



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

June has always been an interesting time in the life of an engineer. Full of high and lows, endings and new beginnings and a sudden rush, that is, the rush to close off projects before the end of the financial year. And of course the rush to position ourselves to be able to share in the delivery of the various State budget announcements for the coming financial year. How could anyone even suggest we are bordering on a recession with so many mega projects in the pipeline or underway, or are they?

Well, folks, here are the facts:-

- Early investigations and business case proposals are most often procured through established government panels and extended professional service agreements with incumbent consultant firms and individuals.
- Most mega projects are subject to a protracted concept design and development phase lasting well beyond any single financial year and involving a wide variety of consultant firms and often very confidential / complex procurement arrangements.
- The current virtual duopoly that exists in the Contractor sector has created a new submarket of Consultants firms under-pricing and out-maneuvring each other so aggressively to get on a Contractor team that the industry is losing its consultancy expertise to other sectors and reducing competition within the marketplace to only a select few.
- New players and smaller players in the market are prevented from participating through a lack of adequate local resources, a lack of established client relationships and a lack of track record in delivering projects which are so big that they have the potential cripple most State Governments if something should go wrong and directly affect their AAA credit rating.

So what does all of this mean, and where to from here?

Well, for the most part, life in the suburbs will go on as normal. Traffic engineers and transport planners will for the foreseeable future still be relying on our local client contacts, established client relationships and available technical resources to win our fair share of the ongoing local government and private sector developer work and this is where the ITEANZ can play its part. The onus rests with all of us to rise above this global economic phenomenon, negativity and short term political point scoring that shapes our everyday world. I cannot imagine that the need to continue maintaining our roads, expanding our transport network into the hinterland and serving the motoring public by, for example, encouraging the safety of motorists and pedestrians on our roadways, has simply gone away.

A key goal of the ITEANZ is to enable traffic engineers and transportation planners, and other professionals with knowledge and competence in transportation and traffic engineering to be able to contribute individually and collectively toward meeting our human needs for mobility and safety. And we can do so by creating a collegial and collaborative environment that advances technical knowledge, creates forums for global information exchange and provides opportunities for workforce participation, but to do so will take time and effort.

The challenge is for us all to become more well-rounded engineers. Engineering educators need to turn out more technical talent who are able to interact with financial, legal and marketing colleagues. Based on what I have seen in the engineering industry, it would seem that well rounded engineers advance much more rapidly than others and so it is in this area where we need to work the hardest to achieve. We need to get ourselves at the negotiating table with the decision makers who are most often not engineers, so that we too can have a greater influence on the economy and where the money is spent.

I take heart from the fact that as a profession we continue to excel. From hard work comes good results. Keep up the good work and good luck!

Derrick Hitchins, ITEANZ President

RECENT EVENTS

Bicycle Safety Forum

A cycling forum was recently held in April of this year at Richmond Town Hall. Over 100 people attended this very informative session, with 12 speakers from a wide range of organisations – both government and non-government institutions.

Key topics covered included:

- Victoria's Cycling Strategy
- Safer On-Road Bike Riding Facilities
- Planning for Bicycles in Urban Growth Areas
- Interstate and Overseas Perspectives

Each of the speakers' presentations can be found on the ITEANZ website at:

http://www.ite.org.au/seminars_conferences



UPCOMING EVENTS

Proposed Seminars

Travel Demand Management

Tentatively arranged for late-2013 at the Department of Transport's theatre. Potential industry experts are presently being sought.

Working in Asia

Also tentatively arranged for late 2013. Potential speakers from ARRB, iRAP, VicRoads International and leading consultancies are presently being sought.

Freeway Management Systems

Finally tentatively arranged for either late 2013 / early 2014, potential speakers from VicRoads and ITS Australia are being sought.

2013 Annual ITEANZ President's Dinner

The annual dinner is planned for Tuesday, 19th November, once more at the Kew Golf Club. This year's guest speaker will be **Greg Barber** – Parliamentary Leader for the Victorian Greens, where the theme will be on sustainable transport.

Details of costs per person and corporate tables of 10 are being negotiated with the venue in line with previous events held at the Golf Club.

As the date nears, a flyer will be distributed to ITEANZ members and affiliated organisations.

OTHER ITEANZ NEWS

Website Development

The new website for the ITEANZ is being refined in order to provide members with information regarding ITE Technical Councils, Seminars and Conferences and Affiliated Organisations.

Quite a few improvements have been made since it was launched in March 2013. In future, we intend to provide links to video playback via YouTube of seminar highlights.

The ITEANZ Facebook page is also in operation. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/ITEAUSNZ> or just enter ITE ANZ in your Facebook search box.

Activity in and around New Zealand

ITEANZ members in New Zealand are currently active across a number of key fronts in the main centres Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

A new Planning Regime for Auckland - In the amalgamated Auckland metropolitan area, a major revamp and integration of the local planning documents is underway. Following the amalgamation of the regional and city/district councils in 2010 their planning regulations and documents have come under the spotlight with a new Unitary Plan being released for initial public comment in May.



Many of the ITEANZ members and their firms have been advising clients and the public authorities on the transportation impacts of increased development density and the various proposed planning and development rules including the increased use of maximum parking supply ratios with not only the Auckland CBD but also metropolitan and local town centres.

Wellington's Inner City Improvements – the transport landscape of NZ's capital city is undergoing a number of changes with an alliance of civil and transportation engineers, contractors and central government authorities delivering the Memorial Park upgrade. This project combines transport improvements, with enhancements of NZ's National War Memorial, and extensions to Wellington's urban landscape with 'greener' city connections. ITEANZ members are involved at a number of levels in this project from concept and design, through delivery and commissioning. All works are to be completed in time for the ANZAC Day 2015 celebrations.

NZTA Road Safety Audit Guideline – ITEANZ members recently contributed to an industry expert group tasked with the update of NZ's road safety audit guidelines. Their work builds on a 2004 guidance document and has resulted in an interim update document (<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/road-safety-audit-procedures/docs/road-safety-audit-procedures-tfm9.pdf>).

In addition, Austroads has also published road safety audit procedures and these are currently under review with a revision expected to be complete by late 2014.

Revitalisation of the Student Chapter

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, ITEANZ and Monash University are in the process of reactivating the Student Chapter of the ITEANZ.

Professor Richard Tay, Chair in Road Safety Management at LaTrobe University, is arranging a briefing session at Monash University to attract students to the ITEANZ Student Chapter as well as to the profession generally.

The event will be held on Wednesday, 7th August 2013, between noon and 2pm at the seminar room in the Department of Civil Engineering, Monash University, Clayton Campus, inclusive of sandwiches and light refreshments.

Additional information can be provided by Richard at r.tay@latrobe.uni.au.

MEMBERSHIP

Did you know that individual membership with ITE can cost less than A\$170(US\$175) a year? Visit our website (www.ite.org.au) and navigate to the "Join ITE" page for more information or contact our membership coordinator, **Daniel Przychodzki**, at daniel.przychodzki@cgd.vic.gov.au.

Membership in the ITEANZ is the best investment you can make to enhance your transportation knowledge and technical skills. As an ITEANZ member, you will be part of a dynamic group of more than 16,000 dedicated transportation professionals spanning more than 90 countries who are working toward the goal of meeting society's needs for safe and efficient surface transportation.

ITEANZ NEWSLETTER

The email newsletter is produced as part of the benefits of the ITE. Members are encouraged to provide material for future editions.

If you do not wish to receive future newsletters, send an email with the subject "Unsubscribe" or write to the address below:

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