

All Change

Newsletter of the Transport Planning Society

Autumn 2001
Issue 1

Introduction from Keith Mitchell

I am really pleased to be writing for 'All Change' for the first time. We hope that this will provide TPS members with useful information about TPS activities, and a focus for debate on topical issues.

I have always enjoyed the relaxed and informal way that the TPS approaches its work. The accessible and independent approach the Society adopts helps to engage a wide range of people involved in transport planning. This is particularly important if transport planners are going to bring a truly integrated and sustainable approach to the planning, design and implementation of transport projects in the UK. The TPS is also an inclusive organisation, which helps to promote a more cohesive approach to the development of transport planners, and raising awareness of the views and needs of the profession.

I am therefore delighted to report that the successful TPS seminar programme, has continued to entertain and inform.

Future events in Manchester and Leeds illustrate the beginning of a determined attempt to broaden our coverage across the UK. Some of these seminars will provide an opportunity for young transport planners to report on the outcome of their original research undertaken as part of our first tranche of TPS bursary awards. We have now embarked on the call for a second round of bursaries. More details are in this issue of 'All Change'.

This year, my focus has been the promotion and co-ordination of a broadly based transport planning skills initiative in conjunction with a wide range of institutional, employer, and educational organisations. This initiative is focussed on the need to increase the number of skilled transport planners, and the range and relevance of their skills, in support of the planning, design and implementation of the Ten Year Plan. This project is in its infancy, but has 'in principle' Ministerial backing and broadly based support from a wide range of stakeholder organisations. Please find further details, and how you can contribute, in Professor Tony May's article in this issue.

This initiative is at the core of the basic principles of the TPS, reflecting our inclusive approach, seeking to promote awareness of transport planning as a valued and rewarding career, and stimulating interest amongst a broad range of practicing and potential transport planners.

So far - so good!

Keith Mitchell



This Issue

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Manchester

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With our thanks to WS Atkins for sponsoring this publication

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Integration - A broader role for the transport planner?

We are now three years on from a Government Transport White Paper that focused on integration. What has been the resulting impact on transport planners?

Today more transport planners have a wider perspective in terms of the need for transport to be integrated with land-use, environmental, social and economic planning.

But with delivery of Local Transport Plans and the 10 Year Plan being critical to the success of the New Deal, perhaps a greater compulsion for broadening the skills base of the profession is the need for transport planners to be better integrated into project and plan delivery teams.

Transport planners need to work not just on preparing business cases and assessing the wider impacts of transport policies and projects, for example, but on managing and monitoring the successful delivery of strategies and plans.

Best value and resource shortages are together driving local authorities towards partnering and outsourcing services. Procurement is becoming less about discrete packages of transport planning work and more about refining and delivering the contents and desired outcomes of plans and projects where transport is just one part of an integrated service.

The traditional divides between transport planners, engineers and transport operators, as well as between transport, land-use, environmental, social and economic planning disciplines are already less evident in some organisations and are likely to converge further as plan and strategy delivery takes centre stage.

Whilst greater integration has been seen at a technical level, transport planners have some way to go in getting their message across. People with marketing and public relations backgrounds entering the profession in areas such as travel plan co-ordination are a welcome sign of a more general broadening of the skill sets within the profession as whole.

As a profession we must embrace these changes as an exciting evolution of the transport planner's role and as a

necessary response to market demands for greater integration with other disciplines.

It is perhaps ironic, therefore, that during a period of intense debate about professional frameworks, the very institutions that are struggling to place transport planning at their heart are the same institutions that provide the broad churches and mix of disciplines that can facilitate this integration. Of course whether these institutions are up to realising this potential remains to be seen.

Andy Southern,
W S Atkins



Want to air your views? Got something to say? Then email your comments to the editors nicola.kane@jmp.co.uk or kerrybangle@tfl.gov.uk

Don't forget the deadline for TPS bursary awards is 22nd November. See opposite

Goodwin addresses the Transport Planning Society

Professor Phil Goodwin's annual address to the Transport Planning Society in June was, as usual, a thought provoking and at times humorous event. Goodwin provided a "state-of-the-nation" address on progress since the publication of Transport 2010 (the ten year spending plan for transport); the Railtrack predicament; and the lessons to be drawn from the September 2000 fuel crisis.

Goodwin's talk began with raised eyebrows over the low profile of transport in the election campaigning. He suggested that this may be due to the fact that neither major party has a defensible approach and record of success in dealing with transport. The remainder of the talk was a sobering discourse which left its audience wiser but in desperate search of new reserves of optimism.

However, with changing personalities at the political helm, Goodwin stressed the importance of organisations such as the Transport Planning Society in sustaining a continuity of thought during these critical times for transport.

Glenn Lyons,
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TPS Summer Social

July 2001

Whilst many of you were off enjoying your well-deserved summer break, the remaining 'social' members of the society turned out to enjoy this year's summer event...

Following a few early drinks at the ICE, we just managed to catch the Thames riverboat from Westminster Dock. Again supplied with drinks from the bar, we enjoyed the quick trip down river to Tower Bridge and onto our final destination at St. Katherine's Dock. What a great way to travel and gain a new perspective on London! In keeping with the general theme of the evening,



Courtesy of TFL

we headed straight to the Dickens Inn where we remained until piling into the local curry house. A great social event all round!



TPS Bursary Awards

As one of the first guinea pigs in the TPS Bursary Award scheme, I have been asked to write a few words about the experience.

My paper was a guide to the assessment of development proposals with respect to transport considerations. I feel that I have gained a great deal personally and professionally from the experience. The paper allowed me to meet and discuss my ideas with a senior transport professional; to broaden my knowledge of the planning system, and to carry more detailed research into a subject than is always possible within the time

constraints of my job. I have also been given the opportunity to present my paper to the TPS Committee and at Leeds University.

Finally, the TPS gave me £500 for my troubles, which is always very useful for an impoverished transport planner still paying off student debts!

The closing date for this year's bursary applications is 22nd November. Please see later in this issue for the interesting and challenging topic areas.

Nicola Kane,
JMP Consultants Ltd, Manchester

The search for transport planners

As we enter the second year of the Government's Ten Year Plan it is becoming increasingly clear that we do not have the number of skilled transport planners needed to deliver the Plan in full. Prompted by the very thoughtful report published by the Rees Jeffreys Trustees earlier this year, and the wider Skills Initiative co-ordinated by the Institution of Civil Engineers, a group of employers, professional institutions and academics has come together to form a Transport Planning Skills Initiative.

At its meeting on October 11th, the Group agreed that it should focus on the professional and technical skills needed to develop and implement surface transport policies over the next ten years. This remit is intentionally tightly drawn so that real progress can be made. Within this context, it agreed that its objectives should be to increase the skill pool, to increase the range and level of skills in that pool, and to raise awareness of the profession among the public at large and opinion formers.

It considered an outline action plan which included some 30 specific initiatives which might be pursued, agreed on a set of priorities among them, and formed a series of teams of interested organisations to pursue them further. Some of these are general, and include a fuller assessment of the numbers and types of skill

needed; increasing the emphasis on skill development in project briefs and tenders; and publicising the issue and its implications more widely. Others address the specific needs of school leavers, undergraduates, postgraduates and those already embarked on careers in the profession.

A fuller action plan will be agreed by November. Subject to that, DTLR has offered to co-fund the initiative. This support, and that of the professional institutions and employers, will be essential if we are to make rapid progress in attracting more entrants to the profession, and in strengthening the skills of those already involved. All TPS members can help in achieving this. The current action plan will shortly be on the web at www.tps.org.uk and comments on it would be welcome, particularly in advance of the Group's next meeting in late November. Please send comments on the current proposals, suggestions for additional actions, and offers of support for specific tasks, to me at the above address or to Kate Davies at kate.davies@ice.org.uk

Tony May

Institute for Transport Studies
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Subject Areas

1. Identify the legal issues required to be considered when local authorities require developers or other organisations to develop a travel plan and associated initiatives before approving planning applications. Suggest ways in which potential problems can be overcome. (Supervisor:- Richard Gillingham)

2. What is the relationship between improved supply chain commercial efficiency and a sustainable approach to freight distribution? In what circumstances is it currently financially sensible for an individual organisation to "go green"? (Supervisor:- Richard Gillingham)

3. Prevention through education, policing by people, or policing by cameras and technology – where does the future lie in the enforcement of motorists' reasonable behaviour? (Supervisor:- Derek Quinn)

4. Are the location decisions of health authorities, education authorities and other government departments effectively taking into account the policies of the Transport White Paper and PPG 13? (Supervisor:- Keith Mitchell)

5. Relating new transport infrastructure provision and consequent land use and property developments: creating a planning and financial framework so each can support the other. (Supervisor:- Peter Stonham)

6. Does the national curriculum provide for a proper understanding of transport issues. What are schools teaching the next generation? (Supervisor:- Peter Stonham)

7. Potential implications for transport planning of the separation of DEFRA from the former DETR (Supervisor:- Peter Stonham)

8. The role and impact of Her Majesty's Treasury in UK transport planning policy: Ken Livingstone has suggested that aliens bent on world destruction have taken over inside the Treasury - what other possible explanations are there for the Treasury's objectives and methods of intervention in the field of transport planning policy? (Supervisor:- Richard Walker)

Have you visited the website yet?

www.tps.org.uk



Cycling should have universal appeal

The need to address the common perception that cycling is a dangerous pursuit needing a forceful personality, a lycra suit and a helmet was one of the key issues debated at the "Two Wheeled Ways Forward" meeting on 6th September.

The two speakers for the evening were Rose Ades, the new Head of the Transport for London Cycling Centre of Excellence, and Ray Blackwell, the South-East Regional Manager of Sustrans. Both were in agreement that there needs to be a major cultural change in Britain to allow cycling to be treated as a mainstream transport mode, as it is in many other European countries.

Ades emphasised the need for safe networks of routes whereby the convenience of the bike could be fully

appreciated and explained that TfL were currently producing 19 free local Cycling Guides for London in order to publicise cycle routes through the City.

Blackwell went on to discuss Sustrans' target to increase the proportion of trips being made by bicycle to 10% by 2010, although some of the audience were sceptical about whether this is achievable, despite significant results in cities such as York, Oxford and Cambridge. Rose Ades pointed to the importance of socio-economic characteristics in generating increases in cycle usage within specific geographical areas. For example, whilst an increase in cycling has been seen in Kingston-upon-Thames and other south-west London Boroughs, similar results are unlikely to be easily achievable in East London.

Both speakers pointed to the need for more research into attitudes towards cycling. TfL are currently engaged in a 40,000 household interview survey and additional survey data is expected from Velocity in the next few weeks. Other key issues raised were the need for better promotion of cycling through PR campaigns, better maintenance of cycle paths, and education programmes for school children.

The evening provided plenty of food for thought and promoted a varied discussion on the likely future role of cycling in the UK.

Peter Wiltshire
The Perceptions and Impressions
Company

Notice Board

The TPS hosts a range of exciting events throughout the year, including seminars, debates and social evenings. Here are just a few of the forthcoming events:

- **TPS Bursary Paper Presentations:** last year the TPS awarded 5 young transport professionals bursaries to carry out research on a range of transport topics. These papers have now been completed and this is your opportunity to hear about their research and discuss the results:

Tuesday 23rd October, University of Leeds – Nicola Kane (Assessment of Development Proposals) and Andrew Pike (Urban Task Force Report)
Thursday 1st November, Centre for Transport Studies, Imperial College – Mervyn Bartlett (PPGs), Dr Kiron Chatterjee (Asymmetric Churn) and Amy Bristow (Marketing of Cars)

- **"Sustainable Freight", 22nd November, 6pm, ICE Rennie Room.**

- **TPS Bursary deadline 22nd November**

- **Special Celebrity Panel discussion followed by Christmas Drinks, 11th December 6pm, ICE Rennie Room**

- **Annual North West Transportation Lecture: "An Accessible Region".** This event is a joint venture between the ICE, IHT, ILT, RTPI and the TPS. The 2002 event will also help to raise the profile of the Society in the North West and is definitely one for the diaries! The lecture will be held on **21st February 2002 at the Village Hotel, Central Warrington.**

Look out for future events including a follow up to the last highly successful

pub quiz, the TPS AGM with guest speaker and the Annual Dinner (provisionally 13th February). Details will be sent nearer the time and advertised in 'All Change' and LTT.


Our Friends in the North...

The TPS is keen to attract members from across the Country and is currently planning a number of events in the North of England and Midlands. If you are interested in getting involved in such events or would like to organise something in your part of the Country, we would like to hear from you. Please contact; Richard.Walker@islington.gov.uk or kriley@pba.co.uk for further information.

If you would like to get more involved with TPS or this newsletter please email tps@ice.org or kerrybangle@tfl.gov.uk

The Transport Planning Society is supported by the Institute of Logistics and Transportation, the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Highways and Transportation and the Royal Town Planning Institute.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editors or TPS but of the authors.

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