

All Change

ISSUE 015: Spring 2010

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TRANSPORT PLANNING SOCIETY



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Welcome

Welcome to Issue 15 of *All Change* – and a very warm welcome to the arrival of spring. After the hardest winter in a decade, more people than ever are thinking about transport. Whether it's the potholes in the road outside their house or how they managed to commute to work in the snow, transport issues have never been more relevant to the people of Britain.

And with the General Election just around the corner, now's the time for transport planning professionals to make politicians listen to the issues that matter to their constituents. To help you do this, a brand-new website has been launched, where you can join the transport debate and make your voice heard. We're producing a transport planning manifesto, too. Find out more on page 7.

Elsewhere, we look at TPS's new Strategic Plan, and examine our priorities for the next 10 years. Read it, and let us know whether you think we're heading in the right direction.

Finally, it's goodbye from me – this is my last issue as editor of *All Change*. I've really enjoyed editing the newsletter, and I thank you for all your contributions over the last three years.

Gemma Stern
Editor and TPS Director

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In brief

TPS website expands

Have you visited www.tps.org.uk recently? If not, have a look – you'll find lots of new content including a searchable training events calendar and information on careers, degrees and jobs, as well as the latest news from around the sector. If you have any comments or queries please email webmaster and Board Director Bob Coe at bob@eoconsulting.co.uk

Board news

At the TPS AGM on 24 February we were pleased to announce that, following an election, the following nominees were appointed to the TPS Board: **Keith Buchan (Metropolitan Transport Research Unit)**, **Amrit Mudhar (Mott MacDonald Ltd)**, and **Charlotte Welch (Steer Davies Gleave)**. We are also pleased to announce that the following existing Board Member nominees have been re-elected for a further three-year term: **John Dales (Urban Initiatives)**, **Nicola Jones (Arup)** and **Gemma Stern (Glide Consulting)**. We congratulate all six! We would also like to sincerely thank **Richard Walker**, **Bill Wyley** and **Mike D'Alton** who stood down from the Board at the AGM.

Bursarians Awarded

Congratulations to this year's bursarians Niall Baker, Ian Bruce, Stephen Canning and Laura Price, all of MVA, who have been awarded their Bursary papers and £500 each for all their hard work! Ben Staite of Swindon Borough Council and Alix Steadwick of Transport Initiatives are also on course for completing their bursaries this spring.

Niall Baker's paper looks at sustainable transport planning: securing jobs, while Ian Bruce's assesss the impact of the recession on the case for high-speed rail. Steven Canning tells us about sustainable transport and unsustainable politics and Laura Price investigates whether buses have any role to play in rebuilding the economy.

All paper's are available on our website and look out for presentations from our bursarians at this years Transport Practitioners' Meeting on 20-22 July in York.

Nominations sought for Transport Planner of the Year 2010

Nominations for Transport Planner of the Year are being sought for the Transport Planning Society - sponsored 'Transport Planner of the Year Award 2010'.

We are looking for individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to the transport planning profession over the last year. This could be in the form of a project delivered, a pioneering technique or approach used, or just because they are a good ambassador to the profession.

Please send the name of your nominee and no more that 250 words stating why they should be considered for this award to gemma@glideconsulting.co.uk. The prestigious award will be presented at the annual Transport Practitioners' Meeting in July. The deadline for nominations is Friday 18th June 2010.

Strategic Plan:



The TPS AGM held on 24 February saw Chair Victoria Hills launch the Society's first Strategic Plan, setting out a strategy to take forward over the next 10 years.

Developed over the past year, the Consultation Draft of the Strategic Plan incorporates feedback from the Member Survey, the Stakeholder and Member Forums, the Past Chairs Round Table Discussion and the Board Away Day.

The key elements are:

Vision

Our vision is for the TPS to provide professional development and a meeting place for all those working in the transport sector, and lead responses to emerging policy challenges.

Mission

Our mission is to develop:

- * Our Members
- * The transport planning profession
- * Leadership on local, regional, national and global transport challenges.

Our seven key priorities for action:

1) Improve qualifications

We will continue to promote our Professional Development Scheme, showcasing those who have joined and targeting those who would benefit from it. We will set growth targets for the TPP through the TPP Professional Standards Committee, Partnership Management Group and the TPS Skills Committee. We will also encourage the TPP Professional Standards Committee and Partnership Management Group to prepare a future plan for developing the TPP by mid 2010.

2) Support regional growth

We will commit greater resources to supporting the regions and nations in their activities, maintain the TPS events programme and deliver a stronger focus on regional events. We will do this through benchmarking activities across the TPS regions and nations and through exploring the option of introducing a regional levy on subscriptions so that support is directed at the areas where our members are based.

3) Increase membership

We will develop a three-year plan to retain members and grow. We will aim to become more representative of the profession by attracting members from both the public and private sectors. To help us do this we will clearly demonstrate the benefits of membership and investigate innovative membership deals.

4) Raise our profile

We will seek to raise our profile within the political arena, and with transport planning employers and institutions. We will encourage our members to improve transport debate and practice. We will develop relationships with the trade press, publicise our success by press releasing relevant stories and explore new media.

5) Work more closely with our Stakeholder and Corporate Members

We will recognise the important role they play in supporting the TPS by providing them with regular opportunities to feed back. We will hold an annual Forum, research any areas of dissatisfaction, and communicate regularly to ensure awareness of events, activities and skills updates. We will also continue to provide workshops and training on the Professional Development Scheme.

6) Diversify income

To ensure the continued financial stability of the Society we will work with the ICE, our service provider, to get the best possible deal for our Service Level Agreement and examine and optimise income from subscriptions, sponsorship, qualifications and events.

7) Be responsive and relevant

To ensure we continue to provide our Members with relevant and stimulating events and bursaries on transport planning, we will investigate the feasibility of setting up a Members' Policy Forum. This will enable them to play an active role in transport policy debate and practice.

To read the Strategic Plan in full visit www.tps.org.uk

We'd love to hear what you think. You might like to comment on the following: -

- * Is a 10-year time period for the Strategic Plan realistic?
- * Do you agree with the vision and mission statement? If not, what is missing, and what could be changed or added?
- * Are the critical success factors (available on the full document) correct?
- * The TPS has selected seven priorities for action. Is this focus correct? Can you identify anything missing?
- * Is there anything else you would like to see in this document?
- * Is there anything else you would like to feed back about this consultation?

Please email your comments marked 'Strategic Plan' to info@tps.org.uk by 31 May 2010.

Transport Planning Professionals: **two years on**

What a difference two years can make!

Until 2008, transport planners enjoyed none of the formal recognition that benefits those in most other professions, and there was no clear pathway to obtaining the competencies that identify a professional transport planner. Then in the spring of 2008 TPS, together with what is now CIHT, launched the Transport Planning Professional qualification (TPP), and TPS launched the TPS Professional Development Scheme (PDS).

With two years of experience with both, All Change reports on the progress of each initiative. But first, what exactly are they?

The PDS is a structured training scheme, designed to guide both transport planners and their employers through the early stages of the planner's career to ensure they obtain the range of experience needed to become a full professional. The TPP is a qualification that proves that a transport planner has satisfied a review panel that they have the depth and breadth of technical and management competence to be identified as a true professional.

The industry welcomes the Professional Development Scheme

The PDS has clearly met a real need. Already, 18 organisations have licences for it, and are either in the process of rolling it out for their staff, or already have it up and running. They are WS Atkins, Colin Buchanan and Partners, Halcrow, Hampshire County Council, Hyder Consulting, Integrated Transport Planning, JMP Consulting, Leicestershire County Council, Mayer Brown, Mott MacDonald, Mouchel, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Peter Brett Associates, PFA Consulting, Ramboll, RPS, Transport for London and WSP.

Some of the licensees previously had their own in-house scheme, but decided to replace it with the PDS. Others, recognising both the growing expectation among new graduates to join a development scheme and the need for ensuring their staff gain a range of technical and management skills during the early years of their professional life, decided that it was better – and considerably more economical – to join an industry-wide scheme than to develop their own.

JMP Director Peter Hardy said “we have long recognised the benefits of a structured approach to the development of graduates in their three years or so with us, with progress tracked against a series of objectives. Although we had developed our own Initial Professional Development Scheme, which has served us well for the last six years, with the advent of the TPP we decided the PDS would provide a more seamless preparation for the qualification. Also, as a stakeholder member of the TPS, JMP is entitled to use the PDS under licence. So, it made sense for us to do this.”

Already more than 100 people are taking part in the PDS, with more waiting to join as soon as their employer has completed implementation.

The PDS is available to both Stakeholder members of the TPS and local authority Corporate members. Email info@tps.org.uk for more information.



Southbank, London

The Professional Development Scheme: a route to TPP

A key benefit of the PDS recognised by both employers and those on it, or planning to join it, is that it provides a direct route to the TPP qualification. Indeed, using the PDS guarantees approval by the TPP Professional Standards Committee.

This means that anyone who has satisfactorily completed the PDS and has a UK Honours degree or its equivalent can, as soon as they have the necessary skills, go straight to their Professional Review – they do not need to first submit a TPP Portfolio of Technical Knowledge or Technical Report. Once they have completed the PDS, they are likely to require another two or three years experience before they are ready for their RTPP Professional Review interview.



TPP rapidly gaining recognition

Like the TPS Professional Development Scheme, the TPP qualification is gaining recognition among employers and, most importantly, among client bodies. The Northern Ireland Road Service, counties in the South East of England and Transport Scotland are among those who have already recognised it in contract award. Mott MacDonald Director Tom van Vuren expects that “the TPP will become a widespread UK industry norm over the next few years, valued by both staff and clients. We are actively encouraging our young professional transport planners to work towards it as part of their career development – it helps them broaden their skills, becoming more rounded transport planners. The process of applying is a good discipline for them to take stock and identify areas for improvement, too.”

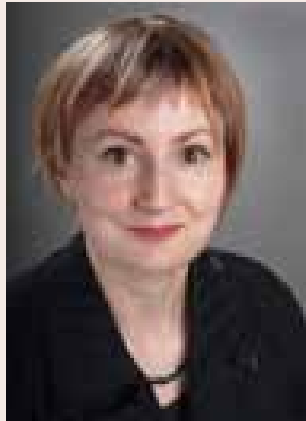
Jane Grant, a WSP training manager, told us that “WSP is now encouraging its staff to go for the TPP, through countrywide presentations and workshop sessions. We feel that it enables our transport planners to achieve an industry-recognised professional qualification, and the TPS Professional Development Scheme helps them do this in an accessible and structured way.”

The TPP Professional Standards Committee has listened carefully to comments over the early months and published more extensive guidance, as well as clarifying the requirements and introducing more choices. In addition, having introduced a Senior Route for a few months to build a body of mentors and reviewers, it has now introduced a new, permanent Senior Route. It has also decided to recognise non-UK degrees that are considered of comparable standing. Visit www.tpprofessional.org for more information.

Transport Debate

Join the General Election transport debate at www.transportdebate.co.uk

The TPS is keen to raise the standard of the public debate on transport in the forthcoming General Election campaign, and to foster debate within the profession on meeting the challenges ahead. That's why TPS is sponsoring Marion Gourlay's excellent new website www.transportdebate.co.uk. All TPS members are encouraged to visit the website, which we hope will become the main forum for discussion of transport policy, linking transport planners to politicians. We want the discussion forums to be lively, so please don't hold back. Here, Marion (above right) reminds us what impact you can have in the run-up to the General Election:



I am always being asked by journalists to recommend an 'expert' for a quote or to give more background on an emerging issue. Transport Debate is my way of cutting out the middle man and providing you – the experts – with great PR, journalists with great contacts and decision-makers with a more in-depth understanding. And all free of charge!

If Transport Debate proves successful over the next few months, we will organise an annual 'Live Transport Debate' inviting those politicians with transport portfolios and you – the experts – as an audience. Log on to www.transportdebate.co.uk today!

"Transport Debate is your call to action. Transport has long suffered from spending cuts and over the coming years this is likely to get worse. All transport professionals must act smarter to attract investment into our industry. One way you can do this is to discuss your transport priorities regularly on Transport Debate.

It's you that has the best ideas! Far too often good ideas, knowledge or opinion from transport professionals simply don't get heard by decision-makers. Transport Debate will regularly update political parties during the lead up to the 2010 General Election. In the longer term Transport Debate will act as:

- * a barometer of opinion for decision-makers;
- * a one-stop-shop contacts and information resource for the trade, broadcast and print media; and
- * a networking opportunity for professionals, owned by professionals.

Transport Debate is specifically targeted at professionals. The intention is to create a platform for individuals as well as the organisations or issues you represent. I believe it's incredibly important for individuals to get noticed professionally, whether they're starting out on their career or reaffirming an established reputation. Getting your ideas noticed by decision-makers, employers, politicians, clients, colleagues and advisory bodies will help.

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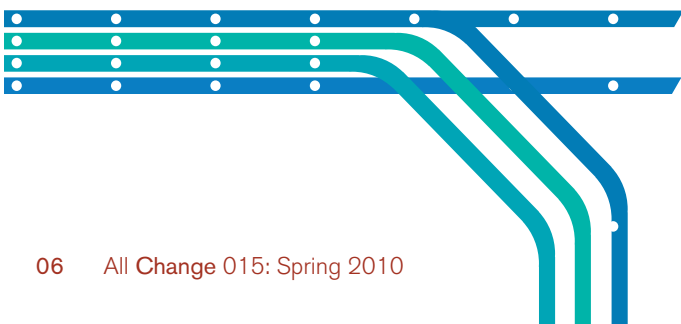
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TPS Transport Manifesto

As part of its efforts to raise the standard of debate on transport issues during the General Election campaign, the TPS has decided to produce a Transport Planning Manifesto, setting out the Society's view of the key challenges for the next five years, and the principles that should guide the policy response by the government that wins the election.

A members' meeting was held on 16 March at the Rack & Tenter pub in the City of London, where ideas for the manifesto were brainstormed. It was agreed that there is a diversity of view within the Society on many transport planning questions that will feature in the General Election campaign, for example whether High Speed 2 should be a high priority or a low priority for available funds in the coming years, and the route it should take.



High Speed Javelin, St Pancras

It was agreed that for this kind of question, the TPS will use Transport Debate as the forum for individual members to put forward their point of view, and to have a high quality, open online debate. It was also agreed, however, that there are some principles on which there should be a broad consensus among TPS members, and which will go in the Manifesto. These include a commitment to professionalism and evidence-based analysis, and advice to decision-makers.

It also includes the slightly more controversial point that the need to meet Climate Change Act commitments to carbon emissions reduction from transport is now beyond debate as a principle, and the debate should focus on the best way of making the cuts we need as soon as possible. Once again, Transport Debate will provide the forum for TPS members to dissent from that point of view if they wish to do so.

The TPS Transport Planning Manifesto will be available on www.tps.org.uk and www.transportdebate.co.uk shortly. Do make sure you have your say on it.

For further information email TPS Board member Charlotte Welch at charlotte.welch@sdgworld.net

MVA North West retain TPS National Pub Quiz crown

On 4 March, MVA in the North West beat off the challenge of 80 other teams to retain the Transport Planning Society National Pub Quiz trophy, sponsored by ITP. The annual event proved just as successful as last year, with nearly 400 people participating in quizzes held simultaneously in nine different venues around the country. Answering questions on subjects as diverse as children's TV, sport and transport, MVA clinched top spot with a score of 68. In second place were AECOM/PBA in the West Midlands, with 66 points, and in joint third place the South East England Partnership Board in Winchester and the Red Knights from Nottinghamshire CC in the East Midlands with 65 points. Quizzes were also held in the North East, Yorkshire and Humber, the South West, Wales and London. Over £300 was raised for the charity Transaid.



TPS National Pub Quiz winners - North West MVA
Back row- Caroline Sinclair, Geraint Moore, Nick Benbow
Seated - Jon Crockett, James Blythe

North West Regional focus

Since 2002, TPS North West has been busy putting on popular events and networking – and is home to the best TPS quiz team ever! *All Change* asked chair Dave Whyte of Manchester City Council to reveal the secret of their success.

So, what have you been up to recently at TPS North West?

We've been planning our events calendar for 2010, and are hoping to hold them quarterly. So far, we've scheduled an update on DaSTS on 30 June, and 'Twenty's Plenty', an event looking at 20mph zones, on 16 September. We'll also hold an event in December, although we haven't confirmed the topic yet. As soon as we have more details, we'll circulate them via email, Facebook and online.

Our events are usually focused around a couple of speakers followed by questions and answers, although we do sometimes have 'question time' style events and training sessions. We're always looking for new ideas for events, though, so if any members have a good idea please get in touch!

Do you work with other institutions to put on events?

Absolutely. We have a very good working relationship with the other institutions in the North West – CIHT, ICE, CILT and RTPI. We are in contact with the other committees so that we can understand what each other is doing and to ensure that there is a good spread of dates and topics for events. We also get together once a year to hold the North West Annual Transportation Lecture, which is probably the biggest event in the calendar for us. Each institution takes it in turn to organise the event and it will be our turn again in, I believe, 2012.

Do you have members from both the private and public sectors?

Our 12-strong committee is a pretty even mix of people from consultancies and the public sector. I think it's fair to say that the vast majority of people coming to our events are from consultancies, though. As a public sector worker I'd love to have more people from the public sector involved in the TPS and attending events. New members are always welcome – we have just over 100 at present – so if anyone would like to become a committee member or help us organise events please get in touch!

You mentioned Facebook. Can you tell us more about how you use it?

Mark Osbourne from our Liverpool committee created our Facebook profile some time ago as another way of communicating information about our events. If you search for 'Transport Planning Society' on your Facebook home page you will find it. I can also reveal that we are currently working with the chair, Victoria Hills, to turn it into a national TPS Facebook page so that we can all easily share information about our regional events and keep members updated with any news.

The North West MVA team have, for the second year running, won the TPS national quiz! What's their secret?

I'm not sure, although as they live up on the 25th floor of City Tower I'm starting to wonder whether it's not some form of high-altitude training!

Is there anything else you'd like to say?

I'd like to thank everyone who has attended, spoken at and sponsored events so far. We know that everyone has busy lives and that it can be a challenge to fit in optional things like evening meetings so we appreciate people giving up the time to come and participate in the events we organise. If anyone would like to get more involved they should get in touch. Our email address is tpsnorthwest@gmail.com

Getting involved

If you would like to get more involved with your region or nation – whether to attend an event or help organise one, offer a room or sponsorship – the society would be pleased to hear from you. You can contact your region by visiting www.tps.org.uk/main/regions



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