

# **TECHNICAL NOTE**

## **NZ MODELLING USER GROUP (NZMUGS)**

### **Author and Presenter: Ian Clark**

Ian is a Director of Flow Transportation Specialists Limited. He has over twenty years experience in transport planning and modelling, in the United Kingdom and New Zealand. Over the past twelve years, his work in New Zealand has included involvement in many different types of traffic and transportation projects, with particular responsibility for strategic transportation planning and transport and traffic modelling. Ian is the chairman of the NZ Modelling User Group.

### **Qualifications and Affiliations**

Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Geography, University of Wales (1986)

Master of Science in Transport, University of London (1987)

Diploma from Imperial College in Transport (1987)

Chartered Member of Institute of Logistics and Transport

Member of Transportation Group of the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand

Member of Australian Institute of Traffic Planning and Management

Member of Institution of Highways and Transportation

Board Member of New Zealand Trip Rate and Parking Database Bureau

Chairman of New Zealand Modelling User Group

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## **ABSTRACT**

The New Zealand Modelling User Group (NZMUGS) is a new sub-group of the IPENZ Transportation Group dedicated to promoting the interests of modelling within the transport industry in New Zealand.

In order to promote NZMUGS, a poster will be displayed at the IPENZ Transportation Group Conference in March 2010. This paper details the information that will be provided on the poster.

## INTRODUCTION

The New Zealand Modelling User Group (NZMUGS) is a sub-group of the IPENZ Transportation Group that was established in 2008. The group is dedicated to promoting the interests of traffic and transport modelling within the transport industry in New Zealand. It is the intention that the group will represent all aspects of modelling, from microsimulation through to wide area/strategic modelling, as well as emerging areas such as pedestrian and accessibility modelling.

In order to promote awareness of NZMUGS and the activities that the group is undertaking, a poster will be displayed at the IPENZ Transportation Group Conference in March 2010. This paper details the information that will be provided on the poster.

## BACKGROUND

NZMUGS was formed in 2008 in response to an industry identified need to address the lack of micro-simulation guidelines in the Economic Evaluation Manual and the constant debate between groups as to what was modelling best practice. From that starting point, the group has become a focal point for investigating issues and providing information on a wide range of modelling packages.

It is intended that the group takes an even handed approach to all modelling software and the committee is made up of a number of key modelling people from a range of consultants and local government clients.

## MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 93 members, from a variety of consultants and local and central government authorities from throughout New Zealand and Australia.

To join NZMUGS visit <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/NZMUGS/> and click on 'Join this Group'.

Alternatively email: [NZMUGS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:NZMUGS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Table 1 below shows the committee members of NZMUGS.

Position	Person	Company/Organisation
Chairperson	Ian Clark	Flow Transportation Specialists
Vice Chairperson	James Tinnion-Morgan	Opus International Consultants
Administrator	Gavin Smith	Opus International Consultants
Treasurer	Kerstin Rupp	SKM
	Richard Sprosen	Opus International Consultants
	Darren Fidler	SKM
	Andrew Mein	Aurecon
	Andrew Murray	Beca
	Terry Church	Flow Transportation Specialists
	Mike Vincent	Greater Wellington Regional Council
	Urie Bezuidenhout	Da Vinci Transport Planning

**Table 1: NZMUGS Committee Members**

## PROJECTS FOR 2009

The Group was formally established at a two day traffic modelling conference held in Wellington in October 2008 and the committee was elected at that meeting.

At the conference it was agreed that the group should focus on two issues during 2009:

- ♦ Modelling Peer Review Guidelines
- ♦ Micro-simulation Modelling Guidelines (including model calibration/validation criteria).

These Guidelines were circulated to MUGS members in September 2009 (and copies will be available to be handed out at the IPENZ Conference in March, as part of the poster session on the Monday morning).

These Guidelines and other issues were reported on at a second conference, held in Auckland in October 2009. That conference, attended by over 50 people, included presentations and discussion sessions on a wide variety of topics, including:

- ♦ The Modelling Peer Review Guidelines and the Micro-simulation Modelling Guidelines
- ♦ The Ministry of Transport audit of traffic and transport models
- ♦ The need for guidelines on issues relating to traffic and transport demand forecasting
- ♦ Clients perspectives on the modelling industry
- ♦ A variety of detailed modelling applications, including car parking modelling, toll modelling and linking modelling to strategic outcomes.

The committee made an award for best presentation to Jonathan Slason of Becas, on the topic of "Modelling to assess operations, from a US perspective".

## **PROJECTS FOR 2010**

As a result of the 2009 conference, the group is currently working on the following projects in 2010:

- ◆ Further development of the Modelling Peer Review Guidelines
- ◆ Further development of the Micro-simulation Modelling Guidelines
- ◆ We are also assisting the Ministry of Transport as it seeks to undertake an audit of what traffic and transport models are available throughout New Zealand, in order to reduce the level of rework.

The committee will be discussing other initiatives at its next teleconference in February 2010. These initiatives will be reported more fully to the IPENZ Conference in March, but at this stage we anticipate that we will be undertaking the following:

- ◆ Developing guidelines on issues relating to traffic forecasts
- ◆ Developing a paper setting out suggestions for improvements to matters relating to traffic modelling in the Economic Evaluation Manual.

We will be able to hand out abstracts of the work anticipated to be undertaken by MUGS during 2010, at the March Conference.

We are planning a third MUGS conference, to be held in Christchurch in October or November 2010. At this stage we are in discussion with a leading personality from the modelling industry in the UK, who may be able to make a key note presentation to this conference.

## **CONCLUSION**

I trust that this short paper and the associated poster display will assist to increase awareness of and interest in NZMUGS.

Ian Clark, Flow Transportation Specialists Ltd, 12 February 2010