

Transport Planning Society Review 2014



TransportPlanningSociety

The voice of UK transport planners

Transport planning remains very much in the news. Two hugely contentious issues continue to excite both promoters and objectors, namely the aviation/runway capacity deliberations and High Speed Two. However it is fair to say that reasoned debate has sometimes taken second place to opinion and supposition.

There are other major issues that we should be concerned about such as the erosion of bus services, the ever-changing rail industry and the considerable resurgence of cycling. Behind all this though is a reduced emphasis on climate change (until last winter's events!) and the environment would now appear to be less important than economic growth, important though that is.

Embedding the principles of sustainable transport in every aspect of what we do continues to be a struggle, not least with the overhaul of the planning system, which doesn't display much understanding of the enabling role of transport. We have, however, seen the emergence of large scale behavioural change programmes though the Local Sustainable Transport Fund programmes across the country. The links between transport and the economy, health and other sectors are

becoming more evident and need to be highlighted further.

So what can we look forward to over the next year or so?

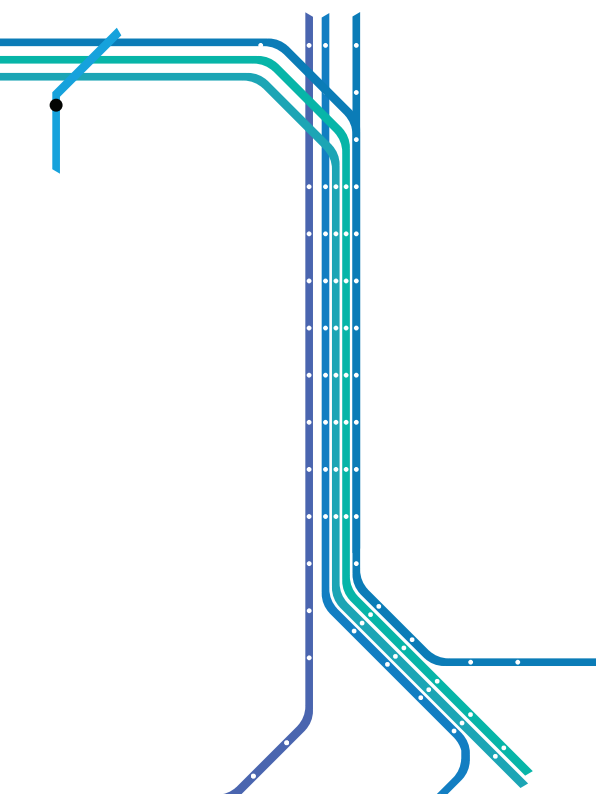
The resilience of transport networks will continue to be in the spotlight with planes, trains and roads all being affected by adverse weather events. We have high profile events such as the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow where travel planning is the key to success. We will need to reinforce the role of local transport to decision-makers, speaking for the profession and the continued need to represent the interests of walking, cycling and public transport use alongside accommodating the demand for travel by car. Here the importance of planning and transport strategies is particularly important at a time when local government is being squeezed more than ever before.

We need to continue our efforts to spread news of what we achieve and to challenge some of the accepted wisdoms such as the creation of new infrastructure being the best means of reinvigorating the economy, that our scheme appraisal process is entirely fit for purpose and that choice of travel is available to everyone.

For the Society, we need to continue the themes I raised when I became Chair last year:

- A series of high profile events across the country;
- Promoting the skills initiative including the TPS Professional Development Scheme and the Transport Planning Professional qualification;
- Building links with our corporate and stakeholder members, sponsoring organisations, government and others,
- Support individual members to get involved; and
- Raising the profile of the profession.

TPS is well placed to pursue these challenges at a time when good transport planning is essential. I hope that you will all get involved in whatever way you find most appropriate and I hope to meet with many of you over the forthcoming year.



Transport Planner of the Year 2013

The prestigious TPS prize for Transport Planner of the Year was awarded to Emma Osborne at the 2013 Transport Practitioners Meeting in Birmingham.

Emma is a Principal in the Surface Transport Managing Director's Office at Transport for London, and won the Award for her tireless work to deliver the vital Central London Zone travel plan for the London 2012 Olympics.

The photo opposite shows her receiving the Award from TPS Chair, Nick Richardson.



Meet the Board



Nick Richardson TPP, TPS Chair. He's a Technical Director at Mott MacDonald, focusing on transport strategies and public transport while managing the company's Professional Development Scheme. Nick is also a Director of CILT(UK) and chairs the Board of PTRC.



Keith Buchan is Director of MTRU with 30 years' experience in a wide range of transport planning roles. The previous TPS Chair, Keith is passionate about raising the profession's public profile and his current role is to lead on policy issues including the TPS manifesto.



Sara Andrews, TPS Company Secretary. She's a Transport Planner at Peter Brett Associates and joined the profession in 2009 after graduating from UCL/Imperial College with a Transport MSc. Sara is also involved in organising TPS events.



Graham Grant leads the transport development team in Newcastle City Council. He's a former TPS bursary award joint winner, interested in the social and the science of transport planning. His TPS role covers events, communications and public relations.



Dominic McGrath, TPS Treasurer. is Strategic Transport Manager with Hampshire County Council, responsible for scheme development and implementation, local transport policy and development planning.



Katie Taylor is a Senior Transport Planner with Peter Brett Associates, based in the East Midlands, working primarily for private sector clients. She is currently working towards the TPP qualification and her TPS board role is in supporting younger professionals.



Ruth Bradshaw is a freelance transport policy consultant with 20 years' experience, now specialising in sustainable transport and the links between transport and other policy areas. Her TPS Board focus is on policy matters and bursaries.



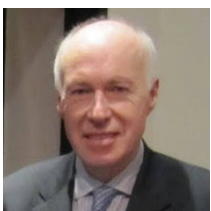
David Connolly TPP is Director for Innovation in SYSTRA in Edinburgh. He qualified for the TPP qualification via the Senior Route in 2011. For the TPS Board, he is responsible for regional and national events and strengthening the role of TPS in Scotland.



Alina Tuerk is a Senior Transport Planner at Mott MacDonald specialising in transport strategy, sustainable transport and travel demand management. For the TPS, she's responsible for organising London and national events, and is keen to support younger professionals.



Andy Costain, formerly MD of PTRC, is the TPS Development Officer and is responsible for liaison with Stakeholder and Corporate Members, the monthly e-bulletin, skills, careers, the Annual Dinner and for the job vacancy and training event sections on the website.



Tim Morton worked for Scott Wilson before spending 34 years with Mott MacDonald, rising to Divisional Director. Recently retired, and with wide and varied experience, his Board focus is on policy matters and on raising the profile of TPS and transport planning in Ireland.



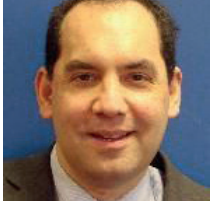
Martin Richards TPP is TPS Director for Skills. Since retiring as Executive Chairman of MVA in 2000, he's been deeply involved in the training, education and professional recognition of transport planners, including as Trustee of the Brian Large Bursary Fund.



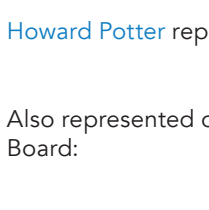
Dave Whyte, previously with Manchester City Council, is now a Portfolio Manager in the Rail Executive of the Department for Transport working on integrated project and service delivery. On the TPS Board, he is responsible for policy.



Alan Wenban-Smith represents:



John Rider TPP manages the delivery of South Hampshire's LSTF programme. He is a mentor/reviewer for the TPP qualification, Vice Chair of the joint RTPI-TPS Transport Planning Network, and supports the skills work of the society.



Daniel Parker-Klein represents:



Howard Potter represents:



Also represented on the TPS Board:



Annual Member Survey

The Transport Planning Society undertakes an annual survey of its members every Autumn which provides us with material for our policy work and events programme, and reveals what has changed and what hasn't in the past year. We also pursue specific topics, this year looking at how members want to receive information, and preferred events for younger professionals. The e-bulletin and the website emerged as priorities and this will help to inform our communications and events strategy.

This year the optimism over work prospects has continued to strengthen, with 69% believing that there would be new work possibilities arising from the need for cost savings – rising from 49.4% last year, itself a doubling from 2011. This reflects the views expressed in the discussion groups held as part of the TPS "Adapting to Change" initiative, and at TPS national and regional events.

A new question on aviation policy continues to show how divided the profession is – the largest group said that air travel should be charged at the same rate as other modes and this would mean new capacity was not needed (38.1%). However, 26.3% said

that SE airports were reaching capacity and must be expanded. Both were down several percentage points on last year. Considering that both the TPS Aviation Debate, and the Davies Commission, seem to be focussed on the South East, the surprise result was a jump in support for regional airport expansion from 28.4% last year to 35.6% in 2013. This is not the result of changes in the response rate from members outside London and the South East (57.5% in 2013, 56.5% in 2012).

Priorities for Spending

Of the 17 options rated, support for walking and cycling has strengthened last year's first place, scoring 58.6% (52.5% last year). The rest of the top four were also similar: non-high speed rail (52.3%), Smarter Choices (47.7%), and road maintenance (43.6%). The next two are some way behind, urban rapid transit at 37.7% and railway electrification at 31.8%, while other policies are at least 10% behind them.

Lower down the list, support for major trunk road spending has fallen slightly, to 11.8% from 13.9%, and is 15th out of

17. Bottom place again goes to grants for electric cars, which lost most of its small level of support last year and stayed on 5.4%. High speed rail still only has modest support, although its 23.6% score is slight rise from 20.8% last year.

Health rises up the agenda

In relation to the question on what members considered would be key policy drivers in the year to come, contributing to healthy lifestyles has risen dramatically up the agenda, passing both decarbonising transport and contributing to the economic recovery (a high priority last year). It is now matched only by support for using planning policy to reduce the need to travel. This reflects increasing emphasis on programmes under the banner of Active Travel, and the inclusion of health benefits for non-motorised modes, especially cycling. It remains to be seen whether the disbenefits of less active travel influences the approach to motorised modes in the years to come.

TPS Bursaries

The TPS bursaries provide the opportunity for members to research a topic - and be rewarded for it!

In 2013, four bursarians produced papers for presentation to the Board early in 2014. The process involves the support of a mentor and bursarians gain useful experience in researching a topic and creating a paper that appeals to others plus £500 each. This year's theme was 'How can transport best support economic growth?'. The aim was to focus on issues surrounding new transport infrastructure and if it is likely to guarantee economic growth. The papers produced in response were:

No train, no gain? Valuing the economic impact of a decade of transport investment in London's Docklands - Dave Arquati (Docklands Light Railway)

"Let's Go Forward Together": Is it time for development planning stakeholders

to declare war on the recession and plan a route to recovery as allies not enemies? The case of the transport sector – Emma Taylor (Integrated Transport Planning Ltd)

Will HS2 or a number of smaller rail improvements represent better value for money? - Nick Gammer (Hampshire County Council)

Is new High-Speed rail infrastructure the best method for boosting economic growth: Highly Supportive or Highly Suspicious? – Murray Stevenson (Systra)

Mentors John Rider, Howard Potter, Alina Tuerk and Tim Morton guided the production of the papers and the final papers were submitted at the end of 2013. Bursarians then presented their papers to Board members in London and the Board's response was based both on the written papers and the presentations. The Award

for the Best Bursary of 2013 was given to Dave Arquati who produced a well-researched paper and an excellent presentation. Some of this year's bursarians will also have the opportunity to present at the Transport Practitioners Meeting in July.



David Arquati receives his award from TPS Chair Nick Richardson

Consultation Responses

The TPS has continued to make its voice heard and to influence national transport policy through responses to relevant DfT consultations.

Early in 2013, the TPS responded to the Northern Ireland Assembly's Regional Development Committee's Inquiry into Comprehensive Transport Structures for delivery of public transport in the Province. Board Director, Tim Morton, also gave oral evidence to a Committee hearing. We strongly advised the Committee to be wary of deregulation, citing the fall in bus patronage in GB outside London since deregulation.

Next, we submitted written evidence to the Government's Review of the Balance of Competencies between the United Kingdom and the European Union, highlighting benefits of EU membership to transport, transport planning and transport research but also emphasizing the need for a "level playing field" and for EU Rules to be applied equally in all member states.

Our response to the DfT consultation on Transforming the Highways Agency into a Government-owned Company covered a range of topics and where we considered the proposed company should be required to improve on current Highways Agency performance.

In particular, we emphasized the need for independent auditing of models used for scheme justification, a widening of the scope of the proposed User Watchdog to embrace those affected by the SRN as well as users, and the need for the new company to be obliged to work in conjunction with local highway authorities in both traffic and planning matters.

Next steps are a bill in the Queen's Speech in June and "governance" documents which will be tabled at 2nd reading or at committee stage, setting out a draft licence and a framework agreement (between DfT and the HA). HA will become a traffic management as well as highway authority.

Finally, the TPS responded to the recent National Policy Statement on Transport. We felt that the Statement was deficient with many policy issues omitted or poorly considered, particularly in relation to highways.

Amongst other things, we highlighted the need for the national highway networks to be linked to land-use planning and health objectives, the need for improved links between national networks and local authorities, the need for carbon emissions to be properly appraised in relation to carbon reduction targets, and for the role of demand management to be fully recognised.

TPS Director of Policy, Keith Buchan, attended the post consultation expert panel and has urged DfT to engage further in the light of the consensus from all professional bodies that major changes were required.

Our submissions generated media coverage (and occasionally lively debate). We continue to make a strong and distinctive contribution to the development of future transport policy through:

- Engaging more effectively with central and local Government.
- Engaging more effectively with all the other organisations involved in transport planning and provision.
- Promoting a greater understanding among the public, as well as decision makers, of what we do and why it is important.

A Buoyant Job Market for Transport Planners

As a barometer of how well the transport planning sector is doing, the recruitment and job vacancies part of the TPS website has shown how the market has picked up significantly since its doldrum days in 2009-2011. At any one time there are around 40 vacancies posted on the site from our Stakeholder Members who represent some of the largest employers of transport professionals.

The beauty of the system is that registered candidates get automatic alerts when a new vacancy is posted which matches their profile and employers are automatically sent details of candidates who might be suitable. All very user friendly, cost effective and discrete.

If you would like more information about this valuable TPS service to members, contact our Development Officer, [Andy Costain at andy.costain@tps.org.uk](mailto:andy.costain@tps.org.uk)

2013/14 Event Highlights



The Aviation Debate

18 September 2013

Following the TPS submission to the Davies Commission, calling for reforms to taxation before any decisions on infrastructure are made, we invited members to an event to discuss their views on the aviation debate and to hear a variety of opinions on the future for UK aviation.

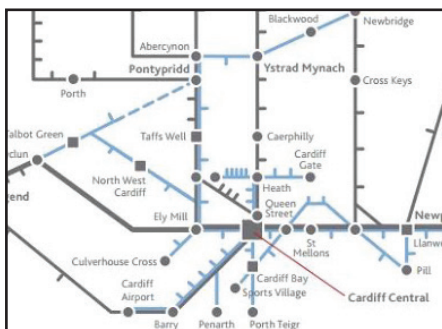
There was a fantastic line up for the evening, attracting a large audience across the profession (and beyond). A number of people also joined in the event online. The event was kicked off by Sir Peter Hall who provided an introduction to the UK aviation debate in the context of land-use and transport planning.

Sir Peter Hall's presentation set the scene for speakers from a range of perspectives to take the stage. John Stewart, Chair of HACAN Clearskies started the debate, followed by Simon Baugh who set out Heathrow's options for connecting the UK to growth.

Sir Terry Farrell provided an overview from the Gatwick perspective, with Tim Hawkins providing a Stanstead viewpoint.

The event was rounded off by Daniel Moylan who set out the Mayor's suggestions for a hub to the east to meet UK's future needs.

Nick Richardson, TPS Chair, then opened the floor to questions and the panel of speakers participated in an extended and lively debate.



Welsh Annual Transport Lecture

6 November 2013

As part of the Society's commitment to members in the Regions and Nations, Nick Richardson chaired the inaugural Welsh Annual Transport Lecture in Cardiff on the topic of "Where Next for Transport Planning in Wales?".

A full house of over sixty people heard three presentations by Alison Thomas of the Welsh Government, Mark Barry, an independent transport consultant and Jane Lorimer, the Regional Director of Sustrans Cymru.

A comprehensive debate then followed covering a wide range of issues from detailed technical issues relating to cycle paths to whether (or not) the Cardiff Metro would be good for anywhere in South Wales other than Cardiff.

Special thanks go to Dr Shin Lee of the Cardiff School of Geography and Planning for hosting the event. We hope to return to Wales later this year...

New Year Drinks Reception

9 January 2014

In a first for the Society, previous TPS Chairs took to the stage to be quizzed and challenged by TPS members. Questions were sent in advance by TPS members and current Chair, Nick Richardson, put them to previous Chairs, Keith Mitchell, Bill Wyley, Victoria Hill and Richard Walker. Topics included the proposed route and planning of HS2, integration of transport modes and widening travel choices, the public perception of transport planning as a profession and the obstacles facing the profession in the next 5 years.

On the evening, attendees also got involved, setting out their take on the questions posed and asking the panel to expand on their responses. Key areas discussed included public transport, major projects such as Crossrail and the Olympics, political agendas and budgets and the media's role in transport planning. After the panel, there was plenty of time for attendees to network and continue the debate over drinks.



National Pub Quiz

6 March 2014

In what has become a much anticipated annual event on the TPS calendar, Motterhead claimed the top spot in this year's National Pub Quiz. Held simultaneously in different venues across the country, teams pitted their wits against each other, answering questions on topics including children's television, food and drink, and sport.

This was our biggest year yet, with over 200 people taking part in 47 teams meeting in six locations.

Motterhead scored 59 points to secure the national trophy. They were closely followed by '3 Random Letters and a Number' who only missed out on the top spot by the tie breaker question.

At same time the London Quiz teams raised over £170 for Transaid and the Winchester teams around £25 for Transaid. Thank you to all those who took part; we're already looking forward to next year's quiz!

Professional Development and Qualifications for Transport Planners

As part of its commitment to the development and recognition of transport planners as true professionals, the Society provides a Professional Development Scheme designed to enable younger transport planners to obtain the breadth and depth of technical and generic skills they need for such recognition. Together with the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation, the TPS also awards the Transport Planning Professional (TPP) qualification.

Launched in 2008 the **TPS Professional Development Scheme**, PDS, has become the industry standard, used by most of the major transport planning consultants, as well as key local authorities. It is available under licence to any Stakeholder member of the Society. There is also a Consortium Licence arrangement for groups of Local Authorities co-operating in providing and managing their PDS.

With PDS Mentor training obligatory for all PDS mentors, and aspiring mentors, the Society provides regular PDS Mentor Training sessions, at no charge. The Society also provides in-house introductory sessions for new users.

Working closely with employers, drawing on experience gained over the early years of its use, the TPS launched Version 3 of the PDS in April 2013, and in January 2014 it introduced the PDS Review Process. The Review Process has been designed to seek to ensure consistency of standard both within and between users of the PDS. The Society's PDS Reviewers meet with each trainee at least twice while they are on the Scheme, and award them a Certificate of PDS Completion when they have fulfilled the PDS requirements.

Also launched in 2008, the **Transport Planning Professional** qualification is gaining recognition by employers and clients alike as the professional qualification for transport planners. To improve accessibility, the documents describing the TPP requirements have been almost totally rewritten, and the website has been revised to include an interactive route map to help potential candidates identify the application requirements relevant to them.

The Society provides an annual series of TPP and Professional Development Workshops to help inform younger transport planners about developing their career and preparing for the TPP. In 2013, Workshops were held in Birmingham, Leeds, London, Manchester and Newcastle.

For further info on the TPP and TPS PDS go to www.tps.org.uk/main/profession/ or e-mail pds@tps.org.uk

TPS PDS Licensees

Organisations with a PDS licence include:

- AECOM
- Arup
- Atkins
- CH2M Hill
- Hampshire County Council
- Hyder Consulting
- Integrated Transport Planning
- Jacobs
- JMP Consulting
- Leicestershire County Council
- Mayer Brown
- Mott MacDonald
- Mouchel
- Peter Brett Associates
- PFA Consulting
- SAJ Consultants
- Systra (formerly MVA)
- Transport for London
- URS
- Vectos
- WSP

Stop Press!

Amey and Steer Davies Gleave are both in the process of adopting the PDS.

New PDS Licensees in 2013/14

Transport planning consultants VECTOS, who specialise in the provision of transport advice to developers, retailers, operators, land owners and public sector bodies are one the newest PDS licensees. Vectos recognise that the key to their business success is having a motivated and competent work force. It sees training as an investment that delivers tangible returns, rather than a "cost", and actively encourages its staff to work towards a professional qualification.

In deciding to adopt the PDS, Vectos explained that "much thought and effort has gone into the development of the PDS, which provides a flexible approach that recognises the different academic background and experience that its people have".

Vectos also believes that "the PDS sets out a pathway and clear set of competencies that need to be achieved for individuals to move forward to award of the TPP".

Newcastle based S•A•J Consultants have also adopted the PDS. their Patrick Wong explains "we believe that by adopting the TPS PDS, we will provide a structured personal plan for our staff, designed to obtain the technical and generic skills expected of a transport professional."

New TPPs in 2013/14

Peter Moth and Deborah Paton were among the Society's members awarded the TPP during 2013. When Peter, a Principal Transport Planner with TfL, was asked why gaining the TPP qualification was important, he responded, "It provides an industry-wide recognition for transport planners, something that didn't exist for non-engineers (like me) going into transport planning when I started my career". Although Deborah, an Associate Director with AECOM, is a Chartered Town Planner with 13 years of experience, she explained, "I've grown to appreciate the value of the TPP, which truly recognises and strengthens the transport planning profession in its own right".

Join Us

Individual Membership

Individual membership is open to transport professionals and students who have a genuine interest in transport planning and wish to further their career. You can join as a Student Member, as a Standard Member, or as a Designated Member. Designated Membership is for those with the TPP qualification (See page 7).

Individual membership benefits include: free attendance at TPS meetings; eligibility for the TPP qualification; <30% discounts on publications including Local Transport Today, New Transit, Planning & Passenger Transport; discounts at TPS supported conferences (e.g. the annual Transport Practitioners' Meeting); & eligibility to apply for a Bursary Award for younger professionals (see page 4 and below).

Membership is excellent value, with annual fees at April 2014 being: Student – free for first year then £10/year for next 3 years; Standard – £40; and Designated – £95

MTPS Post-nominal

TPS Members who commit to working to the Society's Code of Professional Conduct will become Registered Members of TPS and be permitted to use MTPS as post-nominals, identifying them as professional transport planners and raising the profile of transport planning as a profession.

Organisational Membership

Organisations can support and benefit from the work of the TPS through two forms of membership:

Corporate membership benefits include:

- A licence to use the TPS Professional Development Scheme for local authorities and organisations employing a total of no more than 20 staff
- Access to TPS members to circulate material of direct professional interest
- A card allowing one employee to attend any TPS event for free
- Discounts at TPS-supported events
- Great networking opportunities with like-minded organisations
- Copies of the annual TPS Review, and regular event and news bulletins by email

Stakeholder membership benefits include:

- A licence to use the PDS, together with advice on establishing and managing the Scheme, participation in Scheme Workshops and identification as a Scheme user on the TPS website
- Branding on the TPS website with a link to your website
- Cards allowing up to five employees to attend TPS events for free
- Opportunity to host evening TPS meetings on issues your organisation is leading on
- Discounts at TPS-supported events and on attendance at PTRC training courses
- Free advertisement of job vacancies on the TPS website
- Access to the Undergraduate Work Experience scheme
- Great networking opportunities with like-minded organisations
- Copies of the annual TPS Review, and regular event and news bulletins by email

How to Join

To join, please complete an application online at: www.tps.org.uk or contact us at: info@tps.org.uk.

Join In

London Events

We have a programme of regular events on themes of interest to transport planners, with attendance being free for TPS members. Our largest events tend to be held in London, often at the Institute of Civil Engineers, just off Parliament Square. For details about the latest upcoming events, please visit www.tps.org.uk/main/events.

Regions & Nations

We also have a number of regional and national branches that are actively promoted through regular events. To locate your nearest branch, please visit www.tps.org.uk/main/regions. All branches welcome ideas and assistance in running events.

Bursaries for Younger Professionals

We especially encourage younger professionals to become involved in debate, discussion, research and training. Our Bursaries programme provides £500 to individuals to prepare a research paper that will be both stimulating and relevant to TPS members and the wider transport planning community. Find out more at www.tps.org.uk/main/bursaries.

LinkedIn

Join in the debate on current hot transport topics – or start a discussion thread of your own – by joining the [Transport Planning Society Group](#) on LinkedIn. It's free and it's easy, so what are you waiting for?



Follow us on [@TransPlanSoc](#) to receive flashes about important news for transport planners, prompts about TPS events, and live bulletins from them on the [#TPSevent](#) hashtag.

Contact Us

For more information about the TPS or to ask us a question, please visit www.tps.org.uk, email us on info@tps.org.uk or write to us at:

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