular Bristol to Bath cycleway. The paper will also consider the use of SCRIM surveys on the cycle super highway in London to ensure surfaces provide adequate safety performance.

Many authorities are promoting cycling for both leisure and commuting through the development of dedicated cycle paths. In the past the only way to assess condition has been through visual assessment; however these do not always replicate user experience in determining condition. Often the inspection methodologies have not developed from those used on footways and carriageways. These are not always appropriate for cyclists who experience different defects during a ride.

W.D.M. Limited, has called on its unrivalled experience of testing the surfaces of UK roads to develop a specialist machine 'Cyclopath' to assess the condition and safety of cycle ways. Cyclopath uses tried and tested laser technology to scan the surface of cycle paths to check for rutting and transverse profile, texture depth and longitudinal profile. It not only records the condition of cycle ways, but is fitted with a forward facing video to produce a visual record of the route and is equipped with GPS to report network condition using various mapping products.

Based on a small chassis it is able to travel in cycle lanes. Reporting of roughness at a wavelength relevant to cycle usage, identify coarse texture and transverse shape can be aligned against user perception to better understand how cyclists experience cycling networks.

The paper will report results from London and Bristol to demonstrate the importance of identifying areas of poor condition and how this information can be used to target cost effective treatments to these areas.