

## An Evolving Role for Transport Planners

A personal view from TPS chair  
Martin Tugwell

Well, it's been a few months now since I took up the role of Chairman of our Society and I have to say that the time has flown by. With each and every year, time seems to fly by faster and once again 2005 has proved a case in point.

Transport planning continues to face enormous challenges. My own experience with the development of the regional spatial strategy for South East England (the South East Plan) has served to remind – if I needed reminding – of the scale of these challenges.

Demographic change within the structure of society is inevitably going to change the nature of demand for travel. The ever-growing proportion of our population that is enjoying an active and prolonged retirement is a group that have been used to a high level of personal mobility. And with the average life span continuing to increase, meeting the expectations of this sector of the population will be a challenge in itself.

Climate change, and transport's contribution to it, continues to be another huge challenge for the profession. For many the existence of climate change is now at least acknowledged. But truthfully how many of us act upon the need to plan for its impacts and to begin to change our habits to try and mitigate the damage our appetite for mobility by car is causing. As transport planners we, more than any other group, should be acutely aware of the time it takes to effect a change in behaviour.

Developing and implementing major investment in our transport system takes time to deliver. Yet the opportunity for us to develop proposals to meet individuals' aspirations for mobility can often be met through more innovative programmes, such as individualised travel planning. Measures such as these can provide an effective way of meeting society's aspirations in a more sustainable way and often in a shorter period of time than a more traditional solution.

If we add to the mix of demographic and climate change the acknowledgement that our predominant mode of transport is powered by a fuel that is a finite resource, then the challenges to the transport profession truly are enormous.

None of us know with certainty what the future will bring, but our transport system is the lifeblood of our modern society. In the era of global markets, the ability of the transport system to transport people and goods is essential to maintaining the quality of life.



The transport planning profession has a critical role to play in providing the vision and inspiration that will ensure the transport system continues to evolve and develop in a way that enables society to continue to prosper.

Recent changes to the planning system, with the emphasis on spatial planning as opposed to the silo planning mentality of previous planning regimes, are a major step forward. As is the identification of regional funding allocations for transport, housing and economic development. True, the allocations are never going to be big enough to meet everyone's aspirations, but perhaps it will encourage us all to think more creatively about the way in which we solve our problems. Already decision makers are looking at how they might join-up public sector policy in these three areas, looking at how they can achieve maximum added value through combining funds in a way that focuses on outcomes rather than outputs.

Perhaps the way forward lies in developing and encouraging a new way of thinking amongst the profession. For many, the transport debates of the late 1980s and early 1990s marked a step change in thinking. The realisation that "predict and provide" was a flawed approach to transport planning encouraged a new way of thinking; one that underpins the TPS and its members.

**As we move forward we need to continue to invest in the creativity and skills of the profession in order to meet the challenges that we face. The skills of TPS members are needed now more than ever and, with your help, I feel confident that we will be able to rise to the challenge and provide the vision and inspiration necessary to deliver a transport system fit for the 21st Century.**

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## Summer Work Placement Scheme 2006

TPS is again calling for employers across the UK to host undergraduates for the summer work experience scheme to give them a taster of what a career in transport planning would be like.

There is still a recognised national shortage of skilled transport planners available to meet employer's needs. The TPS is continuing to address these problems by reaching out to those looking for permanent jobs in transport planning through the recruitment website [www.transportationopportunities.org.uk](http://www.transportationopportunities.org.uk) and through promoting transport as a possible career to young undergraduates thinking about their first job.

One element of this is raising the relatively low profile of transport planning within universities and colleges by encouraging employers and students to participate in the summer work placement scheme. This scheme is now in its fourth year of operation and is popular with employers and students alike. In 2005 about 150 students registered for the scheme; of whom 75 excellent candidates with relevant skills and interest in transport were shortlisted. Approximately 30 employers registered their interest to host a placement – not enough to provide all the placements needed – and more are encouraged to take part in 2006.

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## Join the RTPI/TPS Transport Planning Network for **FREE!**

The Transport Planning Network is an innovative venture for the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), being a joint undertaking with the Transport Planning Society. Both the RTPI and the TPS believe transport planning is a crucial and inseparable part of spatial planning and essential to delivering sustainable communities, settlements and places.

Since its launch in June this year, the new Transport Planning Network now has over 150 members, with members coming from all sectors and from all regions.

The Network is concerned with providing a useful focus for spatial planners, transport planners, urbanists, environmentalists, regeneration professionals and all those interested and/or involved in transport matters who wish to gain access to information and to benefit from networking opportunities with other professionals. All transport practitioners who have an interest in spatial planning, whatever their core discipline, are most welcome to join.

### Current issues

Over the coming months the Network aims to work with other professionals on issues including:

- ensuring the opportunities presented by the changes in the planning system are realised
- achieving linkages between transport planning and spatial planning at the regional and sub-regional level
- delivering real, competitive transport options at the local level
- delivering more sustainable travel alternatives
- integrating planning and delivery processes
- securing interest in public transport (rail, light rail, tram, bus), walking and cycling to make them real alternatives to the current dominance of the private motor vehicle.

### Why join the RTPI/TPS Transport Planning Network?

- to keep up-to-date with recent developments
- to have a voice in directing the planning profession
- to build a network of colleagues who share the same interests
- to secure help with issues and challenges
- to develop and share views
- to form professional friendships and mentoring relationships
- to feel more involved

### Benefits of joining the Network include:

The Transport Planning Network disseminates knowledge and promotes good practice through the interaction of its members, and seeks to influence key decision-makers.

Transport Planning Network members have access to the skills and contact details of other members to facilitate networking.

Through small-group and time-limited Task Groups, Transport Planning Network members help to develop policy and projects.

Transport Planning Network members have the opportunity to attend regular events to share and develop good practice and policy in a relaxed and friendly environment. Events are usually free of charge and are held all around the UK.

The Transport Planning Network publishes a monthly e-bulletin where members exchange information and news, and keep up-to-date with developments in the field of transport planning.

Membership of the Transport Planning Network is **FREE** and it is open to everyone with an interest in transport planning.

Current information about the RTPI/TPS Transport Planning Network can be found on the Network's website at <http://transport.rtpi.org.uk>. RTPI members can join the Network online from this website, and non-RTPI members can download a registration form. Alternatively, please contact [transport@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:transport@rtpi.org.uk) for more information.

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Offering short term summer placements is seen as an effective way of:

- Raising the profile of transport planning among universities and colleges;
- Giving students from relevant disciplines the chance to learn what transport planning is about; *and overall to*
- Increasing recruitment to the profession.

Experience from the last 3 years shows that there are several benefits to employers in operating work placements for students:

- opening the minds of students who may not have considered a career in transport planning;
- promoting a higher company profile within the student world thereby increasing recruitment opportunities;
- offering staff experience in the management skills needed to oversee the student's work and progress;
- providing an additional resource for ad hoc projects or tasks;
- the opportunity to have temporary staff with a new dimension or different ideas.

The initiative is being advertised via the Transport Planning Society website at [www.tps.org.uk](http://www.tps.org.uk) and [www.transportationopportunities.org.uk](http://www.transportationopportunities.org.uk). Higher Education Institutions are also responsible for publishing the scheme at their sites and students will be able to apply for opportunities through the website.

The scheme is web based. Employers who have agreed to take part place their logo and organisation profile on the site. Interested students are asked to register on-line and submit a copy of their CV together with basic information on the type of placement opportunity in which they are interested. The closing date for student submissions is 24 March 2005 after which the facility will be drawn from the website.

Andy Costain, The TPS Development Officer, then shortlists the students, to remove any inappropriate submissions, and this list is then forwarded to all employers participating in the scheme.

The scheme is open to all employers but as part of their package of benefits Stakeholder members of TPS are given the shortlist two weeks ahead of non-members.

If your organisation would like to host a placement and register for the scheme please contact Andy Costain on 0207 348 1975 or at [acostain@compuserve.com](mailto:acostain@compuserve.com). The deadline for employers to register is 31 January 2006.



Coventry & Warwickshire Group of ICE West Midlands  
Inaugural meeting with guest speaker Sir John Egan



## New professional qualifications Framework for Transport Planners

Pursuing work undertaken as part of the Transport Planning Skills Initiative (TPSI), the TPS is working with *GoSkills*, the Sector Skills Council for Passenger Transport, to develop a set of national occupational standards (NOS) for Transport Planning. These standards will provide a framework that supports professional qualifications in transport planning. Employers, CILT, ICE, IHIE, IHT and RTPI together with the Transportation Vocational Group are also closely involved in this work, which has funding support from the UK NOS Board and from the Rees Jeffreys Road Fund.

The aim is to produce a set of standards that will be recognised by the Professional Institutions. The Institutions will then use the standards, alongside their existing criteria, to help assess the post-graduate experience of those seeking Chartered or Incorporated Membership. In addition, it is intended to provide a qualification for professional technical support staff.

Not all transport planners wishing to achieve formal recognition of their professional competence might wish to become a member of one of the supporting Institutes, or may not have the specific academic qualifications required by the individual Institutes. To meet their needs, it is intended that there will be a Certificate of Professional Competence in Transport Planning. This will require the same proof of experience as required for Chartered membership of the supporting Institutes, as well as a comparable level of academic qualification.

A key principle of the work is that the basic content of the standards should be defined by employers. To help achieve this, a Steering Group of employers has been formed. In addition, the Universities' Transport Partnership (UTP) Employers' Forum has played a key role in the initial definition of the competences framework. Following the first meeting of the Steering

Group, in May 2005, the draft set of competences framework was assessed by twelve employers; using between one and three members of their staff at a level at which it would be appropriate to seek either Incorporated or Chartered membership of one of the supporting Institutes. That "profiling" exercise led to revisions to the draft competences set framework, now divided in two groups "Technical" and "Management".

There are 10 units within the proposed Technical group:

- The Policy Context of Transport
- Laws, Regulations and Guidance
- Data and Information
- Transport Systems Modelling
- Analytical Techniques
- Appraisal Techniques
- Travel Planning
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Strategic/Master Planning
- Commercial and Operations.

In the proposed Management group, there are seven units:

- Communications
- Working in the workplace and with others
- Team Management
- Project Management
- Project Procurement
- Project Finance
- Project Delivery.

The TPS Qualifications Committee is working to a target of having some draft standards, that conform to QCA requirements for review by the Steering Group at the end of October 2005, and to have a final set for approval by the Steering Group in Spring 2006. Overall, the target is to have achieved recognition of all the standards by QCA and the supporting Institutes by the end of 2006.

For further information contact:  
Keith Mitchell  
Chairman, TPS Qualifications Committee  
[kmitchell@pba.co.uk](mailto:kmitchell@pba.co.uk)

## Have you got the X-Factor?

### Now's your chance to find out at the TPS Annual Dinner!

The 2006 dinner is to be held at Madame Tussauds in London, and will give you the chance to mix with the rich and famous, including the X-Factor judges!

Date: **March 16th 2006**

Time: 7.00pm for 8.00pm

Venue: Madame Tussauds, Baker Street, London

Cost: £80 for TPS members, £85 for Non members, and £850 for corporate tables (10 people)

Details from:

Mr J Troake  
Integrated Transport Planning Ltd  
50 North Thirteenth Street  
Milton Keynes  
MK9 3BP  
Tel:01908 259718  
Fax:01908 605747  
e-mail: [troake@itpworld.net](mailto:troake@itpworld.net)

Tickets include 'Spirit of London' ride, reception drinks at 'Blush', three course meal, and

**FREE UNLIMITED DRINKS!**

## Transport Planning Opportunities

**Looking for a job in transport planning?**

**Looking for staff to fill your transport planning vacancies?**

**Just visit the popular and effective on-line recruitment website for transport planning managed by the Transport Planning Society**

**Employers wishing to register their vacancies should contact Andy Costain, TPS Development Officer on 0207 348 1975 or e-mail: [acostain@compuserve.com](mailto:acostain@compuserve.com)**

[www.tps.org.uk](http://www.tps.org.uk)

[www.transportationopportunities.org](http://www.transportationopportunities.org)

If you'd like to sponsor the next TPS newsletter for only £750, contact Nicola Kane  
e: [nicola.kane@jmp.co.uk](mailto:nicola.kane@jmp.co.uk)





## Universities Provide Opportunities to Top-Up Knowledge

Transport professionals needing to top-up their knowledge, to either satisfy the needs for professional qualification or to meet new demands in their career, can do so by signing-up for specific Masters modules at UTP universities.

UTP, the Universities' Transport Partnership, consists of seven universities: Imperial College London; University College London; and Leeds, Napier, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Southampton and Westminster Universities. Since 2000, these universities have been cooperating in the provision of Masters level education in transport, with funding support from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, and have some 250 students studying for a Masters, (about half of whom are from the UK).

Between them, the UTP Universities provide 15 Masters courses, covering a wide range of transport related topics, including courses with emphases on topics such as transport economics, business management, the environment and sustainable development and transport operations, logistics and distribution, as well as core transport planning, policy and engineering. These courses draw on a diverse range of over 100 modules, (all of which are listed on the new UTP web site <http://www.utp.org.uk>, click on Course Content).

Prospective students should contact the university of their choice, using the contact details provided on the UTP web site <http://www.utp.org.uk>.

## Transport Masters Student Numbers Up Again

**The number of students studying for a Masters in Transport at 11 UK universities has increased, yet again, signalling both the attraction of transport as a career and the international standing of UK universities.**

This year, there are 350 "full time equivalent" (FTE) students, at Imperial College and University College London, Cardiff, Leeds, Napier, Newcastle upon Tyne, Oxford Brookes, Salford, Southampton, Westminster Universities and the University of the West of England, up 36 on 2004/5.

Students from the UK increased by 8, to 185 FTEs, whilst those from outside the UK increased by 27, to 165 FTEs, with 52 from other EU countries and 113 from the rest of the world. Contrary to expectations that increased student debt would cause a reduction in UK students studying full-time, their numbers increased, whilst the number studying part-time with employer support remained constant, at 105, which equates to nearly 250 individuals.

These findings are from the Transport Planning Society annual census, extending the one originally undertaken as part of the Transport Planning Skills Initiative. For further information contact: Martin Richards [martinrichards1@aol.com](mailto:martinrichards1@aol.com)

## NOTICE BOARD

North West Transport Committee -  
1st February, Ben Hampton-Baillie  
'Traffic problems.....urban design solution?'  
Venue to be confirmed.  
March 2006 (fbc) 'Developing a  
custom-led approach to rail delivery'  
Venue: manchester Airport

### TPS BURSARIES 2006

Five buraries worth £500 each are available for young transport planners. Twelve suggested topics and an application form can be found on [www.tps.org.uk/activities/bursaries](http://www.tps.org.uk/activities/bursaries).

Deadline for applications -  
**Monday 30th January 2006**

Transport Planning Society

Wednesday 8th February 2006 -

'Some inconsistencies in using a 60 year appraisal method for road schemes'

Speakers include Prof Phil Goodwin and  
Bridget Rosewell

Drinks reception at 6.00, event at 6.45pm.  
Venue: ICE, 1 Great George St, London  
SW1

### TPS AGM

Tuesday 28th February 2006  
Nominations to the Executive Committee are invited for up to 2 elected places.  
Completed nomination forms must be received by the Secretariat by 10am on 21st January 2006.  
Candidates must attach a 150 word statement to the nomination form.  
All TPS members should have received the nomination form and full details of the AGM.

### TPS Annual Dinner

March 16th 2006 - see page 3 for more information



**If you would like to get more involved with TPS or this newsletter please e-mail [tps@ice.org](mailto:tps@ice.org) or [nicola.kane@jmp.co.uk](mailto:nicola.kane@jmp.co.uk)**

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

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