Transport Planning Society Review 2015



 ${\bf TransportPlanning} {\it Society}$

View from the Chair

I count it a genuine privilege to have become the Chair of the Transport Planning Society, an organisation whose primary purpose is to be a resource to its members; and one that speaks with authority on behalf of the transport planning profession only because it consists of transport planning professionals. (The TPS currently has around 1,200 individual members and 50 stakeholder member organisations, many of the latter being major employers of transport planners.) The work that the Society can do is as important now as it has ever been, because Planning for Transport, as distinct from simply providing for it, appears to be an increasingly quaint notion to key decision-makers. As Chair, I hope to be able to stress all three words in the TPS's name.

Transport. While this is plainly about the movement of people and goods, the danger of such a description is that it makes transport sound like a dry, technical exercise. Transport is, in fact, about how people go about their lives, commerce goes about its business, and the relationship between the two. We need transport to get us to and from places; and we also need transport to get stuff to and from us.

Viewed this way, transport is rightly seen as a means to an end. When it's seen as an end in itself, we lose sight of the vital connection between transport and quality of life. And we start to make mistakes.

Almost all urban 'transport projects' of any significant size should really be understood as a 'town/city projects'; and failure to grasp this has meant that 'transport solutions' have too often created major problems for the places they should be serving. Transport should support city life, not harm it; transport should be a blessing, not a curse.

Planning. Arising from this, transport provision should result from rational planning. Yet, again too often, decisions about what to spend on which transport schemes seem to be based more on assertion than evidence. Not that these decisions are easy, nor that the issues at stake aren't often complex – as the differing views of TPS members on HS2 make plain. But we still have a right to expect that politicians and others with power will avoid basing decisions on over-simplistic beliefs that happen to make good headlines.

Transport planning mustn't be about what we think people want to hear, or what we think they want. Or even, necessarily, about what they do want. It has to be about a rational assessment of how best, in transport terms, to achieve or support agreed and desirable outcomes. And these may be to do with any or all of housing, health, jobs, the environment, education, social inclusion, etc.

Society. Accordingly, we need to consider that vexed issue of 'the greater good': of what society needs, rather than what individuals might prefer. To understand, as we should, that 'society' is 'the aggregate of people living together in a more or less ordered community', is the source of understanding that transport planning is a vital endeavour that must be directed towards the benefit of that community.

The transport provision that our society depends upon should be based on thoughtful planning by people with the necessary range of appropriate skills and experience. That's both common sense and the conviction upon which the Transport Planning Society is founded.

Meet the Board



John Dales, TPS Chair, is Director of Urban Movement, with a professional focus on where most transport planning work becomes real: urban streets. He's a Living Streets trustee, is active with PACTS, and writes the monthly Street Talk column in Local Transport Today.



Sara Cole, TPS Company Secretary, works for Peter Brett Associates and has experience in infrastructure planning and transport strategies. Sara is the main contact for any TPS membership queries and is also responsible for the AGM and Board member elections.



Dominic McGrath, TPS Treasurer, is a Strategic Transport Manager with Hampshire County Council. He is responsible for scheme development, local transport policy, and Solent Transport. He also has a lead role on liaison with the two LEPs in Hampshire.



Stephen Bennett is an Associate
Director in Arup's Consulting Team
based in London. He coordinates Arup's
TPS Professional Development Scheme
in the south of England, and is a trained
PDS mentor. His TPS Board roles
include policy and communications.



Christopher Blake is a Senior Transport Planner at JMP based in Birmingham. Chris has been the West Midlands Regional Representative for the Society since 2012 and assists the Board with young professional activities and regional support



Keith Buchan was Director of the MTRU consultancy and has over 30 years' transport planning experience in a wide range of roles. A former TPS Chair, he's been leading on policy issues including TPS's 'Agenda for Change'. From July 2015, he'll be TPS Director of Skills.



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.



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.



Graham Grant leads the transport investment service in Newcastle City Council. A former TPS bursarian, he's interested in the social and the science of transport planning. His Board focus is on improving our communications and social media presence.



Tim Morton worked for Scott Wilson before spending 34 years with Mott MacDonald, rising to Divisional Director. Now retired, and having wide and varied experience, his Board roles cover Bursaries, policy and raising the profile of transport planning in Ireland.



Martin Richards TPP is TPS Director for Skills until July 2015. Since retiring as Executive Chairman of MVA in 2000, he's been deeply involved in the training, education and professional recognition of transport planners, and is Trustee of the Brian Large Bursary Fund.



Nick Richardson TPP is the previous TPS Chair and supports the Board on policy matters. He's a Technical Director at Mott MacDonald focusing on transport strategies and managing the company's PDS. He's also a Director of CILT(UK), chairs the Board of PTRC.



John Rider TPP helped deliver South Hampshire's LSTF programme and is now LB Lambeth's Transport Strategy Delivery Lead. He's a mentor for the TPP qualification, Vice Chair of the TPS-RTPI Transport Planning Network, and supports the skills work of the Society.



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.



Alina Tuerk TPP is a Principal Transport Planner in Strategy and Planning at Transport for London. She obtained the TPP qualification in 2014. Her roles on the TPS Board are the coordination, organisation and promotion of events, and supporting younger professionals.



Dave Whyte is a Network Outcomes Advisor for the Rail Executive of the Department for Transport. He is part of the team responsible for producing the Rail Investment Strategy. His TPS Board focus is on communications and website development.





Daniel Parker-Klein represents:



Howard Potter represents:



Also represented on the Board:



Transport Planner of the Year 2014

The 2014 Transport Planner of the Year award was given to to Frank Baxter of Southampton City Council (pictured). The award recognises Frank's achievements over recent years in helping SCC become one of the top-performing city unitary authorities for transport, culminating in its success as Transport City of the Year at the 2014 National Transport Awards. In presenting the Award, Nick Richardson, TPS Chair, made the following citation:

"It is recognised that Frank provided clear leadership and good direction for the team during a time of severe financial austerity for the Authority and that his foresight in setting up the Centre for Excellence for Smarter Choices - a joint venture between SCC, Sustrans and University of Southampton - has been instrumental in putting in place an effective evaluation regime for assessing the LSTF outcomes, recognised by the DfT".



Annual Member Survey

The annual survey of TPS members reveals what they think about a wide range of issues, and also what has changed and what hasn't in the past year. In 2014, answers confirm that the private sector is now recruiting strongly and reviving professional development programmes. They also helped inform the TPS 'Agenda for Change' document to be published in June 2015.

The survey shows divisions on airport expansion but very strong support for demand management and for walking and cycling. In tune with this, there is far more support for local rail improvements than for high speed rail. There is continuing concern over health impacts and a lack of confidence in Government's forecasts both for traffic and for carbon emissions from transport. Members overwhelmingly favour greater transport powers for England's city regions and comment on the inconsistent performance of LEPs. Other survey highlights are as follows.

Skills

 A much higher level of participation in the TPS Professional Development Scheme (18% in 2014; 6% in 2013)

- Interesting and sometimes trenchant responses to the open ended question on increasing differences between local authorities and the private sector in developing skills – there is some serious concern from both sides
- High awareness of the Transport Planning Professional (TPP) qualification (99%) but still a significant number without TPP with no plans to apply (57%). As might be expected this figure was 74% for LAs and public bodies, 44% for consultancies.

Policy

- Walking and cycling continue as members' highest transport spending priority (58%)
- There was also confirmation of members' high priority for spending on non-high speed rail capacity increases (55%) compared to high speed rail (22%).
- Support for major trunk road schemes (11%) has continued to fall from a low base (12% in 2013 and 14% in 2012)
- Using planning to reduce the need to travel overtook health as this year's top policy priority, while 2013's increased priority for linking transport and health was consolidated

- (89% thought it important or very important)
- There was a more even split than last year between the need for more runway capacity in the SE (35%), more regional capacity (30%), or implementing tax reform first (35%).
- Continuing support for reform of appraisal, but new support for the proposal to use land use values rather than time savings (as in the TPS Appraisal event with David Metz)
- Some support for LEPs in relation to jobs, but none in relation to sustainability, with many comments stressing the high variability of performance
- Strong preference (73%) for granting new powers to city regions and then other Local Authorities rather than resurrecting earlier regional structures
- While there was some concern over loss of links to land use planning (66%), there was a very clear view that a national transport policy was needed (93%), and that demand management should be prioritised (90%)
- Concern that national traffic forecasts for urban areas were unlikely to come about (67%) but if the forecasts overall were correct, the CO2 reduction targets would not be met (85%).

TPS Bursaries

Each year, the Society awards £500 bursaries to young professionals to encourage them to research and analyse a topic of current transport planning relevance. In 2014, the topic was "What should an incoming government do for transport planning?".

The aim of the bursaries is to promote the professional development of the bursarians, raise their profile within the profession, and encourage original thinking. There were nine applications in 2014 and four successful bursarians produced 5000-word papers, all involving data collation and analysis.

Each bursarian was assigned a TPS Board member as mentor, who provided insight into the topic, helped the bursarian to programme and prioritise their work, challenged the conclusions drawn to ensure robustness, and advised on the presentation to be made subsequently to Board members.

The successful bursarians were:

- Ward Alsafi (JMP) 'Space and Flow: How can the Government better link Land Use and Transport Planning.'
- John Bradburn (Atkins) 'Planning our Nationally Significant Transport Infrastructure: time for a re-think or business as usual?'
- Stuart Northall (Mott MacDonald)
- 'Improving the political case for transport investment: an ex-post evaluation of the external economic benefits of the Nottingham Express Transit LRT Scheme.'
- James Rhodes (JMP) 'What should an Incoming Government do to Improve Planning for Transport? Include Local People.'

Stuart Northall's paper was awarded the prize for Bursary of the Year. He demonstrated that the observed wider economic benefits of Line 1 of Nottingham Express Transit were significant compared with the cost of implementing the scheme. Stuart commented: "It's great to receive this award and I'm very grateful to TPS for facilitating research into a topic which greatly interests me but which is outside my normal day-to-day work experience."



Stuart Northall receives his award from TPS Board member Tim Morton

Policy Activity

TPS continues to make its voice heard through responses to relevant consultations. The Board's policy team in 2014/15 was Ruth Bradshaw, Tim Morton and Dave Whyte, with Keith Buchan as the Director of Policy. Ruth has finished her term on the Board, with Stephen Bennett now joining the team.

Following up our 2013 response on the formation of Highways England, we have attended stakeholder meetings at DfT and at the Office of Rail and Road, who will be responsible for monitoring HE performance. We argued for a wider brief, with some success. This is an ongoing process of development, with new personnel at ORR and an open dialogue with various parties, including TPS and our supporting organisations.

In February 2014 we responded to the National Policy Statement on transport, pointing out that the NPS was a bit like a national transport policy statement, but is in fact mandatory guidance for the scrutiny of major projects on a "national" network (which is flexibly defined) through the mechanism of a public examination. We said guidance should express overall policy, rather than be a substitute for the lack of it; and that a properly constructed national transport policy should be the basis for guidance and public scrutiny.

In May 2014 we also started work on a policy statement which would be prepared for an incoming Government in 2015. This has involved a series of discussion meetings with members around the country, and the document has incorporated a large number of members' views. The detailed, wideranging document, entitled 'Agenda for Change', will be published in June 2015. The TPS Review in 2016 will report on how it was received!

We have continued to engage with DfT to encourage a more open approach to their research and in particular their modelling and forecasting. They have held, and are continuing to hold, a series of expert and advisory meetings to which TPS has contributed. We welcome their greater engagement with the profession on these issues, as reflected in the wider range of traffic forecasts recently released.

In September, TPS responded to DCLG Technical Consultation on Planning which contained a proposal to scrap parking limits. We commented that "The ability to manage parking is an important element of managing the demand for transport and encouraging the use of alternatives to the car, and so it is essential that local planning authorities retain this ability." In 2015 it was announced that the use of parking standards would continue to be permitted, although PPG13 national parking level maxima have already been scrapped. It remains to be seen what effect DCLG taking responsibility from DfT over off-street parking will have.

In October, TPS made a submission to the Transport Select Committee on the future of motoring. We called for a clear transport policy framework within which the role of motoring can be set out, rather than an ad hoc approach which over emphasises vehicle technology. We also said that there were gaps in our evidence base which need to be filled - including a better understanding of why people own as well as use cars, and how car ownership and use models are changing. TPS members see planning policy and travel cost as key drivers in car use, but nevertheless believe that demand management will play a key role. Other key points from the TPS submission are set out below.

- Spatial planning and the affordability of motoring will be key drivers of use
- Car use will be increasingly subject to demand management measures to meet wider environmental, sustainability, health and congestion reduction objectives
- Autonomous vehicles will be a game changer but are likely to have only limited application by 2040
- Near realtime traffic management across the network, particularly in association with autonomous vehicles, also merits further research

Looking forward, TPS will continue to respond to national and regional consultations where we can make a useful input.

TPS and Young Professionals

A key aim of the TPS is to support young professionals at the early stages of their transport planning career; to provide opportunities to meet other members and develop an understanding of the profession as a whole.

In early 2015, we issued an online survey to our young professionals to seek their views on how TPS should best support them and on how to encourage more active involvement within the society, its events and activities.

Subsequently, we're working with our TPS regional representatives to arrange more frequent social events and opportunities for networking, and to explore options to expand the support the TPS can provide for those working towards PDS and TPP. Keep an eye on the TPS website for more details.

We always welcome volunteers to help arrange TPS events in the regions, so if you're interested in helping in this way, contact our Young Professionals Board Member, Katie Taylor.

2014/15 Event Highlights



Transport Devolution Debate

23rd April 2015

TPS members and other professionals engaged in the debate addressed by Jonathan Spruce, vice-chair ICE Expert Transport Panel and Director of Fore Consulting, and Martin Tugwell, former TPS Chair and now Programme Director, Tri-County Partnership (Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire & Northamptonshire).

Jonathan stressed the importance of the strong leadership and collaborative culture shown in Greater Manchester in achieving greater funding and control. He pointed out the need to secure more freedoms to raise locally-derived finance and to provide more skills resources at the local level. Successful outcomes for transport would be more likely where LEPs and Combined Authority areas coincide.

Martin stressed the importance of achieving a new delivery model to meet the need for greater certainty on planning and infrastructure investment. He noted the high costs and long delays involved in bidding, monitoring and reporting to comply with government funding rules. Tri-county governance features a Leaders' Board covering economics, transport, infrastructure, skills and investment finance.

Comments from the floor included the point that the London Mayor's prime role was transport which is why, given the legal powers, TfL can be and is so successful. "No one size fits all" was mentioned a number of times, although it would make be sense, for example, for more remote or rural areas with similar attributes to have similar devolved governance structures.



What Car Next?

12th February 2015

The national 'What Car Next?' event took place at Aston University, where TPS members and others heard from and debated with the following:

- Prof John Polak, Imperial College London
- Dr Alan Stevens, Transport Research Laboratory
- · Brian Price, Aston University
- Tom Van Vuren (Mott MacDonald)

The presentations covered the topics of future technology in the industry, including vehicles automation, shared mobility services and low carbon vehicles. The point that sparked most debate was about whether intervention by the Government was required to encourage both the industry and users to invest in low carbon vehicles. It was debated whether incentives should be used to encourage people to make their next purchase a low carbon vehicle, or whether individuals should simply be allowed to research and understand the benefits themselves.

New Year Drinks Reception

8th January 2015

The TPS's annual start-the-year dinks reception was addresssed by then-ex-Board member and now TPS Chair, John Dales. His topic was 'Streets and the Pareto Principle'. Named after Italian engineer and political scientist Vilfredo Pareto, this principle states that, for many events, roughly 80% of the effects come from 20% of the causes. John explored the extent to which this can apply to the matter of value-for-money in making improvements to town and city streets - especially from the perspective of people walking and cycling.

He began by explaining how research shows that what most people value are the simple things: those that tend to be cheapest in any case. So, for example, making footways clean, flat and uncluttered is far more important to most people than using expensive materials. Similarly, several cities are showning that appreciable improvements in how safe people feel when cycling can be delivered quickly and cheaply without major reconstruction. Get this '80%' of value now, and you can go for the other '20%' when funds allow. A lively debate ensued, as was the idea!



National Pub Quiz

12th March 2015

This year, 63 TPS teams located in seven different pubs across the UK took part in the 2015 quiz. Sponsors Integrated Transport Planning Ltd set the questions as teams in London, Scotland, Winchester, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and Leicester battled it out for the coveted title of TPS National Pub Quiz Winners.

It was a close-run affair at the half-way point, with Metro in Leeds leading the way with 30pts and ten teams tied in second place with 29pts.

After the break and a challenging transport-themed round, Mottsam and Jetsam from London were crowned the winners. In second and third place, only a single point behind, were the ITP Crowd in the West Midlands and Don't mention the Wharf in Winchester.

The evening was great fun and also raised £300 for Transaid. Thanks to all who took part: we're already looking forward to next year!

Professional Development and Qualifications for Transport Planners

The Society is committed to the development and recognition of transport planners as true professionals.

The Society's Professional Development Scheme is used by most of the major consultancies to provide their younger transport planners with a structured pathway to obtaining the breadth and depth of skill they need to become true professionals. Nearly 300 trainees are now following the Scheme, which was introduced in 2008.

The PDS is highly valued as a route towards the Transport Planning Professional qualification which the Society awards together with the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation. The TPP is the only professional qualification covering the key competences of professional transport planners; and employers, clients and stakeholders are paying increasing attention to those holding it. Most of those following the PDS are working towards the award of the TPP.

Rob Davies, pictured below, is a transport planner with Atkins in Birmingham and is the first to complete the Professional Development Scheme and to be awarded a Certificate of PDS Completion. Rob joined Atkins in 2008 with a degree in Geography from Durham and has been involved in a wide variety of projects, while developing a particular expertise in highway and traffic modelling and assessment.



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

Highways England joined the list of PDS licensees in 2014. Other organisations with a PDS licence include:

- AECOM
- Arup
- Atkins
- CH2M
- Hampshire County Council
- · Highways England
- Hyder Consulting
- Integrated Transport Planning
- Jacobs
- JMP Consulting
- · Leicestershire County Council
- Mayer Brown
- Mott MacDonald
- Mouchel
- Peter Brett Associates
- PFA Consulting
- SAJ Consultants
- Systra
- Transport for London
- Vectos
- WSP

The Society is also playing a leading role in the development of a transport planning technician apprenticeship. The Standard for the scheme was approved under the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' Trailblazer Programme in March 2015, and the sponsoring Employers Group is now preparing delivery and assessment models.

Managing the Society's Skills Work

For the last decade, the Society's work in Skills, including the development of the PDS and the TPP qualification, has been led by Martin Richards. While he has decided that the time has come to retire, he will continue to support the TPS's Skills agenda by undertaking PDS Reviews and working on the development transport planning technician apprenticeship.

As a first succession step, the Society appointed Keith Youngman as its PDS Review Manager in February 2015. Keith has been deeply involved with the PDS since its launch, first as Mouchel's PDS manager, then as co-author of Version 3 of the PDS and of PDS Review Process. Keith is supported by four regional PDS Reviewers visiting licensee's offices across the UK.

Keith Buchan, a past Chair and elected Board member with almost 40 years experience in transport planning in the public and private sectors, will be succeeding Martin as the Society's Director for Skills on 1 July 2015.

The Board has also appointed Christine Crossley as the Society's PDS Operations Manager. As Atkins' Training Manager for Highways and Transportation, Christine has been deeply involved in the PDS since its launch and was a co-author of Version 3.

The fourth member of the Skills Team is Andy Costain, the TPS Development Officer who has been involved in the TPS Skills initiatives from the beginning.

This extended Skills team reflects the steady expansion of the Society's Skills activities, including

- increasing uptake of the Society's PDS
- the work involved in the PDS Review Process
- continuing promotion of and support for the TPP qualification
- the development of the transport planning technician apprenticeship.

The Society's work is supported by a Skills Committee of Board members and former TPS Chairs Victoria Hills, Keith Mitchell and Bill Wyley.

TPS Skills Timeline

- TPS Transport Planning Skills Initiative, launched 2002.
- TPS and GoSkills prepare the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Transport Planning and Transport Planning Technical Support, which gained Ofqual approval in 2007.
- The Transport Planning Professional, TPP, qualification based on the NOS, launched jointly with CIHT 2008.
- The TPS PDS, based on the NOS, launched 2008.
- PDS Version 3 launched, 2013.
- PDS Review Process, introduced 2014.
- First TPS PDS trainee completes the Scheme, March 2015.

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, a Standard Member, a Registered Member, or a Designated Member.

Student membership is for anyone studying transport or related fields full time. Designated membership is for those members who hold the Transport Planning Professional (TPP) qualification (see page 7). Standard/Registered membership covers all other members.

Regstered members are those who commit to working to the Society's Code of Professional Conduct, and who are then permitted to use MTPS as post-nominals, identifying them as professional transport planners and raising the profile of the profession.

Individual membership benefits include:

- Monthly ebulletins outlining the latest TPS news, events and transport planning vacancies
- Fee attendance at TPS events nationwide
- Discount on publications, including Local Transport Today, New Transit, Planning & Passenger Transit and Transport Xtra
- Discounts on TPS supported conferences
- Eligibility to apply for the a Bursary Award
- Eligibility to apply to undertake the Professional Development Scheme and TPP
- Voting rights on matters related to the AGM and other meetings

Membership is excellent value. Annual fees at April 2015 are: Student - free for a year then £10 per year for the next 3 years; Standard/Registered - £40; and Designated - £95.

How to Join

Membership application forms are provided on our website at http://www.tps.org.uk/main/membership/

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 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
- Discounts at TPS-supported events and on attendance at PTRC training courses
- Free advertisement of job vacancies on the TPS website
- Great networking opportunities with like-minded organisations
- Copies of the annual TPS Review, and regular event and news bulletins by email

How to Join

Further details are provided on our website at http://www.tps.org.uk/main/membership/

Contact Us

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

Join In

Events

We have a programme of events on themes of interest to transport planners around the country, with attendance being free for TPS members. Our largest regular national events are held in London at the Institution of Civil Engineers. For details about the latest upcoming events, please visit www.tps.org.uk/main/events.

Regions & Nations

We also have a number of regional branches that are actively promoted through regular events. Please visit www.tps.org.uk/main/regions for more information on your region and to find out about getting involved.



Bursaries for Younger Professionals

We especially encourage younger professionals to become involved in debate, discussion, research and training. Our Bursaries programme see page 4) provides £500 to individuals to prepare a research paper that will be both stimulating and relevant to TPS members and the wide transport planning community. Find out more at www.tps.org.uk/main/bursaries.



Join in the debate on current transport topics – or start a discussion thread of your own – by joining the Transport Planning Society Group on Linked In.



Follow us on @TransPlanSoc to receive flashes about important news, prompts about TPS events, and live bulletins from them on the #TPSevent hashtag.