

AITPM New Zealand Study Tour Award: Submission Addressing Selection Criteria

Thank you for considering my submission for the AITPM New Zealand Study Tour Award. I'm excited about the potential opportunity to attend this year's IPENZ Conference as there are many invaluable insights that Australians can gain from hearing lessons learnt by New Zealand in both the technical presentations and working sessions and through networking.

Outline the knowledge that you will focus on acquiring from attending the conference

The theme of this year's conference is equity in transportation. I believe each project regardless of how large or small it is, or which stage the project is at, should be looked at through an equity lens as transportation is a critical link to opportunities; connecting people to jobs, schools, affordable housing, health care, grocery stores and more. I'm interested in learning about how others have considered equity issues in their projects and what were the outcomes and lessons learnt that can be shared.

Looking at the programme I'm excited to see there are numerous talks focused around active transport and designing for pedestrians. The session titled Streets for People looks particularly interesting with presentations about the movement and place approach. Recently Auckland Transport released two transport strategy and policy documents; *Roads and Streets Framework* and the *Urban Street and Road Design Guide* which I believe highlight how progressive transport thinking is in New Zealand and I really like how the movement and place framework has been embedded into the design guide. I'm interested to hear from Andrew McGill and Lucy Millier to see the revisions that are being made to the documents and their lessons learnt especially as NSW is in the process of adopting the framework. I'm also interested in hearing about the safety assessment framework for vulnerable road users from Bridget Carden and how it can be applied to corridors in Sydney.

The Safer Streets is another session that I am keen on attending. In this session the presentations around speed management and safer speeds are of significant interest to me, I am keen to learn about how speed can influence travel behaviour and equity amongst transportation modes. Also, Auckland Transport has recently released a bylaw that lower speed limits across hundreds of roads and implement 30km/hr speed limits in the city centre, I believe there are lessons that can be learnt and brought into a Sydney context.

I am also interested in the Sharing Mobility session to hear what Dave Hilson from Auckland Transport can share on connecting remote communities and learn about flexible public transport potential with Mahdi Amiripour. A common issue for low density areas and regional communities in NSW and other Australian states due to our huge urban sprawl, is low public transport usage. I believe there are lessons that can be shared between Australia and New Zealand on how to improve public transport services in these areas.

The conference program also includes two unique walking field trips. They are described as looking at how streetscape or interchanges have been designed with a people focused approach and discuss how the cultural narrative and identity has been incorporated. I am interested in understanding how this is done and if there are ideas and initiatives that could be done within an Australian context. I think as professionals in the built environment it is important to understand what the previous users of the land were and give recognition through the design and infrastructure.

Outline the potential application of this knowledge to your current role

I'm currently a transport engineer at Arup in Sydney, in this role I've had the opportunity to work a wide range of transport planning and traffic assessment projects. This includes working on long term strategic transport plans investigating sustainable transport initiatives and working on precinct master plans. I've also done work assessing the impact of different road network configurations and road space reallocation initiatives, assessing the accessibility of large scale public transport lines and what the traffic impacts of new developments.

I think the knowledge that I could obtain from this conference will be very relevant and beneficial to all projects I work on. As I work for a consultancy I believe it is part of my role to add value where possible and provide well informed advice. My thesis involved transport networks in San Francisco and last year I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to spend some time Amsterdam, becoming more familiar with their transport systems. Clients I have worked with often lean towards only using the NSW or Australian standards and guidelines however I believe it is beneficial to highlight international best practice.

There are several projects that I am currently working on which I believe will benefit the potential knowledge gained from this conference. A project I'm currently working on is about improving road safety in particular road environments within the movement and place framework. Road safety is a key issue in NSW with road death toll of 352 people being killed, with 40% of them being attributed to speeding, according to the Centre for Road Safety. I believe the Streets for People and Safer Streets session will have key findings that I can use for this project and inform my advice on this project, which will affect future Sydney transport networks.

I'm also working on a project investigating different bus network scenarios for an area of Western Sydney which is currently low density however, is planned to grow significantly in the next 10 years. I think knowledge gained from the Shared Mobility session will inform some of my work and be a great opportunity to hear about the latest findings in flexible public transport operations.

Ultimately, I'd like to keep up to date with the latest findings and lessons learnt across transport profession, so I am able to provide informed advice to clients and best outcomes for the communities we are designing for. Attending the conference will also help me establish a network of other transport professionals which I will be able to share ideas with.

Outline how you will enhance the AITPM/ ENZ TG relationship while at the conference.

Over the past four years I have been a part of NSW State branch committee and have been involved events for AITPM young professionals, I have a good understanding of the aims of the industry body and the types of events we host. I will endeavor to build on the relationship between the two professional bodies during the conference and continue to maintain it after

I think one of the most beneficial aspects of attending the conference is not only the insights gained from attending the presentations but the connections that can be made in the networking sessions. During the conference I will take the opportunity to engage with other professionals in the industry and learn more about IPENZ Group. I will reach out to Gemma Dioni the conference convener I'll share information about attending the upcoming National AITPM Conference happening in July in Brisbane and highlight there could be opportunities to contribute to the Sydney Conference in 2021.

I will be able to provide content for AITPM social media (Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn) including photos and updates about key takeaways throughout the conference. I will also share my experiences to my LinkedIn network so other transport professionals in my network who are not members can hear about the sort of opportunities being involved in AITPM can provide.

Upon my return I will complete an article for the AITPM newsletter about my experience at the conference and share information about any other upcoming events IPENZ is hosting that may be of interest to AITPM members. I will also reach out to the IPENZ committee to see if they are interested to publish my experience at the conference as an AITPM member. I would also be excited to present on my key takeaways at a State Branch Technical Forum.

I hope I have addressed the criteria for consideration by the selection panel and it shows that I am excited and engaged transport professional that believes that knowledge sharing and the relationship between IPENZ and AITPM is truly invaluable.

Thank you,

Rachel Kohan