



email newsletter

April 2002

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Introduction

This email newsletter is produced for AITPM members. Members are encouraged to provide material for future editions. Members who have not received this edition electronically should advise the secretariat of their email address.

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The following companies/organisations are National Sponsors:



President's Message

At the Vic Branch Seminar on Integrated Transport held in March, I was confronted by Local Government decision-makers who were pleading for more technical input to transport proposals.

I was encouraged but also challenged as I listened to the State Minister of Transport, The Hon Peter Batchelor, thank the AITPM for past seminars and briefings and specifically request that we will continue to be a conduit for information to his office.

In the March newsletter I spoke of the proposed 2002 Mission for AITPM: "Growing traffic skills and knowledge to deliver sustainable transport". I am convinced, more than ever, that we must pursue this direction.

One frustrating point was that such a great amount of information at the seminar might only reach the 120 people who attended. The next day, however, I sat in the studios of ABC radio as the AITPM was represented in a debate on transport during a bus strike, where reference was made to the seminar. Broadcasting through the media is another strategy that we are addressing.

I encourage all AITPM members to contribute their ideas to the development of these important strategies, which will be discussed at this year's annual conference in Perth in August.

John Reid - National President

Ph (03) 97350255 or e-mail: (jareid@austraffic.com.au)

Feature

AITPM Seminar – Integrated Transport

The AITPM, in conjunction with the Department of Infrastructure (DOI), held a one-day seminar in Victoria on Integrated Transport with a particular reference to the needs of local government. Some of the themes and trends that were raised included:

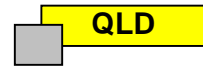
- Local government has a big role to play
- The dangers of fundamentalism
- We have underplayed the importance of footpaths.
- Collecting data and information
- A customer approach
- How do we pay for it?

Link to a summary http://www.aitpm.org.au/annex/0204_Summary.pdf

The following companies/organisations are Major Branch Sponsors



- RTA



- Dept of Transport
- Dept of Main Roads



- Transport SA
- RAA



News

Fatal Crashes At Level Crossings

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau has just released a study of 87 fatal crashes at level crossings between 1988 and 1998. Key findings included:

- Level crossing crashes constituted only 0.7 of a percentage point of fatal road crashes. There were 120 fatalities per 100 fatal level crossing crashes compared with 113 fatalities per 100 other fatal road crashes.
- Eighty three per cent occurred in daylight (excluding dawn and dusk) and 63 per cent on a weekday during the day. Fourteen per cent occurred at night, two per cent at dawn and one per cent at dusk.
- Eighty five per cent occurred in fine weather. The road was straight in 89 per cent of cases and level in 77 per cent of cases.
- Ten per cent occurred at crossings with boom gates, 41% occurred where an 'active' warning system was in place (other than boom gates) and 44% occurred where the warning system was 'passive'.
- The influence of alcohol or drugs or excessive speed was less common in level crossing crashes than in other fatal road crashes.
- Twenty six per cent of the drivers were in the 60+ age group while only ten per cent of drivers in other fatal road crashes were in this age group.

Link <http://www.atsb.gov.au/road/mgraph/mgraph10/index.cfm>

Council considers MCG car ban

The Melbourne City Council has proposed a ban of cars for the MCG precinct in time for the 2006 Commonwealth Games and beyond.

The Age newspaper reports that "The plan, entitled Towards 2006 - City of Melbourne Sports Policy (2002-2005), also proposes extending bike paths through the area and improving public transport access to the traditional home of Australian football and cricket".

Sydney's Homebush Bay banned cars for the Olympic games and has strongly discouraged car use for other sporting events and the Royal Easter Show. It has been suggested that the policy has been so successful that the limited car parking stations are, in some peoples' opinion, now being under-utilised.

MAA Grants

The Motor Accidents Authority (MAA) in NSW has developed a Youth Road Safety Program for the years 2000 to 2003. Youth road safety research grants are being offered to support research projects that are consistent with the MAA's aim to inform and contribute to the improvement of youth road safety practice in NSW.

The MAA is a statutory corporation that administers the Compulsory Third Party (CTP) personal injury insurance scheme for motor vehicles registered in NSW.

Link www.maa.nsw.gov.au



Do Males Really Take More Risks? Perhaps Not!

Research by Boyce and Geller from the Department of Psychology at the University of Nevada-Reno, found that driver age and type A personality characteristics were significant predictors of vehicle speed and following distance. However, contrary to the earlier research, which relies heavily on a self-reported driving criterion, no significant gender differences were obtained.

Reference: **Accident Analysis & Prevention** 2002; 34(1): 51-64

Four Wheel Drive Crashes

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau has just released a study on the involvement of four-wheel drive (4WD) vehicles in fatal crashes. The incidence of fatal 4WD crashes increased by 85 per cent between 1990 and 1998. This increase is likely to be due to the growing number of kilometres travelled, rather than any decrease in the safety of 4WDs.

The proportion of alcohol intoxication amongst 4WD drivers involved in fatal crashes was higher than for all other types of vehicle operators. In 4WD crashes involving multiple vehicles, passenger car occupants accounted for the largest proportion of fatalities

[Link](#)

Discussion Points

The AITPM is compiling information and ideas on a number of subjects that it will discuss with professionals, decision makers and in the media. If you have any comments please send them to us at aitpm@bigpond.com or one of the addresses listed at the beginning of this newsletter.

Vision Zero

One of the earliest debates raised in this newsletter was about the Swedish philosophy of Vision Zero, which takes the view that the road system can be built in such a way that no accident should lead to a death.

A member of AITPM noticed an article in Victoria's Herald Sun newspaper on 1 March 2002 entitled 'Deadly design' and subtitled 'We can build roads that eliminate death' by Raph Grzebieta and George Rechnitzer from the Road Safety and Crashworthiness research team at Monash University.

The article was very critical of transport professionals. It said, in part, "The vehicle engineers are not talking to the road design engineers, who in turn are not talking to the surgeons and the police to find out how people are being injured and killed".

Should the AITPM respond, on behalf of its members, to this type of publicity and if so what should be our approach? One member has said "I am getting a bit sick of people taking cheap-shots in the popular press at the transport profession". Do we need to stand up and be counted for what we do or should we change what we are doing?



Tolling

Tolls are more than just a political issue. They are a way of funding improvements to the transport system.

Modern technology will revolutionise the way we can collect user-pay charges from motorists. As transport professionals, are we setting the agenda on tolls and how they will be used in the future?

Marzi DeSanti, Manager Mobility Infrastructure for NRMA Member Services in NSW, recently delivered a paper “What e-technologies can mean for customers” to the international Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) conference in Sydney ([Link](#)). The NRMA is taking this issue further by conducting a poll that will give its members (approx two million people in NSW and the ACT) the chance to express their views on the recent Harbour Bridge toll increase. Further, they have commissioned ARUP Transportation Planning to undertake an international review of developments in transport revenue collection and expenditure.

At a recent AITPM seminar, Cr Dick Gross told the story of a difficult process in addressing car-parking reform in the City of Port Phillip. He achieved greater public acceptance once he directed all money collected from new parking charges back into parking projects.

If we can toll people more easily, should we toll them more? What particular behaviours should we tax? How should the money be spent? Help us address this issue over the next few months by sending your comments to the AITPM at any of the addresses listed at the beginning of this newsletter.

Variable Signs

Main Roads Queensland, through its Cooperative Roads Management Project (CRMP) has been coordinating, since August last year, the drafting of *Guidelines for the Use of Variable Message Signs on Queensland Roads*.

[Link](#) for a more detailed report.

Are there examples of good and bad variable signs? Send in examples – pictures particularly appreciated. [Email](#)

Speed Humps and Corrugated Roads

Scientists from the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) have been trialing undulating road surfaces that create powerful vibrations whenever a car goes over them too quickly. The noise is said to be so loud that drivers instantly slow down.

Are speed humps still in favour? Have they passed their use-by date?

AITPM correspondent Wal Cichocki from Darebin City Council, believes that local residents are generally in favour of speed humps.

“Public consultation confirms this preference. Those against them are usually outnumbered by the advocates. Adverse comments refer to noise, pollution, safety, and where they are placed (NIMFY - not in my front yard).

cont.

Funny Photos



There are generally no adverse comments from industrial operators (trucks) or Council's contractors (garbos, sweepers, etc).

We use only two approved profiles on public roads: Watts (in asphalt - \$600 each) and "flat top" (usually bricks/concrete and asphalt -\$5-10,000 each). We don't put humps on bus routes.

I agree with the term used in the UK study: "the plague of humps". I sometimes worry that if we progress at this pace we will soon end up with humps everywhere at a massive expense of ratepayers money - similar effect could gradually be achieved by better road discipline (education, behavioural improvements etc) and enforcement."

Link [Photo 1](#) - [Photo 2](#) to two photos from Wal of speed humps in his area.



Subscriptions

Invoices for AITPM subscriptions for 2002-03 were posted in March and are payable by April 30. If members have not yet received an invoice, would they please advise Trish Lever at the AITPM (address above) and a new invoice will be posted.

Media

With the approval of our National President, South Australia's Branch member and Assistant National Secretary, Bill Cirocco, was recently interviewed by the Adelaide Advertiser newspaper representing the AITPM.

The issue was a proposal, which has been under consideration for 40 years, to permanently block east-west traffic from Victoria Square. The State Government has refused to provide any funding for the project and motoring groups are concerned about traffic problems.

Bill said that the key factor was the impact of the closure on the adjacent streets - "If you close off Grote and Wakefield (streets), that traffic has to go somewhere else - it's got to transfer to an adjacent street".



Recent Events

Real Time Passenger Information Systems for Bus Operations

At a recent South Australian technical meeting, Trevor Coad presented an overview of Real Time Passenger Information Systems for bus operations and outlined existing systems, both overseas and in Australia.

One of the main advantages of providing accurate information to the travelling public is the removal of anxiety - "Have I just missed the bus, or is it a couple of minutes late?" cont.



Adelaide will be installing a system displaying real time information on approximately 35 bus stops, which covers 75% of boardings along the particular route. Bus stops in the CBD will also have audio equipment installed for vision-impaired patrons.

Future systems could provide information via telephone services and the Internet. University of SA is engaged to undertake the before and after study to evaluate the success of the system.

Coming Events

Mass Urban Transport Turning Multimodality Into Seamless Mobility - Vic - 22 May, 2002

A half-day conference has been organised by UITP (International Association of Public Transport) with the following speakers:

- William M Millar - President, American Public Transportation Association
- John Taylor - Infrastructure Victoria
- Garry Glazebrook, Consultant, The Warren Centre, Sydney, NSW
- Geoff Anson - Infrastructure Victoria
- Jack Wilson - Special Projects, Daimler Chrysler Australia

A 15 Member Study Mission from the American Public Transit Association (www.apta.com) will attend the Seminar as part of their two week visit to Australia.

Details:

- 22 May 2002 at 80 Collins Street, Melbourne
- Registration 1.00 pm to 1.30 pm

Contact Peter Moore, Executive Director. Telephone: 02 62078046 or www.uitp.com

Training & Education For Transport Professionals – Sydney - 10 April

Our profession needs to address its own sustainability. We need some practical, interactive education programs and ongoing information exchanges so that technical excellence is developed, communicated and applied wherever necessary. The AITPM has embraced a strategy to ensure that this happens. This meeting is one important step in the process of progressing the training and education of Traffic and Transport Engineers.

AITPM would like to hear your views. Come along to the NSW Branch meeting where David Brown will present an overview and then facilitate your participation in the discussion, or email (aitpm@bigpond.com) with your ideas.

- Wednesday 10 April 2002 - 5.30pm for 6.00pm;
- YWCA - Ruth Fairfax Room;
- Level 2, 5 – 11 Wentworth Avenue, Sydney.



Road Safety Inventors Forum – Qld –16 April

The Forum aims to turn the light on new and proposed inventions relating to road safety and to stimulate innovation. Issues to be covered include a new seatbelt system for school buses, new roadmarking technology to improve visibility in poor conditions, an innovative data-logging system for monitoring driver behaviour, a low maintenance, cost effective and safe guidepost system.

Details

- 16 April starting at 1:00pm
- Queensland University of Technology - Gardens Point Campus
- Contact Judy Williams, CARRS-Q, Tel: +61 7 3864 4568, Email: j4.Williams@qut.edu.au or website: www.carrsq.qut.edu.au

Pedestrian Seminar - Sydney - 24 May

The Motor Accidents Authority (MAA) seminar's keynote speaker will be Ms Jeanne Breen, Executive Director of the Brussels-based European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) road safety. The conference will address:

- Recent developments in pedestrian strategic planning
- An overview of pedestrian involvement in crashes in NSW
- Critical pedestrian safety issues in NSW and possible actions
- Starts at 8:45am

Contact: PO Box 116 Salamander Bay NSW 2317, FAX (02) 4984 2755 or email maa@pco.com.au

Saferoads, Turning Plans Into Action – Vic – 16-17 July

This conference will bring together municipalities, community groups, road safety agencies and research organisations to discuss and share the latest developments in road safety.

- Website at <http://www.saferoads2002.com/>
- email: saferoads@meetingplanners.com.au

AITPM Conference – Perth – 8-9 August

Nearly 30 abstracts have been received for the national conference. The organising committee is selecting those most appropriate for the program.

One of the features of the conference will be a strategic planning session that will investigate the vision and strategies the AITPM should take for the coming years. Input from members prior to and during the session would be appreciated. Link (www.aitpm.com.au)

Australasian Transport Research Forum (ATRF) – Canberra – 2-4 October

The 25th Australasian Transport Research Forum (ATRF) will be hosted by the Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics (BTRE) in Canberra. The theme of the 2002 ATRF will be identifying and addressing Australia's primary transport challenges.



Useful Links

Road Safety Research

The 2001 Road Safety Research Policing and Education Conference website has 58 conference papers, 2 keynote papers and 5 photos for you to view.

Link www.monash.edu.au/oce/roadsafety

Reducing Motor Vehicle-Related Injuries and Death

The American Journal of Preventive Medicine (AJPM) recently released a special supplement containing systematic reviews of 13 community-based interventions to reduce motor vehicle-related injuries and deaths.

Link www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/mvsafety.htm.

Traffic Technology International Magazine

Traffic Technology International magazine - it is a free subscription. Very much a technology mag.

Link www.ukintpress.com

Career Moves/Job Spot

Trevor Coad

Trevor Coad, Project Manager - Real Time Passenger Information System, Transport SA, spoke at SA's last Branch meeting has retired. Andrew Garrett will manage the implementation of this project in future.

Principal Transport Planner – Position Advertisement

Reporting to the Director of the Planning Division of this leading Global Engineering Consultancy, this newly created senior position has responsibilities including project delivery, client management, staff mentoring and business development.

The Planning Division targets projects within both the public and private sector in the areas of urban planning, transport planning, traffic engineering, demand forecasting and public transport. The Division aims to be the pre-eminent adviser on macro demand issues resulting from changes in population.

With a focus on project and relationship management, key attributes include, commercial acumen, analytical ability, practical outlook, outstanding written and verbal communication skills and exceptional time management. A degree (and possibly a post graduate qualification) in engineering, transport planning, economics or environmental planning is a requirement for the role as is previous experience in transport planning. Microsoft Access skills, exposure to GIS and prior consulting experience would be favourably viewed.

cont.



A competitive salary package will be offered to the successful candidate, with international career opportunities a reality within this international business.

Contact: Kevin Miller quoting reference #1136: Phone: 02 8913 7700;
Fax: 02 8913 7005; email: resume@cmconsult.com.au

Lectureship/Senior Lectureship - Auckland - NZ

The Department of Planning is seeking to appoint someone with strengths in transport and infrastructure planning and quantitative analysis. Teaching experience and a strong research record are essential. Candidates should preferably have a PhD or its equivalent, or be close to completion. A professionally recognised planning qualification is desirable. It is hoped that the appointment will commence mid 2002.

Contact: Janet Reader for conditions of appointment at j.reader@auckland.ac.nz. For more information see website www.nzjobs.co.nz/auckland.ac/

Send three copies of applications, quoting Vacancy (1396NHD), to the Academic Appointments Office, Human Resources Registry, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand, by the closing date of 11 April 2002. Applicants who may not meet the deadline should contact the university to tell them that it is on its way.

Odd Spot

Road Safety Campaigns

A couple of catchy road safety slogans have been developed recently:

- NRMA has an Easter campaign *Crash Before You Drive* to remind motorists to get plenty of rest before setting out on holiday journeys.
- In the UK, a £750,000 advertising campaign shows a car slewing across a motorway at night, crashing into the central reservation barrier and overturning. The voice-over to the action says: "John will tonight die in his sleep. He is warm, comfortable and has his family by his side".

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