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RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

TDB is currently organising a series of NZ based seminars highlighting two recent key TDB Research Reports: ITA Guidelines and the Update of Report 209. Both these research projects were completed with funding from the NZTA Research Programme.

These free seminars will be short, snappy sessions that will provide an insight to the ins and outs of the reports, and how they can be used to improve best practice across the country in these two areas. They will be based on a 1.5-2 hr programme. A similar series is under consideration for Australian members.

Steve Abley and Malcolm Douglass, the lead authors will lead presentations on their respective report as well as providing an opportunity for questions and discussion on their application. The seminars will be held during August to October this year, in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. Watch out for more detail in upcoming flyers.

TDB members who attend the seminars will also be provided with a free copy of the ITA Guidelines. As the first seminars run by TDB in two years, it will provide an excellent opportunity and forum for members to network and share their stories of how the field is evolving at the present time, particularly in light of the economic recession and the impacts of the Christchurch earthquakes.

By way of an overview, the ITA Guidelines provide guidance on when and how to carry out an integrated transport assessment, plus what should be included in assessments of varying complexity.

Although some guidelines are already available, it is generally acknowledge that current transport assessments produce variable results and quality. This is a problem, because it may mean that valuable resources are being under-utilised or over-utilised, and sometimes important decisions are being made without the benefit of fully understanding the transport effects of a proposal.

The new guidelines were produced in an attempt to rectify this by drawing on best practice in New Zealand and from overseas to improve the quality of the assessments and decisions through better targeted

and consistent levels of information appropriate to the proposal. The report seeks to explain how integrated transport assessments should be conducted, with particular consideration of integrated and sustainable management of resources.

The Update of Report 209 is both a major revision of "Trips and Parking Related to Land Use" Research Report NZTA No 209 (2001) and also introduces new material from recent published reports. The revision includes all the material from the earlier report updated wherever possible. In addition, a new chapter is included on travel modes and trip purposes, and the chapters on NZ Trips and Parking Trends, and Survey Practices have been extended.

Recent research comparing UK and NZ travel patterns and correlations have extended the chapter on overseas comparisons which is further enhanced by tables of trips and parking for New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom and North America. The four international source databases for these tables are compared and reviewed.

The basic purpose of the updated report remains to contribute to a comprehensive national overview of travel by all modes related to land uses at the individual site level and the surveys also include the observation of car parking demand at each site. The research supports the principle of retaining surveyed information in a national common and collegial database on a site-by-site basis. Only in this way are practitioners able to effectively and efficiently compare sites with similar land use and locational characteristics.

TDB CHAMPION RETIRES

Malcolm Douglass was essentially the founding father of TDB, and its principal champion and driving force during most of its first decade (TDB is 10 years old in 2012!). Over recent years, Malcolm has progressively stepped back and handed over the TDB reins to the next generation. He acknowledges that TDB is moving from a pioneering phase to consolidating the database and setting itself up as a sustainable long term collective, and that the time to move on is right. All here at TDB would like to wish Malcolm and Judie every happiness and enjoyment in a long and well deserved retirement in sunny Nelson.

Stuart Woods
Executive Officer 15.07.11