

**Subject: Report on Austroads Road Safety Task Force Meeting,  
Canberra, 23 February 2006**

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## **Background**

The Road Safety Task Force is a committee made up of a safety representative from all the Austroads partners plus other key stakeholders such as MOT (NZ), National Transport Commission (Aust) and ARRB. It appears that its main role is to guide/determine the direction of road safety research in Australasia. Bill Frith (NZ MOT) is the programme manager and committee chair. I have taken over the Transit NZ position from Dennis Davis. The committee meets approximately 6 monthly.

This meeting, my second, was held on 23 February 2006 at the ATSB offices in Canberra.

## **Meeting**

### 1. 2006/07 Research Programme

One of the key purposes of this meeting was to agree on priorities for the 2006/07 research. A list of potential research projects was given to us at the September 2005 meeting and again forwarded to us in December 2005. I consulted on this with Transit NZ safety engineers, plus key organisations such as LTNZ, MOT, Police (no response received), Universities of Waikato/Auckland/Canterbury plus some key research individuals, to gain opinions of the wider NZ road safety industry (refer attached response form).

The list of 2006/07 research projects agreed at the task force meeting is:

- Australasian Road Safety Handbook (updates)
- Development of safety publications series (ongoing)
- Safer vehicle purchases for fleet managers (ongoing)
- Review of safety practices used by commercial vehicle purchasers (ongoing)
- Road safety tool kit (ongoing)
- Balance between harm reduction and mobility in setting speed limits (stage 3)
- Older driver assessment programme (phase 4)
- Australasian road safety handbook (part 5)
- The crash offence experience of young drivers over time (new)
- Fatigue management in rural and remote areas (new, but may drop off list)
- Completion of development and validation of Australian visual screening tests (brief to be reworked)
- Development of performance measures that reflect the contribution of road engineering to road safety (new)
- Safety benefits of improving the interaction between heavy vehicles and roads (new)

- Road safety in rural and remote areas – heavy vehicles (new)
- Road safety risk assessment (stage 5)
- Road safety audit tool kit (ongoing)
- Future strategic road safety engineering research (new)

**Two projects that featured high in my NZ survey were**

- **Separation of opposing lanes of traffic on individual roads**
- **Centreline wire rope barriers on undivided roads**

**These have not been included in the Safety research programme. Bill Frith advised me that these need to sit in the Road Assets group, in particular the Austroads Road Design Task Force, a subgroup of the Technology Task Force. I understand either Dennis Davis or Ray Cook represent NZ on these and hence it is important that we pick up on the NZ desire for research in these two key areas.**

2. 2005/06 Research Programme

All proceeding to plan.

3. Road Safety Publication Series

Michael Tziots (ARRB) gave an update. Vol 1 and 9 have been completed and Vol 6 Draft will be finished by end of May. Remaining volumes finished by June.

4. Road Safety Engineering Toolkit and Audit Toolkit

M. Tziots (ARRB) gave a brief presentation. Both are in late stages of development but can be used now. I need to discuss these with Dennis Davis on whether we should, and how we should promote these within NZ. One option is a brief demonstration of each in the RSEW.

5. PIARC Technical Committee Report

Phil Allen (SA) gave a brief update. He is head of group developing Safety Audit Guidelines. These projects are really aimed at developing 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries and unlikely to be of much use to NZ.

6. OCED Working Group on Achieving Ambitious Road Safety Targets

Ian Cameron (WA) gave an update. Outcomes are that countries firstly need to target seatbelts, speed enforcement and drink driving. After this need to involve community in ownership of road safety problem and better integrating driver and road environment. Nothing new here, however outcome reports will be worth reading.

**Next Meeting**

Next meeting is likely to be in Sydney in July or August. I recommend Transit continue to be involved so as to stay abreast of research and development in road safety. Furthermore the contacts/relationships developed with personnel from other states, as always, is hugely beneficial.

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**NATIONAL SAFETY ENGINEER**