

ELECTION TO THE TPS BOARD 2010

NOMINATED CANDIDATES

Keith Buchan, Director, Metropolitan Transport Research Unit (MTRU)

I am a strong supporter of the Society's aims to widen the transport planning profession while maintaining the highest standards. Explaining the value of the work we do is a key element to achieving progress, as is exploring the connections between transport and other areas, particularly land use, regeneration and social equity. Transport is still too often an add-on in relation to these issues.

As well as a reputation for innovation and problem solving in my work, I have had a strong interest in broadening the transport planning profession since the 1990s. At LSPU I set up course modules to create new career paths into transport and kick started some professional development for TfL staff at all levels in their early days. The new challenges facing the profession require new skills and new ways of using the existing ones. I would like to help the TPS meet those challenges.

John Dales, Director, Urban Initiatives

I would love the chance to serve another 3-year term on the TPS Board and continue helping the Society build its capability to promote the Transport Planning profession, strengthen its role in meeting current challenges and, critically, support individual transport planners in the enormously varied work they do.

With over 25 years as a transport practitioner and a professional focus on the place where so much transport planning effort becomes reality – streets – I still have much to offer a Board that needs to represent the diversity of its membership. To date, I have helped to organise the TPS's London events and pioneer a range of more informal meetings where members can really get to grips with key challenges. It would be great to use both this experience and that of writing regularly for Local Transport Today actively to build the reputation of the TPS and the work it does and can do.

Mike Jones, Jacobs

I would like to be considered for election to the Transport Planning Society's Board. I have been a member of the Transport Planning Society (TPS) for the last 5 years, I have been a Member of the ICE since 1990 and a Fellow of the IHT since 2005. I am currently Head of Transportation within the Local Government business of an international consultancy with present responsibility as Project Director for the "Improving Connectivity in Coventry – DASTS study".

I have a passion for transport planning and believe that the TPS has the potential to become the voice of transport planning for all the major institutions. My nominees represent all four associate bodies, span the age range and cover a range of disciplines including modelling, smarter choices, passenger transport and strategic assessment. I am a teleworker, commuter and motivated team player who can represent and serve all members of this fast growing society

Nicola Jones, Transport Planner, Arup

I am currently Secretary of the TPS Board, having first been elected in 2007. Being based in the North East I put myself forward for Board membership to try and exert a regional influence on the Board. I established the North East Branch of the TPS and upon joining the Board I was given the role of Regional Representative to facilitate the link between the Board and Regional Branches. It required regularly liaison with all Branch Representatives to discuss any ideas or concerns they had and to act on their behalf at Board meetings. During my time as Regional Representative I facilitated a meeting of Branch Representatives and gained approval for two Branch Representatives to attend each Board meeting. I also supported the establishment of the regularly e-bulletin which lists all regional events.

In my current role as TPS Board Secretary I am responsible for membership applications, Companies House requirements and for planning the AGM. As membership of the TPS continues to grow the role is becoming increasingly challenging but I would like to be re-elected for a second term to continue the good work and processes myself and the Board have put in place to facilitate our growth.

Amrit Mudhar, Transport Planner, Mott MacDonald Ltd

As a TPS member and Regional Representative for the West Midlands Region, I feel that my involvement with the Board will help increase awareness of the successes and difficulties that Regional branches of the TPS (outside of London) are presented with. I am keen to promote best practice and networking between my colleagues Regionally and nationally; provide opportunities to further improve their knowledge base of the Transport Planning sector; and increase awareness of the professional diversity that exists within our industry by continuing to work closely with other institutes (e.g. CILT, IHT, etc).

I encourage members and colleagues from within the Region to take an active role with suggesting and organising TPS events which has received positive feedback. I also feel that I will be able to provide a link between West Midlands members and the Board so that members' voices can be heard and the importance of membership realised.

Gemma Stern, Glide Consulting

Having been on the Board for the last 3 years I would like to continue for another term to further the work I have introduced on communications and supporting the South West region. Having developed the societies Communication Plan – I have rebranded the TPS to give the society a fresher modern look. I have refreshed and now edit the societies Newsletter, All Change, introduced the monthly ebulletins, produced 3 brochures on An Introduction to the TPS, the Professional Development qualifications and Careers in Transport Planning plus other promotional outputs.

I have also helped build the TPS South West region arranging events in Bristol – where we have recently established a new core team and we are developing a strategy to take forward over the next few years. I have also enjoyed being a mentor to a younger professional to develop a TPS bursary paper. With the imminent Strategic Plan that the Board is developing I would like to remain a part of the TPS at this exciting time and help develop the society through further communication and regional support.

I am an independent consultant based in Bristol having set up Glide Consulting 5 years ago to focus on promoting and marketing all things transport.

Alix Stredwick, Transport Initiatives

I have worked in transport policy and planning for over ten years in various organisations: in the public sector, for charities, and now as a consultant with Transport Initiatives. I feel that I have a depth and breadth of knowledge, experience and skills to bring to the TPS, and I would very much enjoy the opportunity to help guide TPS as the transport planning profession hopefully flourishes – even in these difficult times!

I have worked on issues in the rail industry, accessible transport for disabled people, sustainable transport of cycling and walking, and on issues of gender and race/religion in transport – giving me a wide knowledge base. I represented the London Boroughs in a ‘benchmarking’ scheme of cycling good practice, so I am keen to promote this to others. I have also worked with road safety colleagues and those from the education and health professions – so I hope I would bring energy to another of TPS’s aims.

Mark Thompson, Strategy Consultant, Small Fish

I am a freelance strategy consultant at Small Fish, having previously worked in both the public and private sectors, gaining experience that ranges from behavioural scientific research at TRL to being a road safety practitioner. My main work currently is providing strategic advice and input to local authorities on their LTPs, although I have just rewritten the transport policies in the RSS for EERA. I enjoy helping others achieve excellence, recently helping Thurrock Council gain the National Transport Award 2009 for the most improved transport authority, whilst before leaving Norfolk CC I ensured its LTP received the second best Government assessment in the country.

I am an advocate of disseminating best practice, and in 2009 presented:

- “Constructing an Evidence Base for LTP3” at a GoEast seminar
- “Introduction to Transport”, for the PTRC Introductory lecture for the East Midlands Lecture Series

I really want to promote the importance of strategy in transport planning as it is a little understood area. I am especially keen to help fellow professionals in terms of the wider policy agenda such as climate change, causal chains and consequences, making use of evidence, and the importance of human behaviour.

Charlotte Welch, Senior Consultant, Steer Davies Gleave

I started my career in transport planning at Brighton & Hove City Council working as a transport planner, following which I moved to the Smarter Choices team at Steer Davies Gleave; having spent time working in the public and private sector, and having good contacts in both I have good insights to how the Society might continue to offer support to and increase membership from these sectors. In 2009 I was co-opted on to the board of the TPS to assist the events team. I am committed to the principles of the transport planning society and believe that events are one of the best ways to achieve its aims. As a full board member, I would continue to assist the events team in the organisation and promotion of events. I am particularly keen to try to engage with, and provide a forum for younger members of the profession.