

# Transport Planning Society

## ELECTION TO THE TPS BOARD 2026 NOMINATED CANDIDATES

### PLEASE VOTE FOR NINE OF THESE CANDIDATES USING THE ATTACHED BALLOT FORM

#### 1. Nicky Ward

I am a Technical Director at WSP and bring to the Board over 25 years Transport Planning experience in the public and private sectors in the UK and North America. I am a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transport. Over the past decade my career has included the delivery of major projects in the transport and defence sectors, and I have focused increasingly on strategic stakeholder and community engagement for local government clients. Looking forward, I am excited about continuing to work on complex projects and supporting local government with engagement and collaboration on their path towards greater devolution. I am particularly passionate about inclusivity for all in decision-making and delivery and therefore I would like to be elected to the Board with responsibility for EDI.

#### 2. Felicity Tidbury

As Assistant Director and Acting Joint Director for Economy, Transport and Planning at Portsmouth City Council, and currently completing an MBA in Strategic Leadership, I bring senior experience in shaping transport planning across systems, organisations and geographies. I champion the profession working across planning, public health, regeneration and regional partnerships to strengthen the visibility, credibility and impact of transport planning. I mentor emerging professionals, support skills development and promote inclusive, reflective leadership across the sector. My roles chairing the Solent Transport Partnership, leading the transport devolution workstream for Hampshire and the Solent CA, and contributing to Transport for the South East gives me strong insight into the challenges and opportunities facing practitioners across different regions and governance models. I am particularly interested in leading the Regions and Nations portfolio, with a secondary interest in EDI. I would welcome the opportunity to support TPS's leadership and help shape a confident, inclusive and future focused profession.

#### 3. Liani Baglietto Castellares

Being part of the Transport Planning Society Board for the past three years has been a privilege. As a former TPS bursary recipient, I have particularly valued co-leading the bursary programme over the last two years, as well as identifying additional opportunities to engage and support early-career professionals. I have also enjoyed leading the organisation of several TPS events and particularly those events and initiatives that contribute to the advancement of accessibility and inclusivity across the sector. With my term coming to an end this year, I would welcome the opportunity to reapply and continue building on the progress made across these workstreams, while further expanding our reach and strengthening engagement with members.

#### **4. Kieran Seale**

I have been the Company Secretary of TPS for the last two years as a co-opted Board member. I would like to continue as an elected member. I believe that I can use my skills to help ensure that TPS is well governed.

#### **5. David Andrews**

Over the last 20 years I have worked for SYPTE/SYMCA in the role of transport economist /programme manager leading on ensuring outline and full Business cases for infrastructure projects including flood relief measures, new housing and transport schemes (Supertram renewal being the largest in a long list) were prepared to a standard allowing prioritisation and a decision to fund (or not) to be made. As part of this I managed the client side (specifying, procuring, controlling) the development and, latterly, renewal, of a standard 4-stage multi-modal transport model to enable business cases for new transport schemes to be developed. I am now retired and free to make a useful contribution to the work of TPS in the areas of modelling/appraisal policy based on my practical experience with both. I am keen on measures to improve public transport's market share whilst also encouraging active travel. Ex-post evaluation also interests me.

#### **6. Panos Floros**

With over 11 years of experience in transport planning, I am excited to stand for the TPS Board. My work across major consultancies such as Jacobs and Ramboll and specialist consultancies like Markides Associates, has helped me build a strong network of colleagues, clients and partners. I want to use these connections to raise the profile of the Society, expand its influence across the sector and deepen engagement with Government and industry. I am passionate about vision led planning, placemaking, active travel and public transport, demonstrated through technical and leadership roles on projects and teams. I hope to bring an ambitious and forward thinking perspective that shapes TPS policy and drives our profession toward better outcomes. I also care deeply about skills and education. Through my links with universities including UCL, Newcastle and Cardiff, where I lecture on transport related modules, I will promote the TPS and support future professionals.

#### **7. Karishma Kumar**

I'm interested in becoming a TPS board member due to my previous committee experience with TPS NZ. Drawing on my TPS NZ experience, I will help embed TPS objectives—especially structured training and the qualifications framework—so they remain rigorous, relevant, and adaptable. In New Zealand I aligned TPS schemes such as the PDS with local policy, workforce, and accreditation needs; this enables me to test assumptions, evaluate impact and keep member value central. I will bring a constructive, evidence led approach to ensure TPS continues to influence standards across the sector. I would also be interested in taking responsibility for EDI and young professionals. For EDI, my focus is improving representation of diversity across TPS leadership, panels, mentors, and case studies. For young professionals, I would be interested in expanding mentoring, early career engagement, and TPS Futures, strengthening university links and building peer support for chartership.

## **8. David Bowers**

TPS Board – Supporting Statement – David Bowers MSc BSc CTPP FCIHT For 30 years I have worked in the UK and worldwide developing transport strategies, business cases and transport infrastructure for the public and private sector. I am an Expert Witness on transport and a member of the DfT's Shadow Joint Analysis Development Panel. Senior roles in transport consultancy have included leading initiatives to develop skills, encourage the TPS Professional Development Scheme and participate in Transport Planning Day. In my view, transport planning needs to evolve to reflect current decision making. The Board could help the profession build skills in “telling the story” about schemes to help decision makers understand issues in a deeper way. I am keen to work with the Board to think about how transport planners could better influence the people and environment where decision making happens. Potential role: flexible but suggest Awards or Member Induction Lead.

## **9. Leigh Bramall**

I have led the Transport team at Counter Context, a consultancy specialising in public consultation, community and stakeholder engagement, construction communications, and strategic advice, for the past nine years. Before this, I served as a councillor on Sheffield City Council for 13 years, including six years as the lead executive member for Transport and two years as Deputy Leader. Transport lies at the heart of many of the greatest challenges facing society, yet its importance is often under-appreciated by the public, business, and government. In recent years, Transport has also become increasingly caught up in polarised political debate, making constructive engagement on transport projects and policies more complex for planners and decision-makers. I believe my experience in both political leadership and public engagement can contribute to the TPS's work in making a positive, persuasive case for transport development and improving how it is communicated to key audiences.

## **10. Julian Ridge**

Hello – I am Julian Ridge and am standing to be a member of the TPS Board. I am one of the organisers for the Yorkshire and Humber Region of the TPS, and would like to stand for the main Board so I can continue developing the regional organisation of TPS – specifically its capacity to hold engaging and enjoyable events to share knowledge and build professional networks. I think this is important as we head into a new round of LTPs, Spatial Development Strategies and Local Plans. I have about 30 years of transport planning experience, divided equally between consultancy (Steers, WSP and freelance) and local government (until a year ago as the Sustainable Transport Manager at City of York Council). I now work as a freelance consultant on a range of commissions, including a part time position developing the transport elements of Bolton Council's Local Plan.

## **11. Oliver Donnelly**

I'm applying for the Young Professionals Lead role because I'm passionate about creating a more supportive and accessible environment for young people entering the transport planning profession. As a Graduate Transport Planner at PJA in Manchester,

I've experienced the challenges young professionals face, from building confidence to accessing learning opportunities and wider networks. During university, I enjoyed playing an active role in the TPS North-East committee, helping to organise the annual pub quiz and working closely with Newcastle University to promote TPS events. If selected, I'd focus on strengthening engagement across regions and making TPS resources, events and support easier to access. I'm keen to introduce more informal, inclusive opportunities that feel approachable for young professionals, while enhancing TPS engagement with early career members. I'm motivated by the opportunity to continue my longstanding support of TPS and strengthen how young professionals engage with the Society, while proudly representing the North-West.

## **12. Ben Plowden**

A sustainable transport system is an essential prerequisite for a fairer, more productive, less polluted and decarbonised economy. Evidence-based transport planning is essential for the creation and management of such a system. I have helped argue for and deliver sustainable transport and the critical role of transport planners in achieving that goal my whole career. I have worked on transport policy and planning in the non-profit, private and public sectors, including 20 years in senior roles in Transport for London and as CEO of two national NGOs (Living Streets and Campaign for Better Transport). I was Chair of the TPS from 2023-2025 and worked with the Board to develop a business plan designed to increase the TPS's capacity, profile and influence. I would love the opportunity to join the Board to support the new Chair and the wider Board to build on the success of the last 2-3 years.

## **13. Gavin Snowball**

Gavin is Director of Dynamic Transport Planning, an independent consultancy he founded and has led for nearly a decade. With over 20 years' experience in transport planning across SMEs, major multi disciplinary firms and now his own practice, he brings a broad understanding of how transport policy, development needs and commercial realities come together in day to day project work. Since 2019, Gavin has been TPS Regional Representative for the North East, having previously served as Regional Rep for the North West. In these roles he has helped strengthen member engagement, deliver well received regional events and build strong professional networks across the sector.

## **14. Paul Speirs**

What can I bring to the Transport Planning Society?

Vision-led planning, AI in Transport and emerging technologies are redefining how we plan the future of transport and its impact on people, society and opportunity.

Throughout my career I have consistently challenged our industry with thought leadership contributions to innovations and trends in mobility. I have championed Vision-led approaches at global conferences, years before the idea of it becoming mainstream. I strongly believe in understanding why transport planning matters and, crucially, that we highlight what our solutions enable – a perspective often overlooked.

As a professional speaker, I coach others to clarify their message. My career experience of working on projects in North America, the UK, Europe, the Middle East and the Far East, together with my coaching and facilitation skills and my public

speaking and communication prowess, I believe, leans naturally into serving the TPS Board and the Society.