



Your platform

When is a transport planner not a transport planner?



As a professional transport planner and Chair of the Transport Planning Society, my spirits rose when I saw the headline on the cover of the March 2019 issue of Focus – ‘Why transport planning matters.’ Great; at long last, recognition of the valuable role played by transport planners in the UK and elsewhere.

However, the article, ‘The seven bridges of Königsberg’ quickly dashed my hopes. In fact, I was initially depressed to read: ‘The role of a transport planner is typically clerical in nature, relegated to the lowest levels of the transport hierarchy, usually reporting to a first-line manager or shift manager. It is rare to find transport planners with managerial status.’ Now I understand, though. The term ‘transport planner’ has its own meaning within the logistics sector and refers to those who specialise in planning routes for delivery vehicles.

This a far cry from the meaning of ‘transport planner’ used outside the logistics sector and it is important to clarify the difference between the two. Recruitment agencies regularly get the two confused and the wrong jobs are frequently offered to the wrong people. It is important that members of CILT understand that the professional transport planner outside logistics has a completely different role to play (although it could include route planning where necessary).

Such transport planners are concerned with analysing transport-related problems of all types, and identifying and assessing a wide range of potential solutions. The problems could be internal to transport (such as congestion or safety) or external to it (such as air quality, health or access to jobs). The solutions might embrace new transport policies, changes to the

transport system, encouraging changes in travel behaviour, managing the situation through incentives or charges, improved transport operations, reducing environmental impacts and so on.

The Transport Planning Society describes transport planning as follows:

‘Transport planning is about preparing, assessing and implementing policies, plans and projects to improve and manage our transport systems. There is a need for transport planning on a local, regional, national and international level. It can involve understanding the link between transport and the future shape of our towns and cities, the economy, the environment and climate change, and the quality of life. It is also about changing people’s attitudes towards travel to encourage use of alternatives to the private car.’

For 20 years, the Transport Planning Society’s mission has been to build recognition of transport planning as a profession – for example, last year we conducted a successful Transport Planning Day Campaign in an effort to reach out to a wide audience and explore the significance of transport planning in the lives of local communities.

On Transport Planning Day in November, prizes were awarded for transport projects that had made a real difference to lives at a local level. CILT is one of our professional partners and supported the event. We also used the campaign to engage with politicians and government over the importance of transport planning in its wider sense, and the Transport Select Committee welcomed us to a reception in the House of Commons. We are sufficiently encouraged to repeat the event this year.

I am glad to set the record straight and clarify the different meanings of ‘transport planner’. CILT’s own Transport Planning Forum also refers to transport planning as I have described it, so perhaps the Institute could take a lead in resolving the different ways in which the term is used.

Finally, good luck to any transport planner within the logistics profession trying to crack routing problems in Königsberg!

To understand the wider world of professional transport planning outside the logistics sector: www.tps.org.uk

Stephen Bennett CMILT

Chair,
Transport Planning Society.

#CILTFOCUS



Edward Dennis @EDennis1963
We at @Aston_EAS are hugely proud of our Professor @SupplyChain @Investment @Anna OTterndorff who is featured in the latest issue of @CILTuk @Focus. I am privileged to serve on the West Midlands regional committee of the Institute with Tanna.



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Nicola Reed @nicolareed2000
Delighted to have collected this @CILTuk plaque today



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ACS @ACS_uk
ACS are very proud to be numbered in the @CILTuk (Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport) Top 30 Logistics providers in the UK. Testament to the hard work and dedication of all our colleagues, past and present over our 50 year history. <http://ow.ly/WG2306h4Jd>



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GLEN @GLEN_uk
Looking forward to welcoming HRH The Princess Royal to our Corporate Member Day 2018. A fantastic celebration recognising the hard work our Corporate Members do to help raise standards within the profession. @CILTuk @GLENuk @GLENuk

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CILT @CILTuk
Today, we celebrated the @CILTuk annual Corporate Member Day, where we celebrated CILT's centenary and recognised the vital role that the organisation and its members play in raising standards within the logistics and transportation industry. #CILT100 #CharteredConnections



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@LogisticsPolicy @LogisticsPolicy Group. Fascinating discussion on how the topic is now on the map but not yet fully understood. Need to engage @GLENuk, @Norfolk and @TransportJobs to make vital points. Available any time. Planning a workshop. #LogisticsZero

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