

Road Asset Management:

Maintaining and improving a sustainable and efficient road network

***Stefan Gerwens
PRO MOBILITAET***

EU-trend in financing in contrast to rising expectations towards roads



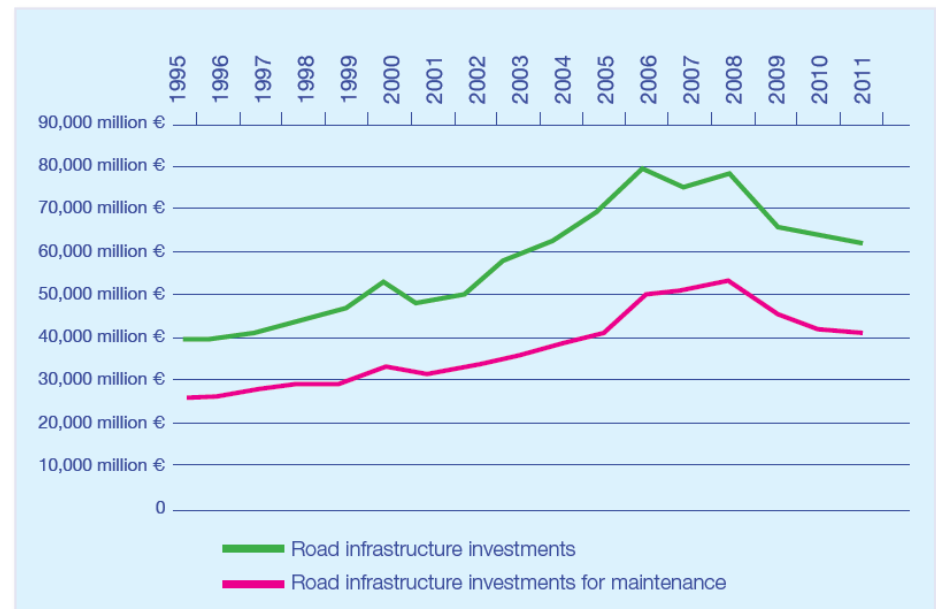
Expectations from society ..

- Ensure mobility by growing demand/ support economic growth
- Encourage diversity of mobility (cycling, pedestrians, multi-/intermodality, ..)
- Avoid noise and environmental effects
- Improve road safety

.. do not correspond to investment

- Decreasing level – irreversible deterioration (network and asset)
- Economic uncertainty and budgetary constraints
- No long-term planning of spending in public budgets

Evolution of Road Infrastructure Investments and Road Maintenance Investments in a selection of Western European Countries*



Lack of information and awareness, not a lack of instruments



ERF members from different countries faced the same situations:

- Lack of knowledge of needs for maintenance and modernisation
 - ❖ Short term decision process
 - ❖ No global approach (life cycle)

- Lack of understanding that roads are a public asset
 - ❖ Road Authorities
 - ❖ Decision makers (at all levels)
 - ❖ Road users and tax payers

- Lack of knowledge that instruments are available (RAM) and coordination with objectives outside transport policy is needed
 - ❖ Expertise of some authorities and of consultancy
 - ❖ Policy is segmented into disciplines/ sub-budgets

Need to communicate, not to develop new concepts!



Start of an ERF Working Group

Strategy of ERF WG Road Asset Management

- Identify key figures for communication
- Start communication about RAM addressing all political levels
- Give advice for implementing RAM
- Co-operation with international organisations (IRF, ITF, PIARC)

Key figures: ERF-Estimation of the value of the EU network

- Almost no figures available for the value of asset
- Average has to take into account different situations (topography, standards, ..)
- Very conservative average values (reconstruction value)
 - 10 Mill. € / km of motorway
 - 1.5 Mill. € / km of other type of roads
- Total length of EU road network: +/- 5.5 Mill. km
- Estimated value: 8,000 billion €

Start of Communication with a RAM-Manifesto



The ERF Manifesto on Road Asset Management (2013)

- “Keeping Europe Moving - A Manifesto for a long-term, effective management of a safe and efficient European road network”
- Raise awareness of:
 - ❖ Policy-makers
 - ❖ Decision-makers
 - ❖ Authorities
- Road infrastructure is one of the biggest financial assets of society
- Roads effect quality of life
- Necessity to maintain and upgrade it in time

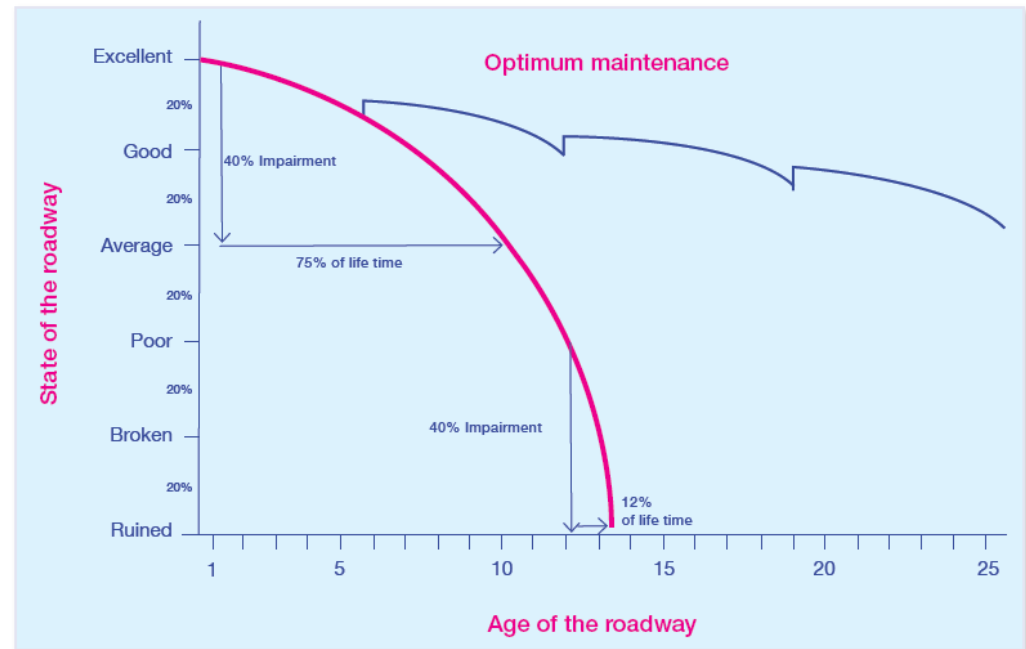


http://www.erf.be/images/Road_Asset_Management_A_Manifesto_to_keep_Europe_moving.pdf

Position paper with more detailed advice to implement RAM

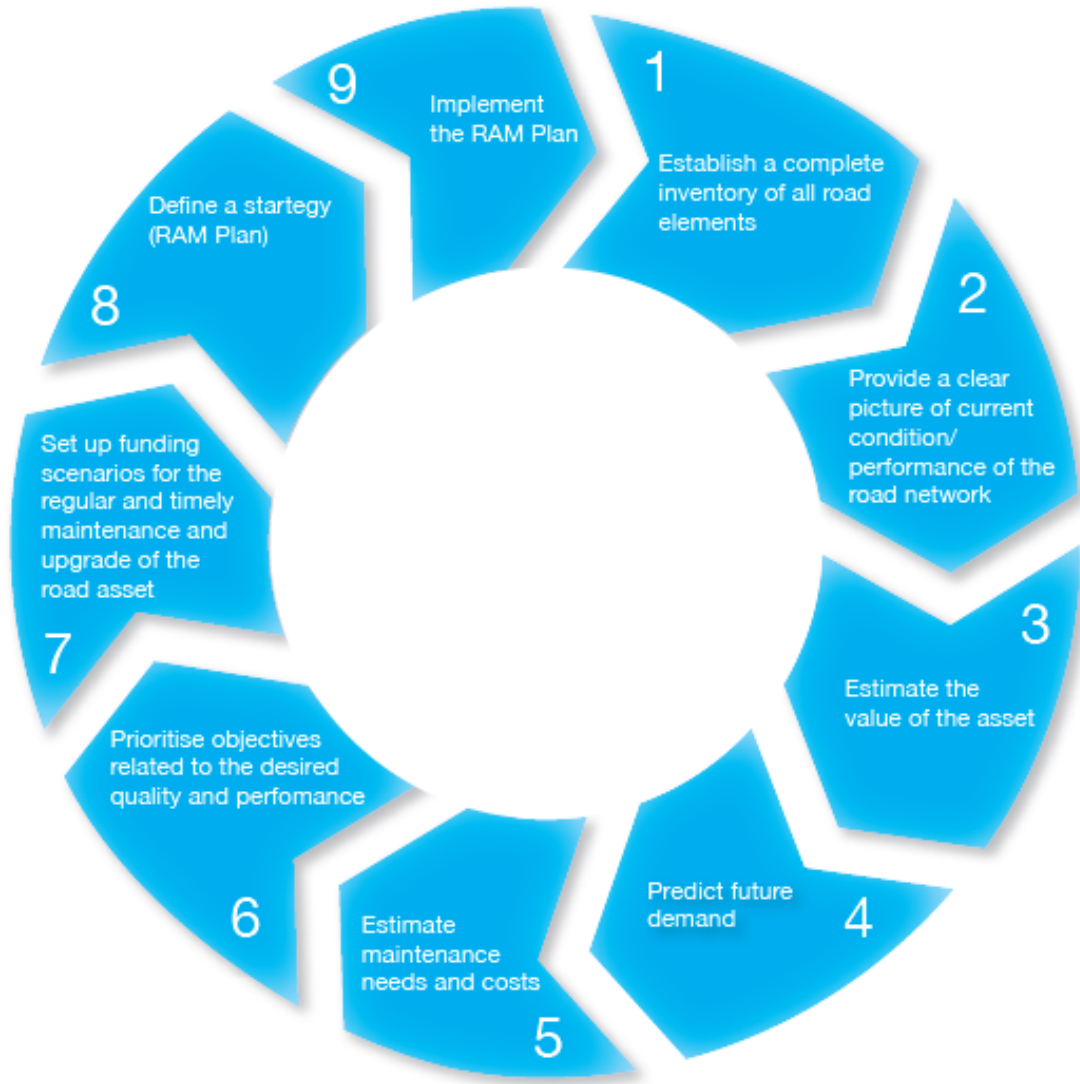


- ❖ Directed to national, regional and local politicians and road authorities (2014)
- ❖ Key message: RAM is possible and you should go for it
 - Explanation of roads as an asset and its benefits to society
 - Showing different approaches:
 - traditional approach of short-term spending
 - preventive maintenance
 - Road Asset Management
 - Advantage of RAM: Balancing different objectives: road condition, asset, access, safety, noise, environmental impact, sustainable funding
 - Advice to start RAM



Ratio of preventive maintenance

RAM as a permanent process



Benefits to the society:

- Improving decision making
- Ensuring mobility and its benefits to society in the long run
- Preserving a quality of roads contributing to all relevant objectives
- Managing your network in a highly efficient way
- Preservation of this huge financial asset for future generations



Your contribution to better roads and sustainable road management?

As a decision maker

- Recognize roads as an asset for the society
- Take initiatives to implement Road Asset Management
- Support road authorities by providing necessary funding
- Communicate to all the stakeholders

As a road authority

- Start establishing an inventory of your roads
- Ensure transparency in the implementation of the RAM process
- Convince politicians of the benefits of RAM to the community
- Implement the process on a regular basis

As a citizen, user and taxpayer

- Be aware of the level of mobility, safety and service
- Make your voice heard that roads are an asset and a public utility
- Ensure that roads are systematically considered as a political priority

The earlier you start in network development, the bigger are the benefits!

Stefan Gerwens

Director

Pro Mobilitaet – Initiative fuer Verkehrsinfrastruktur e.V.

Friedrichstrasse 154, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Phone: ++49 30 22 48 84 12

E-Mail: gerwens@promobilitaet.de

<http://www.promobilitaet.de>