

# Transport Planning Society

<b>Meeting Date</b>	11 July 2024
<b>Report Title</b>	Item 9 - Chair's Report
<b>For Decision or for Information?</b>	For Information
<b>Decision Sought</b>	N/A
<b>Report Summary</b>	This report summarises the activity of the Chair since the last board meeting.

## **TPS Business Strategy**

A number of Board members joined a session on 26 June with Sonya Byers, CEO of Women in Transport (WIT). Sonya has been instrumental in developing WIT over the past 18-24 months, having been involved with the organisation as a Board member for over a decade. Sonya's presentation and the subsequent discussion provided a lot of food for thought about whether/how the TPS might want to emulate some of the things WIT have done around their overall business/operating model (including taking on a paid CEO and other staff); use of technology to manage the WIT "back office" functions; having a project-based approach to products and services and revenue generation; and their "value propositions" (i.e. funders/donors being very clear what they're paying for and what they get).

There are some important differences between WIT and TPS, not least the fact that the two organisations represent very different "constituencies". But there are also important similarities and it will be useful for the Board to consider which aspects of the WIT development "journey" the TPS might want to follow.

The Business Strategy Steering Group will reflect on how to take forward the TPS's strategy in the light of Sonya's presentation.

## **TPS Programme Planner**

Thanks to those Board members who have updated the TPS Programme Planner. We will review the Planner and how useful the Board have found it at the meeting.

## **Events and engagement**

### **Event planning**

I have continued to meet Mark Frost and Ruby Stringer in the events planning group. This provides oversight of the emerging events programme for the year and keeps track of event organisation, speakers etc.

## TPS Summer Reception

The TPS held our first-ever Summer Reception on 19 June, courtesy of the generosity of Jacobs at their riverside offices in London Bridge. We had a great turnout and some excellent presentations from Sonya Byers and Shireen Ali-Khan from Women in Transport and Jenny Jones on the evening's theme of "Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion in Transport Planning in Challenging Times". Informal feedback suggested the evening was a success and would be worth repeating in 2025 in place of the annual dinner.

## Interchange

TPS is again sponsoring the Interchange Conference in 2025 after a very successful second conference in February. This does not involve any financial sponsorship.

## Transport Planning Day 2024

Planning for TPD 2024 continues apace. We have confirmation of our three plenary speakers - Steve Gooding (RAC Foundation), Sharon Payne (rural transport lead for Transport East) and Ed Downer from Platinum Sponsor Buro Happold. Invitations have also gone out to speakers for the panel in the second session. We are also developing a very exciting programme of supporting events/webinars in the run-up to TPD, with webinars planned for July, September and October.

We are about halfway towards meeting our sponsorship target for TPD 2024. Suggestions from the Board about possible sponsors would be very welcome.

## **Policy Developments**

### **Policy Group**

Mark and Lisa continue to develop the Policy Group and will update under a separate agenda item.

### **2024 General Election**

TPS published its analysis of the treatment of transport in the main party manifestos. We will follow up with a letter to the new Secretary of State and junior ministers following the election on 4 July. We will follow up with introductory letters to the new Secretary of State and relevant junior ministers once they have been appointed and announced.