

# Transport Planning Society

9 December 2024

Dear Member,

## **Transport Planning Society Board of Directors Call for Nominations to the Board**

TPS provides support and leadership to the transport planning profession but its own leadership is provided by its Board of 15 elected Directors, including the Chair. All members of the Society are eligible for election as a Director and we urge you to consider joining the Board in the March 2025 elections.

The Board provides overall governance oversight of the TPS but Board members are also actively involved in the delivery of key activities, with Board members leading on designated workstreams. These are:

- Skills;
- Policy;
- Finance;
- Membership;
- Events;
- Communications;
- Regions and Nations;
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion;
- Corporate Partners;
- Public Sector Partners;
- Academic Partners

There will be four Board positions available in 2025. New Members will need to contribute to the Board once elected, taking responsibility for a discrete area either on their own or in partnership with another Board member. Changes to the Board means there will be opportunities to lead on Events, Corporate Partners and Public Sector Partners

The Board needs to reflect the views of all our diverse membership. We welcome you whether you work in the private sector, the public sector or academia. We welcome you whether you work in the UK or elsewhere. We welcome you whether you work for an SME or a larger organisation. We welcome you whether you are a

student, a Young Professional, in mid-career, in late-career or retired. The current Board embraces almost all of these. Whatever your position, you will bring your own perspective to the Board's work.

Being an active Board Member is a unique and rewarding experience. You can lead on activities that are essential to ensure the efficiency, sustainability and improvement of TPS itself. It puts you at the heart of the transport planning community. It gives you a new insight into what the Society is already doing and how it seeks to influence the transport agenda. It enables you to make many new contacts. And with Board support, it enables you to pursue any personal initiative you may have to improve the profession or the Society's offer to members.

In return, we ask for a 3-year commitment to being part of the Society's leadership (extendable to 6 years on re-election). We ask you to attend six Board meetings/annum which are a mix of online meetings and in person hybrid meetings in London (one external hybrid) and take responsibility for a discrete area of work. Board meetings are held on the first or second Thursday of the month in the afternoon. The dates for 2025 are 9 January, 6 March, 1 May, 10 July, 4 September and 6 November. We ask you to progress various actions between Board meetings. Input varies but most Board members contribute up to 15-20 hours of their time per month – so Board membership may require the support of your employer.

If you are in a position to do this, if you are motivated to contribute to the development of our profession and if you are enthusiastic about the role of the Transport Planning Society – then get yourself nominated for election in March.

Nominations should be supported by a proposer and three seconders. All candidates, proposers and seconders must be paid up individual members of the TPS. Please note, as the TPS is a Company Limited by Guarantee, all Board Members are required to be Company Directors. Should you require further information related to this please feel free to contact me at [company.secretary@tps.org.uk](mailto:company.secretary@tps.org.uk).

The link to the online nomination form has been provided to every member who has listed an email address on their MYICE record, along with a copy of this letter. Candidates must submit their completed nominations including a 150 word supporting statement by 5pm Thursday 30th January 2025. **Your supporting statement should include information about which areas of work you would be interested in taking responsibility for.**

Should we receive more nominations than spaces available on the Board a member ballot will be held with results announced at the AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Your first commitment will be to attend the next Board meeting on 1st May 2025.

Yours faithfully

Kieran Seale

Company Secretary  
Transport Planning Society

## **CASE STUDIES**

### **Jo Ward (previous Board member)**

As a transport planner working within the private sector, I was encouraged by my then managing director to stand for election to the Transport Planning Society Board almost five years ago and I am so glad that I did.

For me, the opportunity to work with likeminded professionals within the transport field has been a highlight. It helped me to widen my network and it has given me the opportunity to work with others to raise issues like the climate crisis and accessible transport to a wider audience.

It has given me a new focus and ambition and reminded me again as to why transport is a vocation for me rather than just a career. Serving on the TPS Board has provided many new opportunities for example regularly attending the All-Party Parliamentary Cycling and Walking Group and opportunities to speak on behalf of the society and its members.

Personally, I have had the pleasure of organising the society's bursary competition for the last three years and this has provided the opportunity for me to work with some of the brightest young minds of our profession. I can only recommend getting involved its challenged and expanded my horizons in the most positive ways.

### **Laura Putt (previous Board member)**

I was encouraged to stand for the TPS board four years ago whilst chatting after the January TPS lecture and drinks. It felt a big decision as quite a commitment to attend Board Meetings and contribute meaningfully to the Society but I am so pleased I decided to stand. As someone nearer the start of my career, it has offered me a chance to see the breadth of transport planning and understand the challenges and opportunity transport planners and planning faces across the country. It's given me an insight into Transport Planning as a profession, and the dedication and hard work that's gone into making it a recognised Chartered profession.

My employer (public sector) has been supportive of my being part of the Board and I have been able to feedback relevant information from events, publications and meetings. It has broadened my network and I enjoy working with a great group of people from a range of backgrounds, including the regional reps delivering events across the U.K. and Ireland. It's inspiring to see the various ways transport planners play a part in improving places and people's lives. In particular the Transport

Planning Day campaigns of the last 3 years have been excellent at promoting the value of the profession.

**Tim Morton (Board member from 2013 - 19)**

I joined the TPS Board on retirement and have enjoyed six very fulfilling years as a Board member. It has given me a great insight into the Society itself, what it stands for and how it operates. It has enabled me to connect with people at the leading edge of transport planning and key decision makers. I have been impressed by the Society's Skills Initiative and what that is doing for the profession. I will finish my Board term even more enthusiastic about the role of transport planning and the role of TPS than when I first joined.

Throughout, I have found my fellow Directors to be a committed, supportive and friendly group of people. On joining a long functioning Board, it took a while to clearly understand everything that was going on and the responsibilities of those involved but with the help of fellow Board members, things became clear. As in many organisations, the Board addresses many administrative and financial matters not visible to the ordinary member, but essential to the smooth running of the Society. I did my best to grasp it all by, for example, undergoing the PDS mentor training course.

I was allocated to one of the Board's sub-groups, the Policy Group. Within that, I volunteered to write responses on behalf of TPS to government consultations on transport policy matters, all part of TPS' efforts to raise its profile and influence government policy. I took over management of the annual Bursary competition and succeeded, I think, in raising awareness of the competition and its importance, while making sure that it operated in an efficient and timely manner each year. In addition, I have managed TPS' engagement at the annual Transport Practitioners' Meeting and the European Transport Conference, including reviewing and raising the standard of our publicity material, and managing our selection of the Best Paper by a Young Professional at TPM.

On joining the Board, I realised that the Society's representation in Ireland was at a low level and given my Irish roots, I embarked on my own initiative (with Board support) to raise the profile of the Society in Ireland, and thereby support the profession there. Over the next three years, membership tripled in Northern Ireland (admittedly from a low base) and I established an entirely new branch of the Society in the Republic of Ireland, with an enthusiastic Regional Representative and a thriving programme and membership. In addition, two of our last three Transport Professionals of the Year are from Ireland (one from the North, one from the South) so our profile in Ireland has risen considerably.

Following on from establishing our first branch outside the UK, I took on the role of Director for International Engagement with the aim of raising TPS' profile in the international transport planning community. There is scope for much more work in this area but I have made a start. There is no organisation comparable with TPS anywhere else that we can directly relate to, so international engagement will take a

variety of forms depending on circumstances. I have drafted arrangements for setting up a TPS Branch in another country and have created links between the Society and the transport planning profession in France through the Ecole National des Travaux Publics de l'Etat (ENTPE) within the University of Lyon and the leading transport planning school in France. I have been working with ENTPE to seek opportunities for student placements in the UK and have visited the University to present a lecture about Transport Planning in the UK and the TPS.

My membership of the TPS Board has been an illuminating experience, offering me contacts, friendships and experiences that I would never have had otherwise. At the same time, I have the satisfaction of having made my own contribution to the advancement of the Society and the profession and those are legacies that I am proud to leave behind.