



## **Chair Report 2020 ITS New Zealand AGM**

Online AGM 3.30PM, September 3rd, 2020

The 2019/2020 year has been an interesting and frustrating but ultimately rewarding year for ITS NZ. We know this is similar to what many of our members have found as well.

While T-Tech, our showcase event for the year, sadly had to be cancelled we are now looking to bring the content to members via webinars later this year and we are already planning for T-Tech 2021.

However, as they say every cloud has a silver lining. International speakers who cannot always travel to NZ to join us at T-Tech are now more available to provide briefings and updates virtually. We have therefore been able to schedule webinars with international speakers notably, Seleta Reynolds, GM for Los Angeles DoT and Carol Schwieger, Perspectives on MaaS. These are attracting good attendance and providing us with increased exposure. We aim to make these webinars, with both international and local speakers, an increasingly important part of the ITSNZ calendar.

Freight is an area where technology and transport meet in interesting ways. We also hosted an inaugural Freight and Technology Workshop in Auckland with speakers from the MoT, Ports of Auckland and others. We received great feedback and strong demand for it to be repeated. While we put this on hold in March we are now planning how we will do this in the current uncertain environment. The MoT have recently released its 2020 Green Freight Strategic Working Paper and we recently jointly hosted an industry briefing by the MoT in Wellington.

One of the aspects we are most pleased with is how adding youth board members has brought new energy to the board and the creation of a Young Transport Professionals Group has been a great initiative. I am not going to steal any of Amy and Armin's thunder and they will report on both what the group has achieved to date and their plans for the coming year. However I will state that we are focusing this on wider professionals NOT just engineers and how we think that is critical in the rapidly changing transport environment that technology changes are driving.

We have also added two board members from academia with Helen Fitt and Doug Wilson. Not only are they well connected with latest thinking but also have great international affiliations. This helps us ensure the board stays abreast of changes occurring in technology and also opens up additional potential speakers for T-tech and webinars.

Sadly, Richard Cross from the MoT has resigned from the Board and has advised that the MoT wish to explore different ways that they can contribute to ITS NZ whilst remaining a Gold Member.

This year we have engaged with government on both the Road to Zero and the Government Policy Statement emphasising the role technology can have in helping deliver Government objectives around safety, carbon emissions and efficient transport systems. We particularly emphasised the need to technology to be actively considered as solutions are developed and for Government to invest in localising technology that has been proven elsewhere. In addition we were invited to contribute as a member of the Climate Change Commission's Transport Reference Group, so it is positive to see ITS, technologies and innovation recognised as contributors to meeting New Zealand's carbon emissions targets.

It has been heartening to hear from some of our members that after a few years of limited investment in transport technology solutions by Government agencies they are beginning to see an uptick in investment and opportunities. We would like to think that some of our entreaties to Government have played a part in this.

No review of this last year can be completed without recognising the impact that Covid has had on our and our member's businesses. This has impacted on our financial with an unplanned loss in the year. A contributing factor for this was reduced income as a result of the cancellation of T-Tech and the new member revenue this normally drives. Nevertheless, we remain in a healthy financial state with sufficient funds and reserves to continue and plan for a successful 2020/21 year, continuing to strive to meet our objectives on behalf of the membership and the sector.

It is encouraging to see that we continue to attract a diverse group of new members.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the board members for their support and hard work over the last year.

Mike Rudge  
Chair