

## WORKSHOP REMIT

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<b>Presentation topic</b>	<b>Please check the box to identify your topic area:</b>		
	1. Traffic management		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	2. Road and roadside design for safety		<input type="checkbox"/>
	3. Meeting needs of principal road user groups		<input type="checkbox"/>
	4. Integrating transport infrastructure and land-use		<input type="checkbox"/>
	5. The transportation profession		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Presentation title</b>	Warning Signs – what is the principle?		
<b>Presentation Remit</b>	<p>In 2004 I was driving through the North Island and found a sign saying "caution wide vehicles". I assumed that there must have been some industry in the area that used vehicles over the standard width. Inquiries I made later provided the reply that the sign was used at a narrow bridge. My copy of the NZ Manual of Traffic Signs is many years out of date but it includes a "narrow bridge sign" that is to be used when the width is 20 feet or less.. The Australian manual says such a sign to be used where the bridge is less than approach width. Also when the bridge is 5 to 5.5m in width. A bridge under 5 m meriting a "one lane bridge" sign. A "wide vehicle" sign is something one might expect to find on a truck. Was the sign, I saw, intended to warn drivers of wide vehicles of the narrow bridge or to warn drivers of cars that if there is a wide vehicle approaching them on the bridge that they should exercise caution?</p> <p>Should a warning sign warn of a [permanent] road feature but in an unambiguous way?</p> <p>There appears to be a slippage back to 'vague' traffic signs such as were around in my early days eg "steady". Currently one can see signs like "traffic hazard", "high risk area" , and even advisory speed signs at intersections [on straight road sections]. What action should a driver take when viewing either of the first two signs? The use of advisory speed signs at an intersection must degrade from their value on curves. Positive guidance should be the principle of warning signs.</p> <p>Are the persons responsible for the erection of such signs placating a local concern and have no knowledge of traffic engineering concepts?</p>		