

NZ Trips & Parking Database Bureau Inc.

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THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

For Year Ending 30 June 2005

To be presented to the Annual Meeting 5 September 2005

1. BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

Since the Annual Meeting held in Wellington 7 September 2004 the Board has held five meetings on the 7 September 2004 and teleconference meetings on the 17 December, 25 February, 1 July and 19 August 2005.

The Board comprised:-

David Gamble (Chairman Dunedin) and six elected members including Steve Reddish (Deputy Chairman Auckland), Chris Freke (Manukau), Ian Clark (Auckland), John Winter (Hamilton), Steve Spence (Wellington), Tony Brennand (Wellington), together with Mike Blyleven (as the IPENZ Transportation Group's nominee Christchurch) and Bob Alkema (nominated by LTNZ).

While, in terms of the rules, Chris Freke and Steve Reddish are required to stand down this year, both have indicated their willingness to be re-elected.

2. TPDB MEMBERSHIP

It will be recalled we had 14 members at the end of our first year June 2003, lifting to 28 at the end of our second year June 2004. There have been 5 additions during the last financial year and 1 since July 1st. I welcome:-

Sinclair Knight Mertz (SKM)
Waitakere City Council
Invercargill City Council
Steve Abley
Napier City Council and
Transit New Zealand- all regions, joining since July 1st.

I am disappointed that Nelson City, one of our early members, has chosen to not maintain its membership this year. Apparently they have not used the data base, but I expect that in due course NCC will rejoin.

The full membership is now as follows:

Auckland City Council	Tauranga City Council
Dunedin City Council	Wellington City Council
Hastings City Council	Wellington Regional Council
Hutt City Council	Western Bay of Plenty City Council
Manukau City Council	Douglass Consulting Services Ltd
Palmerston North City Council	Traffic Design Group Ltd
Auckland Regional Council	TrafficPlan Ltd (D Gamble)
Christchurch City Council	New Plymouth City Council
Environment Waikato	Opus International
Montgomery Watson MWHGlobal.	Beca Carter Hollings Ferner
Porirua City Council	Bloxham Burnett & Olliver Ltd.
Tim Kelly Consultants Ltd	Gabites Porter (Hamilton)
Traffic Planning Consultants Ltd	Waitakere City Council
Waitakere City Council	Environment Canterbury
Sinclair Knight Mertz (SKM)	Invercargill City Council
Steve Abley	Napier City Council
Transit New Zealand	

The NZ-TPDB is an Incorporated Society and a Focus group of the IPENZ Transportation Group. Its purpose is to collect Data on Surveyed Trips, Parking and Traffic and share it with NZ professional engineers and planners.

I repeat the point I made at this time last year:-

'With a strong membership, covering large and small councils and consultancies, it should be possible to secure more traffic, trips, parking and travel survey data for the benefit of all members and the traffic and planning professional community.'

3. NEWSLETTERS AND CONTACTS

Newsletters 6, 7 and 8 were sent out in February, June and August respectively. These have endeavoured to both reflect our progress, inform members and rouse interest in extending the membership.

International Contacts with similar organisations such as ITE, RTA/ARRB, TRICS/UK have grown significantly this year. This has been in part because of the research work and also a variety of cross Tasman Sea conference contacts. These are all leading to greater information exchange and possible opportunities of data exchange as well.

By updating the Database and actively supporting members who seek information and comparative comment, I hope we are continuing to provide the type of resource and service members seek. We realise however that you are all busy people and therefore have little time to respond to our questions or survey requests. We are a voluntary and cooperative group and we still believe the most cost effective way to proceed is that membership surveys should grow our data base. This is preferable to having to go out and spend funds on gathering information and duplicating surveys that you folk are doing any way.

4. DATABASE AND SURVEY RESULTS

The Board continues to be very concerned about the lack of survey data volunteered from our members during the year. A special effort was made during March and April 2005 but few results emerged. The new Database CD, whilst being revised and improved has only been increased by 60 new sites as a result of the programme. This new Database, together with a 16 page Practice Manual, was distributed to members only, in July. This supersedes the former Transfund Report No 210 hard copy.

5. COMMENTS ON CURRENT SITUATION

The significant conclusions from last year's member survey are still relevant:-

- The traffic survey information from consent hearings and appeal evidence is not yet being made available to the Bureau. It is desirable that Councils require consultants, and their own staff, to forward the information after it has been presented at hearings or appeals. This 'loop' of forwarding the data (on the survey site summary sheets) to TPDB directly and before the files are archived should become automatic for councils and consultants.
- Councils and their planning departments are not requesting reviews of their parking standards as they did in the past. As a consequence there are gaps emerging in these standards to the extent where there is evidence that arbitrary rules, not based on surveys, are being applied. It seems that it may be desirable, in the not to distant future, for the NZTPDB to initiate a review and develop some national parking standards.
- The Board has a policy of supporting members with future surveys so that the information can be adapted to be added to the database or developed as an informative technical note. This is on a case by case basis. However no such support was requested or provided this year.
- Some members continue to seek information on all travel modes of arrival at sites. This applies particularly to the soft modes of walk, car passengers, bus and cycle, in addition to the more common vehicle trips and parking observations. This aspect is to be encouraged as it is not yet one of the predictor variables in the Bureau's database and this omission should be overcome with time.

6. SUMMARY SITE SURVEY FORM

As a result of the work undertaken in the database review, a revised Summary Site Survey Form has been prepared and distributed. These contain a simple array of panels which when completed and forwarded provide an efficient and standardised means of translation into the database. The forms are also an excellent summary reference for the originating councils and consultants to hold on your files.

The need to gather not just peak demand parking but also trip generation rates and arrival by all travel modes is provided for on the form. In addition to the primary Gross Floor Area variables there are others that should be used (such as seat numbers in a restaurant, or beds and theatres in a hospital, or children in a school, or number of petrol pumps etc) and all are relevant and may be used in the new form.

7. DATABASE VARIABLES AND TRIP RATE CORRELATION

These two Research Reports Nos 1/2005 and 2/2005 have now been completed and distributed in pdf form to members. These two investigations were commissioned early this year. (The two projects were budgeted at \$3,500 and \$4,000 respectively) The reports were commissioned by the Board and undertaken with enthusiasm by Steve Abley.

The first report deals with a comparison of the variables used to establish standards and relate to predicting trips in UK, US and NZ. We discover a lot of common use of variables and techniques and believe that with suitable negotiations we could develop common definitions and selection of variables for the different land uses.

It will be recalled that the second correlation report, comparing NZTPDB trip rates and parking demand, with the UK/TRICs equivalents, was the remnant of work which the Board agreed to undertake, following LTNZ's declining of our Research Proposal. In summary the results compare very favourably when the files are searched and inappropriate sites (eg the major UK metropolitan areas) are filtered out. They confirm the wisdom of continuing the analysis of the trip rates (and later parking demand) in the UK and NZ. Data.

This completes the two preliminary research projects on (1) Variables as well as (2) Correlation of UK/NZ Trips and Parking Rates at this stage. The two reports give us an insight as to the directions we could go in the future to improve our database and link in with overseas databases. It has not included any rigorous statistical analysis of trip and parking rates at this stage. Members who have comments should send them in to us.

The Board is satisfied these two groups of work provide confidence that we will be able to reconcile the UK and NZ Databases and also that we should again attempt to seek the support of LTNZ Research for the major project, including some incidental NZ surveys, so as to obtain a confident understanding and relationship between UK and NZ Trip Rates and Parking Demands.

The same processes can then be applied to Australian and US/Canadian databases. In this coming year we will increase our liaison with this international fraternity to enable exchange of technical and bureau type services.

8. FINANCES AND ANNUAL PLAN 2004/05

The Annual Accounts are reported elsewhere. However an overview, including the cash summary for the year 2004/05 compared to (2003/04) is generally as follows:-

	<u>2004/05</u>	<u>(2003/04)</u>
Income from members for current year + Interest	\$42,200	(29,500)
Total operating expenditure during the year	\$43,000	(28,500)
Balance revenue reserves carry forward to next year	\$15,000	(11,500)

This indicates the steady increase in the Bureau's level of activity and in particular in research. The Bureau has applied its resources fully this year and moves into next year with a reserve of \$15000 which includes \$5000 of prepaid membership fees for the current 2005/06 year.

After due consideration the Board retained fees paid up to November 2005 at last years rates , to be increased 10% after that period. Any surplus to be applied to gaining further survey data.

Annual Plan Performance 2004/05

The funds have been applied to the objectives set out in the Annual Plan adopted at the last Annual Meeting. However as shown by the Annual Performance Statement it was necessary for the Board to review the situation at the half year and again at the 9 month stage and redistribute our efforts.

At the half year the Board determined to put the preparation of a web site aside until the negotiations and discussions with TRICS/UK and the investigation of our travel prediction variables had reached a stage of confidence. These funds, originally under Objective 2(3) were re-directed to the research associated with Overseas Liaison Objective 3(4) and updating the Database Objective 2(1)

By the 9 month point we had received the LTNZ decision declining the proposed research on the comparative study of NZ and UK trip rates. At this point our funds were re-allocated to undertake the pilot study of the Variables, Objective 2(2) and the completion of the preliminary work on Trip Rate Correlations TRICS/UK and NZTPDB. Covered by Objective 3 (4)

The additional funding for these two major research projects (culminating in the Research Reports No 1/2005 and 2/2005) were also drawn from other Objective 3 items dealing with both the support to City Centre and other surveys [Objective 3(1) and (2).]

Growing the membership continues to be an area of concern. The Board members have agreed to devote more time personally to bring in additional councils and consultants as members in 2005/06. In addition more personal contact by the Bureau's team, combining wherever possible with other business visits, will need to occur. This will also be linked with inquiry and requests for additional trips and parking survey information to enhance the Database.

9. PROPOSED ANNUAL PLAN 2005/06

The annual plan for 2005/2006 is based on a \$45,000 membership fee income, which on present evidence is deemed to be realistic. However, as shown in the Proposed Annual Plan a 'fall back' position has also been provided for, with a reduced programme under Objective 3. This would be regretted as we are finding this part of the programme is most productive. However the reduced programme is included as a precaution so the Board can anticipate the situation should the funding not be available and working expenditure is held down to the \$40,000 threshold.

The Board intends to continue to explore the possible Research Project on the Trip Rate and Parking Correlations NZ/UK with Land Transport New Zealand Research. However this would be a major lift in research work to about twice our present total annual budget. In the absence of 100% funding from LTNZ it will be necessary to seek out partner sponsors. This should be discussed further at the Annual Meeting to seek guidance on the possibility of putting a sponsorship programme for such a project in place.

The Board believes that further recruitment and retention of members should now follow the distribution of the revised CD Database, The increased liaison with the UK/TRICS, US and Australian fraternity, and the confidence derived from the research on Variables and Correlation of trip rates so far undertaken, all point to a new era in establishing the Bureau as a permanent part of our professional transportation scene.

10. ADMINISTRATION

Malcolm Douglass (Douglass Consulting Services Ltd.) and Don McKenzie (Traffic Design Group Ltd.) have now been joined by a colleague contract researcher in Steve Abley (Chartered Transportation Engineer). All are based in Christchurch and jointly provide the technical bureau service as contract administrator and researchers. Their positions are as consultant support with specific tasks contracted throughout the year. This year the work has been extensive and it is gratifying to see such a productive result in research, on the database and liaison with our international colleagues developing.

Should members have questions all three are readily available and any requests for information and the forwarding and exchange of survey information should be referred directly to them.

11. CONCLUSION

We look forward to the Annual Meeting which will be held in Auckland at the Hyatt Regency on the evening of Monday 5th September at 5.30 pm to 6.00 pm. The Bureau also has a stand and will be pleased to enrol new members during the IPENZ Transportation Conference.

May I thank members for their interest and increasing support and the members of the Board for their valued contribution.

In conclusion I again ask you all, by word of mouth (as well as by email), to bring the Bureau's purposes and services to the attention of your colleagues and so inform others of the Bureau's cooperative services. You could also persuade them, if they are not members, to join.



Chairman of the NZTPDB Board

Malcolm Douglass
Administrator

20 August 2005.