

# **IPENZ TRANSPORTATION GROUP**

## **Annual Report 2003/04**

### **Introduction**

The Christchurch-based Management Committee (MC), elected at the 2003 AGM, has continued to progress the Action Plan prepared by the previous Wellington-based MC, as described below.

The five Branches have continued, with the aid of a small annual grant, to be active in providing services for members within their areas, as described in the attached Branch reports.

### **Group Structure**

In response to an approach by IPENZ, the MC met with John Gardiner (IPENZ Deputy CEO) to discuss the status of the Group. There are three types of relationship with IPENZ; a Collaborating Technical Society (CTS), a Technical Interest Group (TIG) or a Special Interest Group (SIG). A CTS has a greater level of independence than TIGs and SIGs, being a separate legal entity and having their own Rules, while TIGs and SIGs are part of IPENZ and are bound by the IPENZ Rules.

After a careful analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of becoming an Incorporated Society and CTS, the MC concluded that the Transportation Group should remain a TIG. It is therefore recommended that the Transportation Group remain an IPENZ TIG.

Should this recommendation be approved, a thorough review of the Group's Rules would be appropriate, to harmonise them with the IPENZ Rules, which take precedence over our Group Rules. Such a review would be done during the next year, with a revised set of Rules being presented to a Special General Meeting in conjunction with the 2005 Annual General Meeting.

The 2003 AGM considered a proposal that the MC not continue to rotate between Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington, and resolved that the incoming MC establish a working party to consider the issues and bring recommendations to the 2004 AGM. A report on this matter is attached.

Three Special Focus Groups (SFGs), the Traffic Signals Focus Group, the Integrated Transportation Planning Focus Group, plus the Trips and Parking Database Bureau, continue to operate and meet the needs of members for contact with others with specialist knowledge and experience. Reports from each of these are attached.

A review of Group Branch names and boundaries has been undertaken, resulting in Group Branch boundaries consistent with IPENZ Branch boundaries. The agreed Group Branch names are for the time being Auckland/Northland, Waikato/Bay of Plenty, Central, Canterbury/Westland and Southern.

### **Recruitment**

According to IPENZ, the current number of members is 677 (c.f. 644 at the same time last year). There have been 67 new members (mainly from Consulting Engineers, Central Government and Regional/Local Government) and 34 resignations in the last year. The MC has been considering changes to membership classes, and a report on this matter is attached.

It should be noted that the Group's Rules relating to membership provide for Members, Associate Members, and Affiliated Members. In addition, IPENZ Rules relating to membership provide for Honorary Fellows, Distinguished Fellows, Fellows, Professional Members, Technical Members, Associate Members, Companions and Graduate Members. They also provide for Life Members and Retired Members. The MC is not considering having such a wide range of membership classes for the Group. A review of Group Rules (as foreshadowed above) should include those relating to membership, to ensure they meet the needs of the Group and are in harmony with those of IPENZ.

### **Submissions**

The MC has in the past year made submissions on:

- the Ministry of Transport's Walking and Cycling Strategy;
- the Government's Transport Sector Review;
- the Ministry of Education's School Closure and Amalgamations Policy;
- Transfund's Funding Allocation Framework.

The MC has made ex gratia payments to members with appropriate expertise, to prepare draft submissions for MC discussion and circulation to TG members, and to revise the submissions taking account of the comments received. This has greatly assisted the preparation of submissions, with member involvement so they reflect the views of Group members.

The MC has been approached by a number of members who have expressed considerable concern regarding the recent Government decision not to proceed with changes to intersection priority rules, as recommended by the LTSA. Group members have been advocating such changes for well over ten years, and LTSA research has shown that reverting to the pre-1976 rules would have a very high benefit/cost ratio. It is therefore recommended that the Transportation Group:

(1) advises the Government that the Group is deeply concerned that the decision not to proceed with the proposed intersection priority rule changes will mean a continuation of avoidable and unnecessary road crashes, trauma and social costs;

(2) requests the Government to re-consider its decision and proceed with the changes.

### **Professional Development**

The Traffic Management Workshop continues to be the Group's main professional development activity, as well as a substantial source of funds. The Technical Conference complements the Workshop very well, by providing an opportunity for members to present substantial papers describing research or developments in engineering practice.

Branch meetings continue to provide a substantial portion of the opportunities for members to develop professionally, with many meetings, often involving speakers from overseas or other areas of NZ. The MC is keen to facilitate such interchanges, especially when overseas visitors with relevant expertise are available.

The 2003 AGM requested the MC to consider using the Group's financial reserves to increase its services to members, and a report on this matter is attached. The MC believes that it is currently inappropriate for Group funds to be used for the development of Standards and Guidelines. It should be noted that John Gardiner (IPENZ Deputy CEO) has commented that our Group is viewed favourably within IPENZ as being very active already in providing services to members.

The MC is considering extending Group activities to provide professional development opportunities for pavement and road asset management engineers. The needs of such engineers are not served by any IPENZ TIG, SIG or CTS. Discussions have begun with the REAAA, Ingenium and ACENZ (Transportation) groups, to explore the needs of such engineers and the scope for the Transportation Group to assist in meeting those needs. The MC believes the interface between pavement and traffic engineering needs more attention, and would be facilitated by greater interaction between pavement and traffic engineers.

### **Standards and Guidelines**

The MC continues to be concerned about the apparent lack of a will and a way for the development of Standards and Guidelines appropriate for NZ. There has been no contact with the Standards and Guidelines Steering Group. The MC is hopeful that the restructuring of the Government Transport Sector, with the greater separation of policy and operational matters, will result in a substantial improvement in the situation. The MC intends monitoring the situation closely, with a view to making submissions to Land Transport NZ if necessary.

### **Promotion**

The MC has meet with IPENZ Management to discuss matters of interest to the Group. The promotion of Transportation Engineering is included in the above-mentioned 'services to members' proposal. There is a need to coordinate our activities in this area with those of others (especially IPENZ and Tertiary Education Institutions), to maximise the effect of our activities. It is also important to note that High Schools are approached by many organisations wishing to recruit students, and promotion activities must be targeted carefully, to avoid increasing the resistance to such activities.

## **Publications**

Four issues of the Group's main publication (Roundabout) have been produced in December 2003, March 2004, June 2004 and August 2004. Each issue contained about 40 pages of news items and technical articles, plus the traditional humorous items. Thanks are due to Mike Jackett, who has edited Roundabout for the last several years, and Yvonne Warner, who has taken over from Mike.

The MC is considering establishing an Editorial Board, comprising the Editor plus one member from each Branch, to assist with extracting and presenting information about Group activities around the country (as well as relevant developments overseas). The MC has also been considering producing Roundabout in electronic form. This would make it possible to send Roundabout to the AITPM for circulation to its members, as the AITPM newsletters are circulated to Group members.

The Group webpage has been transferred to the IPENZ website, and has been upgraded substantially, with the addition of more material (including copies of papers presented at the Group's Technical Conference). The work of Glen Koorey and Matt Ensor in upgrading and maintaining the website is much appreciated.

The MC has been considering producing a more frequent (fortnightly, say) electronic newsletter, to ensure that Group members get news in a timely manner. Progress has not been possible because of a nil response to a call for offers to edit such a publication. A report on publication matters is attached.

## **Financial Report**

A statement of the Group's financial situation is attached.

The MC is considering instituting an honorarium for the Group Administrator, in recognition of the effort involved in dealing promptly with the large volume of work associated with the position.

## **Conclusion**

I believe the Group is in good shape and well placed to grow in strength in the future, with the increasing recognition of the important contribution of transportation to economic well-being, the quality of life, and greenhouse gas emissions.

I thank the Branch Committees, the Special Focus Group organisers, the organisers of the 2004 Traffic Management Workshop and Technical Conference, and my colleagues on the Management Committee (especially our Group Administrator, Don McKenzie) for their contribution to the well-being of the Group.

Alan Nicholson  
(Chair, Transportation Group National Committee)

September 2004