

LEARNING FROM THE RTA

1.1 Why reinvent the wheel?

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA), New South Wales, is a lot further down the track in implementing urban design in its highway projects than Transit.

The RTA is viewed as a leader in urban design best practice for road controlling authorities. Transit recognises the value that can be gained from sharing the experiences and achievements of the RTA. In March 2006, Transit invited Raeburn Chapman (Senior Urban Design Advisor, RTA) to a workshop to draw on his knowledge and the experiences of RTA.

The RTA has developed a set of high level documents, issue-specific guidance notes covering noise wall, shotcrete design, bridge aesthetics and a full set of practice notes. These practice notes have had good buy-in from staff and contractors. However, they are currently under review to make them more user friendly.

From Transit's workshop with the RTA there was a general agreement that Transit has an opportunity to develop on the RTA experience, in particular their urban design practice notes.

1.2 What relevance does this material have for Transit?

The RTA's practice notes should be considered as think pieces for how urban design can be applied to New Zealand's state highway network. Over time Transit specific guidance material will be developed, incorporating Transit's policies, guidelines, specifications and specific legislative requirements. See the RTA's webpage for more detail on these practice notes.

Webpage

<http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/urbandesign/index.html>

Feedback on the usefulness of this type of guidance will assist Transit's Urban Design Team in the development of Transit's own guidance material.