

Chair's Report for 2010 - 2011

This report covers the year from the AGM in March 2010 to February 2011, corresponding to the tenure of your retiring committee.

Monthly Meetings

All our meetings have been held in the Arup Headquarters in Fitzroy Street, London. We are very grateful to Arup for making a room and refreshments available to us and to William Wingate, Guoxun Qi and Scott Clyne for their help with meeting organisation. During this period, the Group held nine meetings; not meeting in July, August and December.

Our meetings over the year have covered topics across the transport field, with a set of expert speakers:

- In March 2010, following the AGM, Richard Walker of the South East England Partnership Board gave a presentation on '*A strategic bus and coach network for the wider South East*';
- In April, John Disney from Nottingham Business School talked about '*The impact of concessionary fares on the public transport market*';
- In May, Lindsay Williams of the Department for Transport spoke on '*The evaluation of cycle schemes*';
- In June, the topic was '*The Nottingham Workplace Parking Levy*' by Jason Gooding of Nottingham City Council;
- In September, Bayo Dosunmu of the Olympics Delivery Authority and Andrew Hodgson of Atkins presented on '*Public transport forecasting for London 2012*';
- In October, we heard from Michael Hurwitz, Head of the Office of Low Emission Vehicles, and Dennis Morgan from the Department for Transport, on '*Low emission vehicles*';
- November's talk was from Tim Griffiths from the Office of Rail Regulation on '*The McNulty rail value for money study*';
- In January, Mark Weiner from HS2 Ltd spoke on '*Modelling and appraisal of HS2*';
- And finally, the February talk was from Jake Cartmell of the Department for Transport, Andrew Meaney from Oxera and William Wingate of Arup, speaking on '*Revisiting the elasticity-based framework for forecasting rail demand*'.

Average attendance at meetings over this period was 25, around the same as the last two years which had averages of 26 in 2009/10 and 22 in 2008/09. The number of attendees

ranged from 16 to 46, the most popular talk being the January presentation on HS2. Overall, one quarter of attendees were guests.

Seminar

On 4th March 2011 the TEG ran a special half-day seminar on '*Transport – the route to recovery?*' which debated whether we are using the right tools to understand the real interactions between transport and the economy. The seminar was chaired by Professor Roger Vickerman from the University of Kent and the four speakers were Alan Wenban-Smith (Urban & Regional Policy), Bridget Rosewell (Volterra), Dominic Walley (KPMG) and John Swanson (Steer Davies Gleave).

The seminar was attended by 50 participants – somewhat lower than the 70 attendees at the 2009 seminar. However, the seminar was very successful in terms of the quality of discussion: a vigorous level of debate was had during the afternoon, continuing into the tea break and after the formal session had ended.

It is the committee's intention to continue to hold special seminars such as this on a biennial basis in the future.

Publications

Peter Gordon has continued to edit the Transport Economists' Group Journal during 2010/11, with three issues published during the course of the year, reporting the monthly talks and discussions, and also containing a number of book reviews. The Journal is now published in full colour so that more graphics from speakers' presentations can be incorporated.

Speakers' presentations continue to be distributed to members by email after each meeting and we are grateful to our speakers for allowing us to distribute their presentations in this manner.

Membership and Finance

Our Treasurer and Membership Secretary will be making a separate finance report, which shows that the Group remains in a strong financial position.

Retiring Committee

As ever, thanks are due to all the Committee for all their hard work over the last year. My sincere thanks go to Dick Dunmore (Secretary and Webmaster), Gregory Marchant (Treasurer and Membership Secretary), Peter Gordon (Editor) and Laurie Baker (Vice-Chair), plus members without portfolio Jeremy Drew, Tom Worsley, Gerard Whelan and William Wingate.

Laurie Baker has indicated that he will stand down from the Committee at the end of the 2010/11 year. Laurie joined the Committee in 1991 when he became editor of the Journal, and after many years in that role became Chair of the group in 2007. All the Committee joins me in thanking Laurie for his 20 years of sterling service to the Transport Economists' Group and wishing him well in his retirement – although we hope to continue to see him at our regular meetings.

As reported by the Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Rebecca Graham, after much excellent work in administering the Group, has now handed over her role to Melanie Buchan. We thank Rebecca for all her work over recent years and welcome Melanie to her new role.

The Transport Economists' Group continues to play a valuable role in providing a forum for economists and others interested in transport. Our meetings keep members up-to-date with current developments in the transport and new approaches to economics, with expert presentations on a variety of topics. Members' contributions to debates provide for well-informed and lively discussions which we hope will continue.

Julie Mills

Chair

23rd March 2011