

MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION GROUP

Venue: Transportation Group conference, Nelson (also online)

Time: 12:30

Date: 12 June 2024

1 Welcome and Introduction

Transportation Group Vice Chair Mark Gregory opened with a karakia. Chair John Lieswyn welcomed members to the 2024 Transportation Group AGM. John acknowledged members who had passed during the past year.

2 Present

Attendees in person

John Lieswyn (Chair)	Lewis Thorwaldson
Mark Gregory (Vice Chair)	Peter Cockrem
Sarah Dove	Chun-Lin Lee
Michael Tan	Bill Frith
Drew Bryant	Julie Ballantyne
Twan van Duivenbooden	Axel Downard-Wilke
Tim Welch	Pim van den Top
Dean Scanlan	Jeanette Ward
Tjaart van der Walt	Tim Richards
Imran Muhammed	Amit Arthanari

Attendees online:

Bruce Conaghan	Ben Schubert
Michael Topp	Kev
Nick Reid	Megan Gregory
Melanie Muirson	Daniel Cairncross
Errol	Indra Gyawali

Transportation Group NZ National Committee

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3 Apologies

None received.

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous AGM were circulated in an email from ENZ last week, as well as the agenda and associated reports.

John Lieswyn moved the acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Mark Gregory. Passed.

5 Chair's Report

As presented at the AGM with the following edits:

- Corrected name of MUGS chair
- Added content for Safety Practitioners and SNUG
- Edited preamble to Finances reflecting the means of distribution of the Treasurer's Report
- Added post-meeting note to Conference 2025

5.1 Introduction

Changing policies. With ongoing implications of the change of Government and policy direction, this is one of the most turbulent years in the Group's history. Your National Committee and several member volunteers worked hard to prepare a [submission](#) on the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport that your Chair presented in person to the Minister.

However the changes affecting many of our livelihoods are inescapable and for many of us very traumatic. Now more than ever, we need the strength of our collective to sustain us. Our Central Branch Chair Peter Cockrem has led the development of a **Principles** document to help ground us, and we have also just embarked upon an ambitious project to prepare standalone Group **Policies** on various transport topics. These evidence-based summaries are intended to support Group members with the preparation of submissions to all levels of government in coming years. Watch this space – we'll be recruiting Subject Matter Experts from across the Group to help write these policies.

The Group continues to actively advance the knowledge, planning and management of transport in New Zealand. Special thanks to everyone who has volunteered time to help organise activities, contribute to peer review or judging, contribute time or writing to support our communications. I'd especially like to thank Canterbury Branch member Grace Ryan for leading the organisation of a recent well-attended (200!) webinar on road & congestion pricing featuring Peter Nunns. The topic is supported in principle in the draft GPS and we are looking forward to action on this front.

Disability Internship. Our sponsorship of a student with an interest in a career in transport, who identifies as a disabled person, is doing good to promote inclusive outcomes in our work, and a more inclusive culture in our profession. Our 2023/24 intern Tara Shepherd is studying a Bachelor of Applied Science at the University of Otago. During her internship Tara worked remotely from home in Westport under the guidance of our past chair Bridget Doran, visited Group members in Nelson, and wrote a research report: *Optimizing Sustainable Transportation During Emergency Management Situations and Coastal Disaster Mitigation*.

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Climate change. After gathering momentum in 2023 in support of the Group’s focus on responding to planetary crises, most obviously to climate change and the need to decarbonising the transport system, we are likely taking a big step backward with the new draft GPS. The world is failing to take climate change seriously, but that doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t do everything we can – small efforts add up and lessen the impact on future peoples, flora and fauna.

We support Engineering New Zealand’s programme, Engineering Climate Action, which exists to support engineers to take positive action to address climate change. Following on from the recent publication of the [Climate Action Practice Note](#), the Engineering Climate Action Programme is focused on strengthening relationships with the relevant Engineering New Zealand Technical Groups. ENZ is running a survey right now to compile the important work being undertaken in the Climate Action space, including resources developed, current challenges/barriers, and how ENZ can best support the groups to transition, mitigate and adapt to climate change. I encourage all of you to participate now: [Climate Action Survey](#)

5.2 National Committee

The National Committee currently includes:

- John Lieswyn (Chair and acting Membership Secretary)
- Mark Gregory (Vice Chair & Trips Database Bureau)
- Bridget Doran (Immediate Past Chair)
- Melanie Muirson (Treasurer)
- Craig Richards (Waikato/BOP Branch Chair)
- Stephanie Wilcox (Membership Secretary, on leave)
- Lewis Thorwaldson (Auckland and Northland Branch Chair)
- Peter Cockrem (Central Branch Chair)
- Michael Town (Nelson/Marlborough Branch Chair)
- Karishma Kumar (Canterbury and West Coast Chair)
- Aaron Isaacs (Southern Chair)
- Daniel Newcombe (Roundabout Editor, Awards Convener)
- Glen Koorey (Active Modes Infrastructure Group Liaison)
- Bevan Wilmshurst (Modelling User Group)
- Tony Brennand (Trips Database Bureau)
- Matthew Hoyle (Signals NZ User Group)

We acknowledge and thank those who stood down from the National Committee over the last 12 months:

- Clare Scott (Nelson Branch Chair)
- Stacey Lloyd (Canterbury/West Coast Branch Chair)

5.3 Membership and member achievements

The Group has 1,120 members, a slight reduction from 1,135 in April 2023 and 1,181 Members in April 2022. This includes 113 students, 391 MUGS members, 331 SNUGS members and 264 Safety Practitioners members. Currently, joining subgroups is unmonitored and free. We have changed the application form to encourage people to only sign up if they are active professionals in each of the speciality areas.

While we cannot shy away from the possibility that the Group needs to provide more value to membership to reverse this downward trend, it may also be a reflection of the plethora of transportation oriented groups. Transportation professionals today have the choice of ITS-NZ (Intelligent Transportation Systems) and their

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sub-group Young Transport Professionals, PTAANZ (Public Transport), SAASTA (Safe and Sustainable Transport), TPS-NZ (Transportation Planning Society), CILT-NZ (Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport), ITE (Institute of Transportation Engineers), REAAA (Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia) and of course Trafanz. Over the past year I have convened three meetings with other group leaders in an effort to address the dilution of resources and duplication of services that this fragmentation is causing. The leaders have resolved to better coordinate our activities through periodic meetings and we are attempting to create a shared events calendar.

I'd like to acknowledge the achievement of five of our members in becoming fellows of ENZ: Dr. Glen Koorey, Dr. Shane Turner, Emma Fisk, Julian Chisnall, & Dawn Inglis. Well done!

5.4 Subgroups

MUGS

The Modelling User Group continues to build and develop on the momentum and success over a number of years. The MUGS Chair (Bevan Wilmshurst) is very pleased to welcome new committee members and the enthusiasm and energy they've brought to our activities:

- Held successful, enjoyable, and well-reviewed 16th Annual Conference in Auckland
- Welcomed new, passionate, and enthusiastic committee members
- Continue to consider and support new initiatives including tweaks and updates to our Conference
- Three research projects: Cycle modelling, COVID office trip rates, Predicted vs. Actual Phase 2
- Working with the AITPM Transport Modelling Network on joint webinars

Safety Practitioners

Now in its second year, the Safety Practitioners Group continues to share best practice and support members in the preparation of useful and consistent safety audits. We have hosted two successful events over the past year, one online and in person in Christchurch and the other fully online. The topics covered:

- Safer Streets for Safer Mobility: Reducing harm through speed management.
- Roundabouts are the solution for all intersections. Or are they?

Our group also supported a joint webinar with the ACRS NZ Chapter to give our members the opportunity to hear two of the presentations from the ACRS 2023 conference that was held in Cairns. Safety Practitioners and ACRS NZ collaborated in a call for applications for a \$1,500 TG travel costs grant to help a Group member attend ACRS 2024. The award went to University of Canterbury student member Yu Li, and she will be reporting back to the full Transportation Group on the highlights of the conference in due course.

SNUG

SNUG is preparing to update the signal auditor's guidebook in the coming year and getting ready to host the annual workshop.

5.5 Finances

The Treasurers Report will be distributed at the AGM. As of 5 June 2024, the overall group account has a \$13,765 positive variance (to end of April) when tracking against the budget. We had expenses of \$73,695, for the financial year to date versus income of \$87,460. We are still under-budget for the year so far, but we expect to incur a small loss on the Conference this year. The income from membership subscriptions is just over \$6K per month - has been a slight increase in last month.

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5.6 Engineering NZ support

Thanks to:

- Alison Acuzar (Policy Advisor),
- Bryony Lane (Programme Manager Engineering Climate Action)
- Gabriella Wilson (Engagement Coordinator),
- Jodi Caughley (General Manager Strategy),
- Luke Perry (Sponsorship),
- Richard Templer (Chief Executive),
- Robbie McDougall (Strategic Engagement Manager),
- Tula Androutsos (Membership Advisor),

and the rest of the current and former ENZ team who have and continue to assist us in advocacy to central government as well as the management and operation of the Transportation Group.

5.7 Submissions

In the previous year we submitted on both the previous and current Government draft GPS documents. See our [submissions page](#) for more information. We continue to provide a voice and opportunity for Members to submit on policies of interest. As previously mentioned we are embarking upon the development of standalone, easily updated topical policies similar to the combined work by Engineers Australia's Transport Society [Policy and planning advice](#) (August 2023). The intention is that these issues papers will be factual, concise, and help us create customised submissions quickly and consistently.

5.8 Conference 2025

It is a delight to see so many of you here in Nelson (despite the headwinds in our sector). Attendance this year is on par with previous conferences in our smaller cities.

Our [list of past conferences](#) shows a clear pattern: NI, NI, SI, NI, NI, SI (two in NI then one in SI). In terms of cities, it is usually Auckland, other NI city, Christchurch, other NI city, Auckland, and then other SI city. Accordingly it will be ideal to hold the 2025 Conference in a larger North Island city. To get us closer to our traditional March timing, I propose that we aim for early May – just 11 months from now. All of this depends upon finding the right group of conference committee members!

I look forward to another great year of comradery and knowledge sharing with you all.

Noted that next year's conference could be broadened across more related sectors and groups to be more inclusive and share economies of scale.

John Lieswyn moved the acceptance of the report, seconded by Imran Muhammed. Passed.

6 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was circulated, but was considered too late to allow a fair review by members (see below), and John summarised the Group's financial situation.

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Approval of the report is to be postponed to give members time to review it. A separate email to members will seek its approval. John moved the report be simply noted, seconded by Axel Downard-Wilke. Passed

7 Matters Arising

Sarah Dove asked for more info on the membership in individual branches, not just nationally. John offered to include this information in future Chair's Reports.

Axel Downard-Wilke asked about who was following up on unpaid membership fees. National Committee members have been chasing these up. Often the invoices weren't received due to spam filters and updates to email addresses were needed. Reasonable success has been had in reducing outstanding payments.

Jeanette Ward supported John's suggestion to broaden the next conference to integrate with other groups and industries (e.g. land use planning). Sarah Dove asked if the Group had spoken with Trafanz, NZPI or other similar groups. John said only limited conversations but these can be expanded. Bruce Conaghan said transportation is a very broad spectrum, so we should be mindful of focus areas and natural synergies or clashes. Bill Frith suggested defining focus areas and define conference theme so it was clearer to potential attendees.

Imran Muhammed suggested more efforts be made to present to students about joining the Group. John said some had been done but more can be done.

8 Group Conference 2025

Central branch is offering to host the next conference in Wellington. Ideas were sought for themes or improvements that could be made.

Post meeting note: scope may include collaboration with other related groups, and timing may be a month earlier (May) or springtime (October).

9 General Business

There was none.

10 Close of AGM

AGM closed at 1pm.