

**South African Institution of Civil Engineering**

**Division of Transportation Engineering**

**2000 Quadrennial  
Cathedral Peak, Drakensberg**

**RESOLUTIONS**

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## **R1 TRANSPORTATION FUNDING**

**Issue:** In spite of the fact that road users are heavily taxed, the funds made available by government for roads and public transportation are inadequate to protect and improve the transportation infrastructure of the country.

**Actions:**

- 1.1 Members must be encouraged to engage with decision-makers on this issue, lobby for the cause and identify new innovative ways of securing more transportation funds.
- 1.2 The Transportation Committee must actively encourage/facilitate debate on the issue in order to create better understanding by both decision-makers and members.
- 1.3 The user-pay principle is supported and must be implemented utilising new technology (e.g. congestion tolling).
- 1.4 Authorities responsible for transport should implement integrated budgeting (co-ordination between authorities and departments) in order to achieve more effective implementation of transportation projects.
- 1.5 The Transportation Committee must research the impact of transportation infrastructure on economic development and make results available to decision-makers.

## **R2 COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

**Issue:** Transportation professionals are still not selling themselves and the industry adequately. A more active and leading role in society should be played.

**Actions:**

- 2.1 The Transportation Committee must create/identify opportunities for its members to develop communication skills.
- 2.2 Institutions for tertiary education in engineering must be made aware of the need to include communication training with their technical programs.
- 2.3 SAICE must encourage all members to become involved in society and build the image of civil/transportation professionals.

## **R3 INTERACTION WITH DECISION-MAKERS/POLITICIANS**

**Issue:** Even stronger interaction with decision-makers/politicians is required in order to get their understanding and support for appropriate transportation investment/planning/research.

**Actions:**

- 3.1 The Transportation Committee must develop further opportunities for Public/Private Partnerships. This can relate to the implementation of physical projects, but also to other issues such as research, training, etc.
- 3.2 The Transportation Committee must lobby for a stronger research effort in transportation related matters.
- 3.3 The Transportation Committee must convey the concern regarding a lack of technical expertise at the National Department of Transport to the Minister. The current situation is not considered to be in the country's best interest.
- 3.4 The Transportation Committee is charged with the responsibility to interact with all levels of government in so far as new/changed transportation legislation is concerned.

#### **R4 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

**Issue:** Public transport is still not as effective as it should be and does not receive the financial support that it deserves.

**Actions:**

- 4.1 The Transportation Division should get involved in capacity building in the public transport industry.
- 4.2 The government's policies towards promoting public transport should be supported. The Division should provide input wherever possible to assist in improving public transport.
- 4.3 The Division should facilitate relevant research to support/strengthen the public transport system in South Africa.

#### **R5 CO-ORDINATION WITH OTHER TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS**

**Issue:** Due to the interaction between land-use development and transportation, there is a need for better understanding, co-ordination and co-operation with professionals active in land-use development. This includes town planners, transport economists, geographers, etc.

**Actions:**

- 5.1 The Transportation Committee must assist in efforts to obtain better clarity on the ideal form and shape of South African cities. This will be addressed in the current research for Road Access Management Guidelines.
- 5.2 The Transportation Committee must actively pursue the recruitment of land-use and transport planners, economists, etc as members of the Division. Also, create networking with the associations representing these groups.
- 5.3 The relationship between allowing market forces to shape cities versus intervention from governmental side should be researched.

#### **R6 APPLICATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY**

**Issue:** Even though South Africa can be considered a peculiar mix of First and Third World, there is a need to apply new technology (e.g. ITS) where applicable and sustainable.

**Actions:**

- 6.1 The implementation of new applicable and sustainable technology and appropriate ITS measures to achieve higher efficiencies in transportation is supported.
- 6.2 The Transportation Committee must be actively involved in educating and training members on this issue. This is already taking place through ITS SA. Members must be encouraged and assisted to empower themselves in this regard.

#### **R7 APPLICABILITY OF CURRENT STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES**

**Issue:** A question is being asked regarding the applicability of standards and guidelines in transportation engineering that were developed decades ago. As many of these originated in the USA and whilst South African conditions and priorities have changed since 1994, there is a need to carefully reconsider the validity of some existing standards.

**Actions:**

- 7.1 The Transportation Committee must continuously evaluate current transportation standards and guidelines and with the relevant authorities research applicability.

7.2 The Transportation Committee must approach the National Department of Transport to assess the need for uniform standards and guidelines in the SADC region.

## **R8 EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**Issue:** In the fast-changing environment that all people (also transportation professionals) work, the need for appropriate training is more vital than ever before. SAICE has to assist educators in this respect.

**Actions:**

- 8.1 Continuing education must become a way of life for all members. The Transportation Committee has to do all in its power to create and promote opportunities for its members.
- 8.2 An investigation into the need for transportation engineering as a field of study of its own at undergraduate level, is supported. SAICE and the Transportation Committee have to facilitate this debate.
- 8.3 Members should continuously provide feedback to educators on the industry needs and also assist them by providing guest lecturers.
- 8.4 There must be a focus on empowerment – the Transportation Committee has to influence decision-makers to make adequate funding available for the training of PDI's.
- 8.5 The Transportation Committee must be more involved in the efforts of TRAC (either financially and/or otherwise).