

Nominations for Transport Planner of the Year 2019

Seven nominations were received by the deadline of 12 noon on Monday 18 March. These are listed below in alphabetical order with the nominators name.

1. Susan Claris, Arup

Susan has played an important part in raising the profile of transport planning and particularly active travel this year, as well as being a champion for diversity in our profession. Transport Planning Day was her idea originally.

Her work on active travel has included:

- Promoting Transport Planning with the idea of Transport Planning Day
- Giving evidence to the Transport Committee on Active Transport
- Raising the profile of walking as a mode of transport in the media e.g. article in RICS Journal and The Guardian
- Undertaking a project with Sustrans on Inclusive Cycling – focusing on older people and disabled people
- Leading Arup's FlexKerbs work for the National Infrastructure Commission – promoting flexible use of streets to accommodate future transport modes whilst retaining space for people and active travel
- Developing the idea of the ReCharge Parklet to address the problem of EV recharging infrastructure on the footway whilst at the same time improving the street for all users

Susan plays a leading role in promoting diversity in transport planning; she has recently been Chair of Arup's diversity initiative to improve gender balance in the transport sector. Activities this year have included:

- Chairing "Are we there yet...?: The Journey to LGBT+ Inclusion in Transport"
- Moderating an event for TfL's Staff Network Group OUTbound
- Speaking at International Women's Day Breakfast on How Women Shape Better Cities

Outside Arup, Susan is a Trustee of Living Streets.

All of this makes Susan a great ambassador for the profession – our very own 'passionate pedestrian'.

*Nominated by Stephen Bennett
Director | Transport Consulting, Arup*

2. David Ellis, Senior Transport Planner, WSP

David provides technical project support, research, analysis and synthesis in our team. He has leveraged his in-depth knowledge of public policy and planning to add value to the projects he works on. Presenting his work clearly and concisely in reports and verbal presentations, he makes connections between aspects of policy and practice in the fields of transport, planning and urban regeneration.

David is project manager for a £30m+ Leeds City Council (LCC) sustainable transport project which will transform the city centre of Leeds. In this role, he has challenged himself by pushing the boundaries of his capability, overseeing design, preparation of an OBC and co-ordinating inputs from multi-disciplinary teams.

He regularly represents LCC and WSP at stakeholder meetings, broadening support for the scheme. Meeting senior officers, influencing decision making and maintaining scheme progress, his ability to communicate detail and knowledge outshines many of his peers with far greater experience. David was asked to advise WSP colleagues in Manchester and Leeds on similar projects. He cascades expertise directly to junior staff and has demonstrated his ability to multi-task, anticipating and planning for future workloads beyond his current project commitments.

David represents WSP at external events, demonstrating his technical expertise, enthusiasm and public-speaking skills, including a presentation on the future of transport planning at Bettakultcha. David represents WSP at BRT:UK events and Leeds University ITS, where he has given a Masters student lecture based on his PhD research. He was invited to return to ITS to lecture on his Leeds project work.

Nominated by Simon Pope, Technical Director, WSP

3. Tom Hacker, Associate, WSP

Passionate, inspiring and a true leader, Tom cares deeply about the outcomes of his work and aspires to nurture the next generation of talent entering the industry.

His rapid progression to Associate and his role as secretary to BRT:UK evidence the value of his contribution to the future of our profession.

The compassion and selflessness shown by Tom through his extensive charity work is equally reflected in the approach he takes to his career. Sociable and empathetic, Tom recognises transport planning is ultimately about people; a consideration all too often lost in the technical detail.

Confident enough to challenge but humble enough to learn from those around him, his drive to make a difference defines his approach to projects. He designed and led consultation on the £173m Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme which has been commended by industry leaders as the finest example of engaging people in the UK, with over 20,000 contributions to date. He has since reapplied this knowledge, emulating the approach with other clients, ensuring the needs and concerns of stakeholders are instrumental in shaping the transport infrastructure of tomorrow.

As line manager, mentor and guest lecturer on Apprenticeship and Masters courses, the reward he derives from seeing others succeed is clear from his readiness to give up his own time in order to nurture their development.

Overlooking himself to regularly nominate others for awards on their achievements, Tom's recognition now would demonstrate the increasing people focus of our industry and its relevance for the future generation.

Nominated by Simon Pope, Technical Director, WSP

4. Lucy Hayward-Speight, Air Quality and Environmental Delivery Planning Manager, TfL

Lucy is TfL's Air Quality and Environment Delivery Planning Manager. Since its launch in May 2018, Lucy has led the work of the Mayor's Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Taskforce. Through this work, Lucy has collaborated with chargepoint operators, energy providers, local and national government, vehicle manufacturers and more to identify the type and scale of EV Infrastructure needed in London to accelerate uptake of EVs to 2025. This groundbreaking work has sought to unlock the primary barrier to EV uptake; the lack (real and perceived) of charging infrastructure.

In answering this question, Lucy has carefully balanced the urgent need to electrify London's vehicle fleet with the broader aims of the Mayor's Transport Strategy to ensure that accelerating EV uptake in London does not come at the cost of wider Healthy Streets objectives and the target for 80% active mode share (walking, cycling, public transport) by 2041. The Taskforce sought to identify and understand the needs of a range of users from taxis and commercial fleets to London residents to further our understanding of what is really needed, where and when. Over the past year, 350 stakeholders from across 140 organisations have been involved in a series of workshops. Feedback - on the process and resultant Delivery Plan - has been that the Taskforce, led in TfL by Lucy, has significantly advanced understanding in this area. Her contribution will change the way cities plan for future EV infrastructure to ensure that it can be implemented in a sustainable and strategic way.

Nominated by Christina Calderato

Head of Delivery Planning | City Planning | Transport for London

**5. Julie Meese - Principal Transport Planner, Air Quality, Monitoring & Modelling
City Growth Department, Sheffield City Council**

Sheffield and Rotherham's Clean Air Strategy

Julie managed the preparation of a comprehensive Outline Business Case for Sheffield and Rotherham's Clean Air Strategy throughout 2018, coordinating inputs from Sheffield and Rotherham's transport and air quality teams and delivering the OBC within an extremely challenging timescale.

The Account Manager in defra/DfT's Joint Air Quality Unit notes:

Julie has driven the project with vigour, deploying her experience to drive the best results for the citizens of Sheffield and Rotherham. She has used constructive challenge to improve results and leadership to inspire her colleagues. Her input and skills have been invaluable in developing and managing the NO₂ plan. I have found her to be a good ally and strong advocate for her city and for her profession.

Sheffield City Region Transport Model

Julie has been a consistent driving force behind the development and application of strategic modelling tools of the region for much of the last two decades. She has been closely involved in the specification, procurement and oversight of the Sheffield City Region Transport Model which was delivered in 2018 and will be used to inform the Clean Air Strategy and the development of Major Business Cases in the Sheffield City region area.

Sheffield City Council Local Plan 2018/19

Meeting the need in Sheffield for future new housing poses complex questions about the location and scale of developments and their transport impacts. Julie was instrumental in providing robust appraisal inputs to local decision makers throughout this politically challenging process throughout 2018.

Nominated by David Connolly, SYSTRA

6. Vicky Sims, City Planner, Transport for London

Vicky has acted as the technical lead in developing the Direct Vision Standard for London. This is a world leading initiative which has gained a lot of national and international attention.

Vicky has been the main force behind the technical and policy development for this complex project for which there is no precedent. When project resources and staff changes happened across the team, Vicky carried the project through this difficult period of uncertainty and put in an enormous amount of effort to get new team members including the team's new manager up to speed.

She has been TfL's point of contact and liaison between the major truck manufacturers in Europe and academic institutions and research bodies without whom TfL could not have developed this project.

Vicky has led the preparation of three consultations to date which have shaped the final scheme proposals. She is now leading on the pre-consultation engagement for the statutory TRO consultation, subject to which TfL is planning to implement the scheme in October 2019.

The quality of Vicky's work and the enthusiasm with which she delivers it rubs off on other people and we now have in place a large project team working on the delivery of the scheme.

What started off as a small freight initiative has become the Mayor's flagship policy on Vision Zero to eliminate all death and serious injury on our transport network by 2041.

<https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/deliveries-in-london/delivering-safely/direct-vision-in-heavy-goods-vehicles>

Nominated by Alina Tuerk, TfL (former TPS Board Member)

7. Mike Waters, Director of Policy, Strategy and Innovation, Transport for the West Midlands

Mike Waters is a force of nature. His calm, measured speech hides a passion for transport, for innovation, for delivery of improvements – be they the outcomes of a policy or the methods with which they are achieved. Since joining Transport for the West Midlands three years ago, now as Director of Policy, Strategy and Innovation, Mike has changed dramatically the way in which the authority approaches evidence building for transport policy and investment through data and modelling. He is particularly strong in seeing and seeking linkages between different tools and services that can benefit from a joint-up approach in data and analysis, making one and one add up to more than two; always on the look-out for better value for the authority and the population it serves.

Recent recruitment for five new positions in data, modelling and visualisation illustrate that Mike is hell-bent on creating a team that can work with traditional providers to deliver quantitative services in a transport system that supports better outcomes for the people, businesses and visitors to the West Midlands. By thinking wider than transport, Mike's approach develops new standards and new solutions that support social and economic growth. He is one of the drivers behind the region's success in attracting funding for testbeds in new mobility services and data driven systems.

A few years back, public sector transport planning in the West Midlands had lost most of its technical skills and enthusiasm. Mike has made a real difference, attracting talent, challenging the status quo, and making the region a centre of excellence.

Nominated by Tom van Vuren, Technical Director Transport Planning AU, Mott Macdonald