NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL STRUCTURAL GROUPS

AUCKLAND STRUCTURAL GROUP REPORT

Report for SESOC Management Committee Meeting February 2022

GENERAL

- We are on a holding pattern while waiting for Omicron to play out.
- The engineering heritage week has been organised with ENZ for the 8th of March. Going ahead in person.

POTENTIAL EVENTS FOR 2022:

- Summary of ReCast project
- Site visit to the central interceptor and/or presentation on tunneling, piping, by Ghella Abergeldie Joint Venture/ Fletcher/ Arup
- HERA/SCNZ on the new Steel Standards
- HERA/SCNZ on the new Steel Standards CRL

SESOC WELLINGTON BRIDGE GROUP

September 21- February 22 Activities Report

We generally hold three gatherings each year and a large group of bridge engineers attend these gatherings. The organising committee consists of members representing Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, KiwiRail, WSP, Holmes Group and Beca. The third and final gathering of 2021 was first delayed and later converted into an online Webinar due to Covid-19 lockdown situation.

ACTIVITIES

THIRD GATHERING OF 2021

25th November 2021

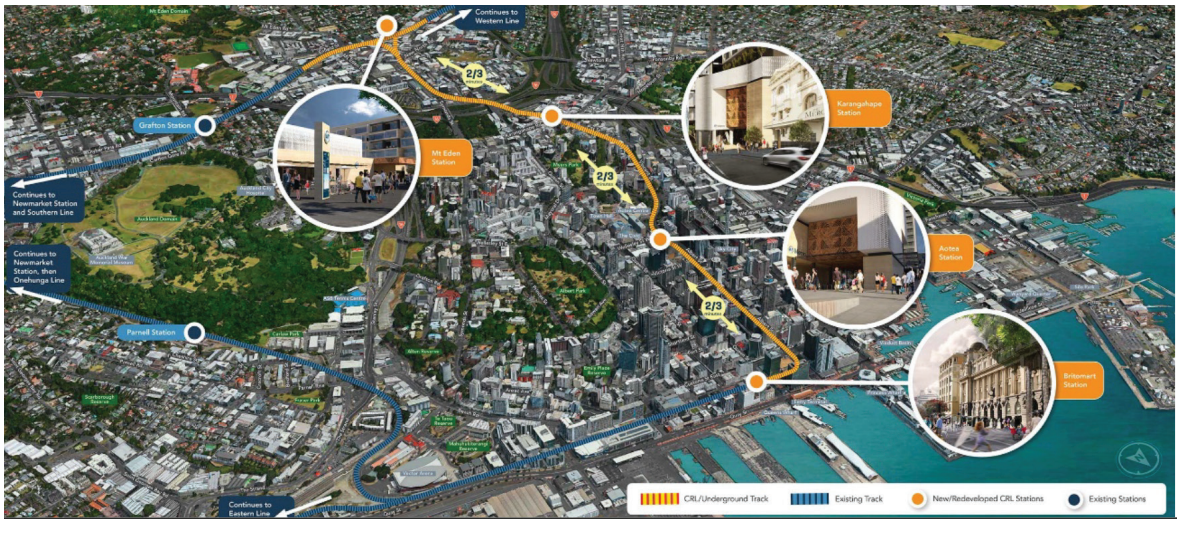
The 3rd gathering was organised as an online webinar using NZ Engineers platform on 25 November 2021 form 5.00pm to 7.00pm. Invitation for the webinar was circulated via emails from NZ Engineers and interested parties were requested to register for the webinar on NZ Engineers portal. A good response was received from all over the country and a total of 231 people registered for the Webinar. Around 117 people attended.

Speakers for that evening event provided an interesting and very topical look at some current infrastructure projects in the country.

City Rail Link Project in Auckland

The City Rail Link (CRL) project is New Zealand's largest transport infrastructure project. Link Alliance is delivering the bulk of the project. The scope includes 3.45km twin tunnels connecting the downtown Britomart Station through the city to the North Auckland Line at a new Mt Eden station. Two underground stations will provide access in the heart of the city for up to 54,000 passengers per hour.

CRL will double the number of Aucklanders within 30 minutes travel of the CBD. This will deliver environmental and health benefits with less reliance on cars and reduced traffic and air pollution. Through close partnerships with Mana Whenua a strong cultural narrative has been embedded in the station designs to reflect the city's unique cultural history.

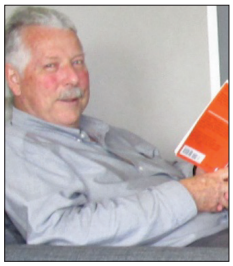


Jon Varndell is the Link Alliance Design Director leading the design organisation of over 700 designers and shared key highlights of the project. Jon has over 30 years' experience leading large transport projects in New Zealand, Hong Kong, Dubai and the UK.

Craig Pamplin is the Design Manager for Karangahape Station. Craig used the 3D BIM model to provide a hands-on demonstration of how they developed the integrated design and construction methodology for this 35m deep underground station.

"This is Your Life"

This is a very popular segment of our gatherings, where we invite senior people to share their personal development as a bridge engineer and other personal activities with younger engineers.



The candidate for this event was **Tom Harris** from WSP Auckland. Tom started in 1976 at Ministry of Works (MOW) head office in Wellington (Vogel Building) under the MOW Chief Engineer. After that he moved to Taumaranui where he designed some remote bridges, Hamilton during the Muldoon times, then Wanganui and finally Auckland. Tom also talked about racing his 750cc Ducati motorbike. Lots of interesting stories shared.

Modern timber bridges – Waka Kotahi-led industry initiative:

Waka Kotahi has a vision for a low carbon, safe and healthy land transport system. *Arataki - Our Plan* for the Land Transport System 2021-2031 identifies climate change as one of the key drivers of change for the land transport system in NZ. In order to position the land transport system for future climate change issues, we must start now. To this end, Waka Kotahi is focusing on modern timber as a viable material for bridges, initially for short-medium spans. Recognising the need for the sector to collaborate to promote this initiative, they have recently formed a working group on Modern Timber Bridges. This presentation from Joel and Anton covered Waka Kotahi's vision, an outline of the project and key thoughts shared by the working group at the first workshop held at the beginning of November 2021.

Joel Netley is leading the initiative for Waka Kotahi to drive change in the transport industry to normalise engineered timber bridges in New Zealand.

Anton Kivell has been working with Waka Kotahi to help in the development of the Modern Timber Bridges programme.

Next Gathering

The steering committee had a planning online meeting on 16 February 2022. The committee agreed to hold the next gathering on 5th May 2022. The committee prefers to hold face-to-face gatherings, but it depends on the Covid-19 situation. So it was decided to plan for face-to- face as well as an online webinar and the way we will hold this gathering will be decided in April.

Possible Project Presentations:

The following projects have been considered for presentations.

- Let's Get Wellington Moving – The project team accepted the invitation and agreed to share the current work and programme.
- The Inter- Island Resilience Connection project (iReX) – We have contacted the project team and are waiting for their response.
- Waikato Expressway Project – Hamilton Section (back-up project) presentation.
- Tauranga Northern Link (TNL) Expressway Project (back-up project) presentation.

Personality for "This is Your Life": The steering committee approached Robert Parker and he agreed to be interviewed in this segment.

Reported by Jamil Khan

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