



# NEWSLETTER



June 2008

## What is Trafinz?

**Trafinz (The NZ Traffic Institute) represents a wide grouping of NZ local authorities, covering the majority of the New Zealand population.**

It's Executive is comprised of elected councillors, consultants, Police, government officials, educators and local government officers, who are drawn from a cross-section of the membership; together with senior personnel representing key government partners and supported by a number of senior technical staff from transport consultancies that volunteer their services pro bono.

### The Trafinz focus...

Trafinz has a primary focus on sustainable transport, transportation planning, traffic management and road safety.

It provides specialist advice to member authorities by drawing from the depth of expertise available through its members, its nation wide Technical Committee and its world wide international relationships.

Trafinz also acts as a conduit for local authorities to respond to government on new transportation initiatives, operations, policies, and safety directions via official submissions and personal meetings with Minister's and senior government officials.

### How we work

We work in partnership with industry and have done for some sixty years at operational, planning and strategic levels.

Trafinz engages through a competent collaborative approach and believes that, due to its long-standing

associations and relationships, both within New Zealand and worldwide, it can provide highly valuable, experienced and knowledgeable input on local, regional and national transport to local and central government, and to the community.

Recently local government road safety co-ordinators have begun working through Trafinz.

### What else do we do?

If you only have one conference in your budget a year, make the Trafinz Conference a 'must do'. This year in Christchurch, it regularly attracts a varied group of transport practitioners, including international presenters, government agencies and innovative industry displays. Link to the Conference website at: <http://www.trafinz.org.nz/Conferences/Conference2008/index.html>



*John Gottler, Trafinz Vice-President & Connell Wagner consultant.*

## From the President



Want a safer, more sustainable transport system? TRAFINZ consistently advocates for both. TRAFINZ includes many of NZ's leading public and private sector transport practitioners, with extensive access to overseas expertise. We aim to share best practice, develop capacity, provide advice, and advocate for transport safety and transport sustainability.

You'd think everyone would support a safer, more sustainable transport system. Apparently not. At best we as a nation are making only stuttering improvements. That reflects a lack of will, mostly political, and the inertia of business as usual.

438 people died in the last 12 months, and 16,000 were injured. We have made virtually no progress this decade to achieve Government's 2010 target of no more than 300 deaths and 4500 hospitalisations despite the great efforts in particular of the Police. There is little outcry that this year almost 130 more people will die on our roads than that target maximum. Imagine the (rightful) chorus if 130 (more) people were murdered in one year! Road victims are equally human, equally dead, families equally ripped apart, and most of those deaths are avoidable.

We rely too heavily on Police enforcement, and dither over infrastructural improvements such as median/edge barriers, setting speed limits appropriate to roads, quality driver training etc. Engineering investment remains overwhelmingly targeted to congestion relief despite the economic cost of road trauma (over \$4 billion per annum).

Most of us are aware of the threat of Climate Change, and certainly of high energy costs. It's clear we must make significant changes on both counts, but again our response - politically from most parties - appears hesitant, hoping that with a little tweaking business as usual will be adequate. Will the electric car or some other technology save us? TRAFINZ will continue to keep abreast of technological advances, but also to ensure sharing of more sustainable innovative responses in urban planning, passenger transport, IT, promotion of safer active modes, etc.

*Councillor Andy Foster (Wellington City)*



Celebrating the past - Gearing up for the future

for conference details go to [www.trafinz.org.nz](http://www.trafinz.org.nz)

## HMI Technologies

# TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY

CELEBRATING THE PAST GEARING UP FOR THE FUTURE

60th Trafinz Conference Christchurch 7-10 September 2008

# Transport Initiatives

## Red Light Camera Trial - Auckland

Auckland City Council and New Zealand Police have introduced red-light cameras throughout Auckland's CBD to reduce the number of accidents caused by red-light running.

Red-light running is a serious concern. In the five years to 2007, Auckland saw 689 red-light crashes, including 220 in the CBD. In January 2008, a 20-day evaluation recorded 341,000 instances of red-light running at 33 intersections.

The cameras have had overwhelming public support, with growing awareness of the huge social cost – including loss of life, medical and rehabilitation, legal and property damage – associated with red-light crashes.

The project's initial phase is for six months, which will be evaluated to enable a better understanding of the implications for New Zealand Police resources and to provide information for any development of a national red light camera policy.

Find out more at the Trafanz conference !!



## 18 School 40kph speed zones - Hamilton

40km/h variable speed zones arrived at 18 Hamilton primary and intermediate schools on February 5th 2008, the start of the school year.

The impetus behind this new traffic calming practice was to provide a safer road environment outside Hamilton schools, reinforce driver expectations as to the likely presence of children in the area and encourage safe, active travel to school.

Hamilton City Council is committed to encouraging school children to walk and cycle to school as an alternative to being driven, and the adoption of the 40kph variable speed limit in local school zones aimed to achieve a safer journey to school.



The Police have enthusiastically supported the 40kph zones, issuing mock 'warning' tickets in the first week to drivers caught exceeding the new zero-tolerance limit. Early evidence in shows average speeds have dropped, with a wide degree of acceptance from the public.

The Council's Transport Committee came up with a plan to introduce 40kph zones outside every city school over 2 years ago, and has been battling since then to achieve reasonable subsidies for this safety project. 18 schools is only a third of the total, so the Council's campaign is ongoing!



## Flashing School signs - Dunedin

In April 2006, LTNZ approved for the trial of the Active School Warning Signs taking place in Timaru District Council and Invercargill City Council to be extended to include twelve roads in Dunedin.

Dunedin City Council had applied to trial the Active Signs to address concerns about road safety issues around schools, opting to trial these Active Warning Signs, rather than use the 40 km/hr School Zone signs, because of the reduced cost and the potential for the signs to be more suitable for the road conditions around Dunedin schools, where congestion and restricted approach visibility were often issues.



The signs were installed at twelve sites in Dunedin in November and December 2006. As part of the trial, the impact of the Active Signs on motorist's awareness and their response to the school activity was measured using vehicle speed surveys, driver awareness surveys and pedestrian delay surveys, between March and May 2007.

The results from the driver awareness surveys indicated there was strong community support for these signs to be used outside schools throughout New Zealand, and that the flashing lights were an important feature on the signs, with a recommendation to even increase the size of the lights to increase their impact.



**Visit the Trafanz website**

# News & information

## In the News...

### Tauranga School death

Two weeks ago a 14-year-old schoolgirl was killed crossing Maunganui Rd outside Mt Maunganui College.

She was hit by a logging truck travelling from the nearby Port of Tauranga industrial area. To date the truck driver has not come forward.

The road is a City road, but is a busy 70kph arterial, carrying considerable heavy and commuter traffic.

The College has been calling for about two years for the speed limit to be lowered on the stretch near the school - to date Tauranga City Council has said its hands are tied, due to LTNZ criteria meaning the road 'does not qualify' for a lower speed limit.

The public are no doubt wondering how many more children will be killed crossing roads near schools while this issue is being sorted out.

### Government plans to ban cellphones while driving

Transport Minister Annette King this month announced plans to ban talking and texting on hand-held cellphones by drivers while driving.

Not expected to come into force for several months, the ban is set to exclude the use of hands-free cellphone kits, although this issue is already sparking some debate in various forums, as is the general ban proposal itself.

Many overseas countries already ban cellphone use while driving, but NZ Governments have previously said research had not proved cellphone use while driving was dangerous. Many people were sceptical of this claim.

## LTNZ Resources to support walking & cycling

Information for all these can be found on [www.landtransport.govt.nz](http://www.landtransport.govt.nz).

### School Travel Plans

The aim of the project is to increase the number of STPs nationwide by encouraging approved organisations (AOs) to promote and develop STPs with local schools. This will be done by ensuring AOs are provided with assistance and advice on and funding for STPs, this will be carried out in conjunction with Education Advisors. AOs can apply for funding (including funding for staff to be School Travel Planners).

#### Resources

- School travel plan co-ordinator's guide available on the Land Transport NZ website
- <http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/sustainable-transport/guidelines/school-travel-plan.pdf>

### Workplace Travel Plans

A workplace travel plan (WTP) sets out steps to encourage staff to travel to and from work by public transport, on foot, by bike or by car share, and to improve access for a particular workplace.

The aim of the project is to increase the number of WTPs nationwide by encouraging approved organisations (AOs) to promote and develop STPs with local workplaces. This will be done by ensuring

AOs are provided with assistance and advice on and funding for WTPs, this will be carried out in conjunction with Education Advisors. This is assisted by providing various guidance and tools (such as the online survey tool and other travel planning resources such as the audit forms and report templates).

#### Resources

- Workplace travel plan coordinators' guide
- <http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/sustainable-transport/guidelines/workplace-travel-plan.pdf>

### Share the road

The focus is to analyse and research how best to support a 'share the road' culture in New Zealand where motorists, pedestrians and cyclists respect each other's differing needs and share the transport environment in a courteous, co-operative and safe manner. This will expand on the Share the road toolkit developed by Land Transport NZ for local authority use.

#### Resources

- Help guide territorial local authorities as an implementation agency.
- Share the road guidance and Share the road Project examples
- <http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/road-user-safety/walking-and-cycling/share-the-road/>

## Trafinz Technical Committee contact:

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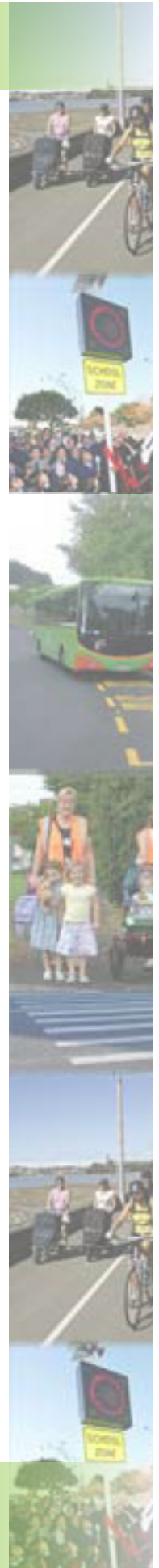
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## Recent Trafinz Submissions

The following submissions were prepared using the combined expertise and input from senior local authority professionals representing Trafinz member authorities and associated consultants. The full submissions can be seen on the Trafinz website at: <http://www.trafinz.org.nz/Submissions/submissions.htm>

- RTS 14 - Guidelines for Facilities for Blind and Vision Impaired Pedestrians
- Draft Level Crossing Guidelines
- Land Transport Rule : Omnibus Amendment Rule (2007)
- LTNZ Draft Guideline on Parking Control ( Vol 13)
- Police Act Review
- MOT Review of Transport Act 1962





The TRAFINZ Awards have been developed to recognise those organisations that have made an outstanding contribution in road safety or transport sustainability, and to recognise those individuals who have provided outstanding leadership in providing for sustainable road safety.

#### Award Categories

The award categories are for Organisations for Outstanding Contribution (2 awards) and for Individuals for Outstanding Road Safety Leadership (3 awards) as follows :

Awards to Organisations for Outstanding Contribution

- Sustainable Road Safety Award
- Sustainable Transport Award

Awards to Individuals for Outstanding Road Safety Leadership

- Local Government Organisation
- Central Government Organisation
- Non-Government Organisation

#### Conditions of Entry

Nominations for awards are to be provided to the Secretary of TRAFINZ no later than one month prior to the next TRAFINZ Conference in which the awards would be presented.

All nominations for awards will be assessed by the Executive Committee of TRAFINZ who have the discretion to determine which awards should be presented at the Conference. The decisions of the Executive Committee of TRAFINZ shall be final.

The successful award recipients will be notified in advance of the TRAFINZ Conference and would be expected to participate in promotional activities on behalf of TRAFINZ e.g. media.

#### Award Prizes

The winners in each award category will receive an iconic trophy along with a framed certificate acknowledging the nature of their award.

#### Requirements for Entries

Awards to Organisations for Outstanding Contribution

Each entry will be less than 1000 words and is to provide a synopsis which includes the following :

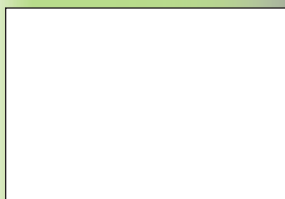
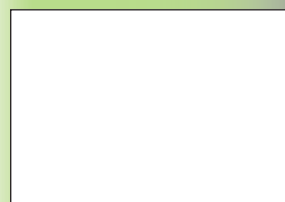
- Executive Summary
- Background to the issue
- Initiative or initiatives adopted to address the issue
- Results achieved
- Ability of the initiative or initiatives to be used or adopted more widely throughout New Zealand.

Awards to Individuals for Outstanding Leadership

Each entry will be less than 400 words and is to provide a synopsis which includes the following :

- Executive Summary
- Background to the nomination
- Brief biography of the nominee including employment and education
- Brief background of initiatives implemented by the nominee throughout their career.

### 2007 Awards



#### Benefits of TRAFINZ Membership

Membership of Trafinz provides access to a wealth of information on transportation matters including road safety and sustainability. TRAFINZ's current membership includes all major metropolitan authorities, our key stakeholders such as Land Transport NZ, the NZ Police and Transit plus numerous Consultants. We also have a strong alliance with SASTA, the Community Road Safety Group. The annual conference provides an opportunity to meet with peers from all organisations and discuss matters of mutual interest as well as learn from the presentations made.

Trafinz regularly prepares and presents submissions on major Transportation proposals and these submissions are made available to our members.

#### How do You Join TRAFINZ?

Membership is gained by applying to the Secretaryship, which

currently lies with Dunedin City Council. Write to:

**Trafinz**, c/- Transportation Planning  
Dunedin City Council, PO Box 5045, Dunedin

#### The Current subscription fees are:

Over 200,000 population	\$3,000
100,000 – 200,000	\$2,000
50,000 – 100,000	\$750
Up to 50,000	\$500
Corporate	\$1,000
Associates	\$50

#### Key contacts for TRAFINZ are:

President: Councillor Andy Foster, Wellington CC

[andy.foster@WCC.govt.nz](mailto:andy.foster@WCC.govt.nz)

Vice President: John Gottler Connell Wagner

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Secretary: Don Hill, Dunedin CC [dhill@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:dhill@dcc.govt.nz)

[www.trafinz.org.nz](http://www.trafinz.org.nz)