Transport Planning Society

Review 2016



TransportPlanning *Society*

From a personal perspective, the first half of my term as TPS Chair has been quite a year! I was delighted to have become the Chair of this wonderful organisation at 2015's AGM, because – as I said in the supporting statement for my nomination – I love the unique role that the TPS has in promoting the transport planning profession and (especially) in informing, encouraging and enabling individual transport planners. I also love that the TPS is so inexpensive to join, so free of self-importance and so focused on being a resource to all its members.

Having previously served six years on the TPS Board, I was of course familiar with much of what the society does and some of how it operates. But the necessarily all-encompassing nature of the Chair's role has been something of an eye-opener, and the workload quite a challenge – perhaps especially for someone who runs a small business. I can now readily appreciate why the Chair's role lasts for two years: you need the first to get a good grasp of everything and start planning worthwhile new initiatives; you need the second to actually get those initiatives going; and you need every year afterwards to have a (hopefully) well-earned rest!

The obvious question, therefore, is how will I focus my energies in this second year?

Well, it has been very helpful, I think, for me to clarify that the Society has essentially two raisons d'être:

- to promote Transport Planning and
- to support Transport Planners.

While I'd agree with anyone who says that's not exactly rocket science, I nevertheless consider it vital to ensure clarity of purpose. Without it, there's always the risk we'll just keep doing more or less what we've always done, because we've always done it. The TPS does so much - most of it thanks to amazing Board members, regional representatives and other supporters who squeeze the work, upaid, into their spare time - that the opportunity to take a fresh look at what we do needs to be made. It won't just happen.

As to what the TPS does to promote the profession, I want, in particular, to greatly improve the appreciation of ordinary people concerning how important Transport Planning is to their lives: what they do; what they need to do; and what they want to do. This is not only a worthy and important exercise in its own right; it is, in my view, at the heart of increasing the traction of transport planning with decision-makers, especially elected members in both national and local government.

In many ways, promoting transport planning is one of the best ways of supporting transport planners. But there is, of course, more we can do. We will continue to develop our programme of typically excellent events, while improving how we our communicate about them and doing more to help our regional groups work across boundaries.

We will be looking at what else we can do to encourage, enable and validate continuous professional development, especially in ways that are suitable for those who - at least at present - are unable to make the commitment needed to embark on our Professional Development Scheme (PDS) or pursue the Transport Planning Professional (TPP) qualification (see page 7).

I want also to do more both to support young transport planners and to bring more into the profession in the first place; so we will be exploring the best ways of getting positive messages about transport planning across to school, college and university students. At the same time, I'll be looking at how the profile of those in the profession can more nearly resemble that of the population at large.

In all this, I do and will depend upon the wisdom and hard work of my colleagues on the Board, and also the active support of many individual, Corporate and Stakeholder members. The twin causes of promoting transport planning and supporting transport planners are the inspiration and motivation for all that the TPS does and will do.

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.



John Rider, TPS Company Secretary, helped deliver South Hampshire's LSTF programme, was Transport Strategy Delivery Lead at LB Lambeth and now works in the Transport for London road safety team. He's also a reviewer and mentor for the TPP qualification.



K D h e H

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.

Keith Buchan, TPS Director of Skills, was Director of the MTRU consultancy and has over 30 years' transport planning experience in a wide range of roles. He was previously Chair of the TPS (2011-2013), and is currently also on the Board's Policy team.



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. Stephen heads up the
Board's Policy team.



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.



Tiffany Lynch is currently transport Infrastructure Strategy Manager at LB Bexley and formerly worked for Peter Brett Associates and Dartford Borogh Council. Her roles for the TPS Board include membership development and communications/social media.



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.



Stuart Northall is is a Transport Modeller in Mott MacDonald's Rail Planning Team based in Croydon. He completed a TPS Bursary in 2014 and is currently working towards the TPP qualification. Stuart's role on the TPS board is in supporting younger transport professionals.



Joanna Ward is a Principal Transport Planner with Morgan Tucker Consulting Engineers, based in Nottingham, and previously worked for Sustrans. Her TPS Board role covers membership development in general and supporting women in transport planning.

Katie Taylor is a Senior Transport

Planner with Peter Brett Associates,

based in the East Midlands, working

is currently working towards the TPP qualification and her TPS board role is in

supporting younger professionals.

primarily for private sector clients. She



Dave Whyte is a Planning and Investment Manager in the Rail Group at the Department for Transport, his area of focus including the West Midlands, West Coast and Chiltern lines. His TPS Board focus is on communications and website development.



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.

Alan Wenban-Smith represents:



Daniel Parker-Klein represents:



Howard Potter represents:



Also represented on the Board:



Transport Planner of the Year 2015

The TPS Transport Planner of the Year award was presented in 2015 to Lucy Saunders, who works jointly for the Greater London Authority and Transport for London. The accolade was in recognition of Lucy's leading role in producing Transport for London's 'Transport Action Plan for Improving the Health of Londoners'.

This document, a landmark publication internationally: the first of its kind by a major transport authority.

TPS Chair, John Dales, made the following citation:

"This action plan sets out a pioneering approach to delivering 'Healthy Streets', and Lucy's contribution to its production was pivotal. Achieving better public health through transport initiatives is an issue very close to the Society's heart."

Lucy is pictured receiving the award from former TPS Chair, Nick Richardson.



Annual Member Survey

The Transport Planning Society annual survey of its members reveals what has changed and what hasn't in the past year. Results confirm that the private sector is now recruiting and reviving professional development programmes. The responses, from over 20% of the membership, help to guide our events programme, and inform the policy work planned for 2016, including the TPS Agenda for Change, published in June 2015. Some highlights are set out below, with further information being available on the TPS website.

Attitudes to Qualifications

- · Interesting and sometimes trenchant responses to the open ended question on differences between local authorities and the private sector in developing skills - there is serious concern from both sides
- High awareness of the Transport Planning Professional (TPP) qualification (98%) but still a significant number with no plans to apply (46%). Widening gap between local authorities (76% with no plans) and consultancies (33% with no plans). Figures last year were LAs 73% and consultancies 44%.

Policy Priorities

- · Walking and cycling continue as members' first choice (60%) as in 2012, 2013 and 2014!
- There was confirmation of members' priority for non-HS rail capacity increases (49% - second place to walk/ cycle) while HS rail has fallen from a modest base (17% 2015; 22% 2014)
- Support for major trunk road schemes has risen slightly, from a low base, back to 2012 levels - now 15% (11% in 2014 and 12% in 2013)

The Top 5 policy priorities in 2015 were:

 Walking/cycling 	60%
 Non-HS rail capacity imprvmts 	49%
Travel behaviour change	43%
 Tackling poor air quality 	33%
Road maintenance	32%

Revenue for Transport

To raise funds for transport nationally, members' top 5 priorities were:

- · Introduce national road user charging
- Increase VED for most polluting vehs
- Introduce national Lorry RUC
- Increase the scope and raise the level of tax on aviation
- Introduce national parking space levy

Policy Drivers and Governance

- · In relation to policy drivers, using planning to reduce the need to travel was the priority, but last year's increased priority for linking transport and health was consolidated (89% thought it important or very important, same as in 2014)
- Slight rise in support for regional airport expansion rather than SE, but overall fairly even split between the need for more runway capacity in the SE (31%), more regional capacity (37%), or implementing tax reform first (33%)
- · Continuing support for reform of appraisal and for the proposal to use land use values (revealed preference) rather than time savings
- Some support for LEPs in relation to jobs (61% positive), evenly split views on their impact on health outcomes, but seen as much more negative in relation to sustainability, but with many comments stressing the high variability of their performance
- Strong preference (77%) for granting new powers to city regions and combined authorities, but serious concerns that these would fail without sufficient funding.

Bursaries Scheme

Each year, the TPS awards bursaries worth £500 to young professionals to encourage them to research a topic of current transport planning relevance. In 2015, the set subject was: "How can Demand Management be achieved without full road user charging?".

The aim of the scheme is to promote the professional development of the bursarians, raise their profile, and encourage original thinking. Six people applied for the 2015 bursaries, of which three were selected to produce 5000word papers on their chosen topic.

Each 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.

Hannah Beaven (WSP-PB) - identified weaknesses in how we evaluate Active Travel schemes, and proposed a better and more co-ordinated approach.

Melina Christina (Atkins) – looked at public transport peak spreading, using an employee survey and case studies to make the case for financial and information-based incentives.

Tom Fleming (ITP) – explored the Travel Budgeting concept of offering financial incentives to those who choose to use sustainable modes of transport

Melina won "Bursary of the Year", with the panel commending, in particular, the insight from her survey work. She is pictured opposite receiving the award from TPS Board member Tim Morton, who managed the competition.

Howard Potter, Nick Richardson and Alina Tuerk were mentors this year.

The three bursarians commented:

"It's been very worthwhile, and I'm pleased that other professionals have been able to hear my views"

"It's important to facilitate engagement between junior professionals and those at the top, and this process has been excellent in this regard"

"It was very worthwhile and I hope the Bursary Scheme keeps going."



Consultation Responses

The TPS takes a leading role in responding to emerging policy challenges, and has continued to make its voice heard in responding to various government consultations this year.

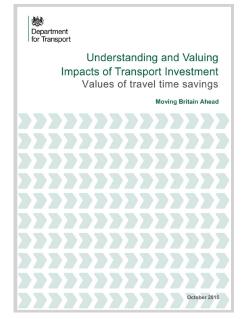
The Policy group within TPS heads up these responses, seeking to raise the profile and importance of quality transport planning in policy making as well as promoting a sustainable approach to transport and land-use development. We focus on strategic issues of national importance.

Our responses reflect members' views as expressed through the annual Members' Survey (see facing page). Looking ahead, we have plans to capture members' views on individual consultations as they arise.

Demonstrating that we addressed a very wide range of topics, the following is a list of our key submissions made during the past year.

- To the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs on draft plans to improve air quality
- To the National Infrastructure Commission on Northern Cities
- To the National Infrastructure Commission on London
- To the Commons Transport Select Committee All-Lane Running inquiry

• To the Department for Transport on Values of Travel Time Savings



- To DCLG on Proposed Changes to National Planning Policy
- · To Network Rail on the Hendy Review
- To Highways England on appraisal principles and the Lower Thames Crossing consultation
- To the DfT and Transport for London on open consultation on rail passenger services in London and the South East: a new approach

Our responses can be found on our website at www.tps.org.uk/policy

Our responses covered a wide range of issues with emphasis on:

- identifying weaknesses in the work underlying policy consultations where transport planning principles had not been properly applied
- identifying instances where policy options were too narrowly based, without proper regard for the potential for demand management or improvements to competing modes to help address the problem
- identifying policies where the wider implications of policy options had not been fully recognised (e.g. impacts on other modes, safety, the environment, land-use)
- a lack of joined-up thinking between government departments on transport matters
- support for sustainable proposals and identification of areas where these had not been fully considered
- generally promoting the value of proper transport planning in developing transport policy

Our response to the DfT on proposals concerning values of travel time was particularly well received. In recognition of our role as the voice of the transport planning profession, and in response to the constructive points we made, we have been invited to engage with DfT in ongoing dialogue on the topic.

Young Professionals

A key aim of the TPS is to support Young Professionals during the early stages of their transport planning career. We seek to do this by providing opportunities to meet other members - of all ages - and to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the profession as a whole.

Following our YPs survey in early 2015, TPS regions hosted events aimed directly at Young Professionals, providing the opportunity to meet and network with others, including a joint event with CIHT. TPS YPs were also invited to an Associated Societies Networking event in July 2015 with guest speaker Dr Francis Archer who spoke about the National Taichung Theatre and Garden Bridge, London.

Feedback that younger transport planners enjoy the opportunity to get together and speak with others from related professions is being taken on board in the arrangement of our future events schedule.

Other ways in which we seek to help younger transport planners develop include our Bursaries Scheme (see facing page) and our sponsorship of the Annual Transport Practitioners' Meeting Best Paper by a Young Professional. In 2015, the prize was awarded to James Rhodes of JMP Consultants for 'An investigation of the relationship between transport and health.'

Over the coming year, as part of our efforts to encourage more young

people to think of transport planning as an attractive career choice, we want to engage with Young Professionals to get their take on how best we might do this.

As our membership grows, the TPS wants to shape what we provide for Young Professionals around the needs of the members. So,we'd love to hear from you about what you feel the TPS should do for you, and how we can or should be encouraging other young people into the profession.

We always welcome volunteers to help arrange events in our regions, so if you're interested in shaping the future of Young Professionals in TPS, please contact Katie Taylor or Stuart Northall via info@tps.org.uk.

2015/16 Event Highlights



The TPS 'Agenda for Change' 10th September 2015

The TPS 'Agenda for Change' is both a policy statement and a tool for enabling debate on the direction of UK transport policy. This event, addressed by John Dowie (pictured), then Acting Director General for Roads and Local Transport at the DfT, was just such a debate.

Following a brief overview by the TPS's Keith Buchan, John set out his thoughts on a wide range of issues. He started with 'reasons to be cheerful', reminding us that transport is centre stage at the moment, with new opportunities during this Parliament. He also pointed out that our urban areas had not been completely redesigned around the car, as had once seemed inevitable. We had (thank goodness) 'muddled through'!

The key questions were in the 'worrying' box: have local authorities the capability to plan, deliver and fund projects; how will the loss of sub-national transport and land use planning inhibit progress; and have we the skills to deliver projects like bus franchising, computerised traffic systems and infrastructure?

During a highly informative discussion, other issues covered raised included air quality and climate change, inflexibility in appraisal, and the challenges of predicting the impact of the new forms of transport and access to transport.

In his final response, John emphasised Minsters' desire to deliver projects rather than pursue management or technocratic solutions, and the need to think about how our key messages would get across 'in the pub'!

The event ended with a commitment from the TPS to continue engaging with DfT and to develop the key messages contained in the Agenda.



Transport and Spatial Planning 23rd November 2015

This event, run jointly by the TPS and Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), was extremely well attended - in particular by young professionals - and well received by all. This demonstration of great interest in, and the importance of, joined-up thinking on transport and land use planning was very encouraging.

Held at the University of Liverpool in London, the event was chaired by Alan Wenban-Smith and had a line-up of six senior and high quality speakers from central government, evolving Council/LEP partnerships, and academia. Topics covered included high speed rail and strategic roads.

It was clearly demonstrated that our overall national 'productivity', however measured, would be much improved, and become closer to our competitors in continental Europe, if we avoided returning to the road of lower density developments with higher car-dependency. The recent swings in policy in this area are causing further problems for the UK's economic performance and the quality of our natural and built environments.





The Future of Strategic Transport in the West Midlands 9th December 2015

This event took place in Birmingham, with over 100 transport professionals attending, some from much further afield than the local region. The speakers were Laura Shoaf (pictured), Strategic Director of Transport at the West Midland Integrated Transport Authority, and John Dales, TPS Chair.

Laura provided an insight into the future strategic direction for transport in the region in the context of the 'Movement for Growth' Strategic Transport Plan. The implications of the planned Combined Authority, both generally and for the region, were also discussed.

John presented his views on the role of transport planning nationally, and the opportunities and possible pitfalls of the moves towards increased transport devolution. (As a Geordie, he thinks the 'Northern Powerhouse' area stretches much too far south!)

The event was the last arranged by the outgoing TPS West Midlands Regional Rep, Christopher Blake of JMP. John thanked him for his work in the role, and Chris thanked everyone for supporting events over the past few years.

We had a record-breaking 92 teams take part in the 2016 edition of our now almost-legendary quiz. The questions were set by our sponsors, Integrated Transport Planning, and teams in London, Scotland, Leeds, Nottingham, Exeter, Manchester, Birmingham and Winchester battled to be crowned champions.

It was very close-run, with Manchester's "Mouchel Obama" beating Winchester's "Don't Mention the Wharf" on a tie-breaker.

The evening was a great success and with great hampers donated by TRACSIS as this year's top raffle prizes. The raffle itself raised £425 for Transaid, which aims to improve lives across Africa through creating better transport. Thanks to all who took part: we're now looking to make it the TPS International Pub Quiz next year!

Professional Development and Qualifications

2015/16 saw strong a expansion of our Professional Development Scheme (PDS), new work on implementing a transport apprenticeship scheme, and promotion and development of the Transport Planning Professional (TPP) qualification (awarded jointly with the CIHT). While the PDS is the industry standard in the private sector, TPS remains committed to extending this to the public sector. Therefore, we are pleased to welcome Transport for Greater Manchester and LB Hounslow to the scheme. Over 330 trainees are now following the PDS and, in parallel, we have expanded the training of mentors, with sessions in London, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh and Winchester. Over 200 mentors have now been trained, while the review process (supporting mentors and trainees through workplace visits) has been expanded to about 50 a year, talking to over 150 trainees.

While the recession interrupted the flow of trainees through the PDS, the scheme has now truly regained momentum. Two candidates, Rob Davies and Michael Koerber (pictured below receiving his certificate from our Chair), have now been awarded the first PDS Certificates of Completion and are moving on to preparing their applications for the TPP.



The TPP is the only professional qualification that identifies 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 Society's PDS are working towards the TPP.

The Society is constantly working to help PDS trainees through the scheme and is planning to co-ordinate all

of its existing activities, such as its annual bursaries, events and its Young Professionals programme, and to create new opportunities to broaden candidates' knowledge and experience.

Organisations with a PDS licence include:

- AECOM
- · Arcadis (formerly Hyder)
- Arup
- Atkins
- CH2M
- · Hampshire County Council
- · Highways England
- Integrated Transport Planning
- Jacobs
- JMP Consulting
- · Leicestershire County Council
- · London Borough of Hounslow
- Mayer Brown
- Mott MacDonald
- Mouchel
- Peter Brett Associates
- PFA Consulting
- SAJ Consultants
- Steer Davies Gleave
- Svstra
- Transport for Greater Manchester
- Transport for London
- Vectos
- WSP

The Society has also played a leading role in the development of a Transport Planning Technician Apprenticeship. This is designed to be compatible with both PDS and TPP and the Standard for the scheme was approved under the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' Trailblazer Programme in March 2015. The delivery and assessment models have been agreed and the first 40 apprentices will start in September 2016.

In 2016/17 the Society is launching an initiative in the Republic of Ireland, with a new national branch, to ensure that transport planners there have full access to both the PDS and TPP.

Managing the Society's Skills Work

In July 2015, Keith Buchan, a past TPS Chair with almost 40 years experience in transport planning in the public and private sectors, was appointed the Society's Director for Skills. Keith now leads a new Skills Team which consists of:

Keith Youngman as PDS Review Manager. Keith has been deeply involved with the PDS since its launch, and is co-author of the current PDS Guidance and PDS Review Process. He is supported by four regional PDS Reviewers.

Christine Crossley as PDS Operations Manager. As Atkins' Training Manager for Highways and Transportation, Christine has been deeply involved in the PDS since its launch and is another co-author of PDS Guidance.

The fourth member of the Skills Team is Andy Costain, the Society's 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:

- Promotion and increasing uptake of the Society's PDS
- the work involved in the PDS Review and support process
- continuing development and promotion of the TPP qualification
- the implementation of the transport planning technician apprenticeship
- provision of guidance and training across the UK and Republic of Ireland

The Society's work is also 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 Guidance Version 3, launched
- PDS Review Process, introduced 2014.
- Transport apprenticeship scheme, launched 2016.

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

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
- 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
- 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.