



## Chair's Report for 2014

This report covers the calendar year 2014, corresponding to the period covered by the finance report and accounts. During 2014 the Transport Economists' Group (TEG) provided a valuable forum for sharing, discussing and debating the latest research and ideas in transport economics, as it has done since its founding in 1973.

### Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings continue to be 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 Margot Finley for her support with meeting arrangements.

During 2014 the TEG held nine monthly meetings where experts spoke on a range of topics. Our speakers during 2014 provided a good balance between live transport issues (such as new airport capacity in the South East and alternatives to new railway lines), technical topics (transport appraisal methods) and policy questions (rail fares, open access).

- January: **Ian Yeowart**, Managing Director of Alliance Rail Holdings - *Open access rail services: policies, practicalities and prospects*;
- February: **Dick Dunmore** of Steer Davies Gleave - *The Airports Commission: issues and evidence*;
- March: **John Segal** - *Rail Fares Policy*;
- April: **Alice Crossley**, Transport Modelling Head of Profession at the Department for Transport - *WebTAG and uncertainty in transport modelling and appraisal*;
- May: **Tom Worsley** of the University of Leeds - *International comparisons of transport appraisal practice*;
- June: **David Simmonds** of David Simmonds Consultancy Ltd. - *Developing LUTI models to incorporate the effect of transport schemes on jobs and GVA*;
- September: **Chris Stokes** of First Class Partnerships - *Getting the most out of the existing rail network*;
- October: **Richard Davies** - *Rail Finance: the story of the past 25 years*;
- November: **Dick Dunmore** of Steer Davies Gleave - *Creating rail open access across continents*;

Average attendance at meetings during 2014 was 31, up slightly on 2013 (30) but consistent with 2012 (31). The best-attended meeting was in September, with 45 attendees. Over the year the number of attendees ranged from 18 to 45.

### Other Events

In January we hosted a reception at the Jeremy Bentham pub to celebrate 40 years of the TEG. This event was a great success, with over 40 people enjoying the opportunity it provided for relaxed conversation and reminiscence over food and drink. Hopefully it will not be necessary to wait until the 50th anniversary of the TEG to hold another event like this!

In November TEG supported the Transport Statistics User Group (TSUG) in hosting a seminar on the topic of *Changing Factors that Affect Transport Demand*. This event was well-attended, including by a number of TEG members.

## **Publications**

*The Transport Economist*, journal of the TEG, continued to be edited by Committee member Peter Gordon. Two editions of the journal were published during 2014, containing reports of the monthly TEG meetings as well as reviews of books of interest to transport economists.

As has been our convention for some time, copies of the slides used by speakers during their presentations were circulated by email to members after each meeting. We are grateful to our speakers for allowing us to share their material with members in this way.

## **Membership and Finance**

Our Treasurer and Membership Secretary has written a separate finance report, which shows that the Group is in a strong financial position and membership numbers are good.

## **Publicity**

the Committee continues to make efforts to publicise the TEG and our events, using:

- Our website ([www.transecongroup.org](http://www.transecongroup.org)) which is updated each month with details of forthcoming talks;
- Monthly emails to members advising of the next talk and the forward programme. This is an effective marketing tool as many members forward this email on to other people in their networks, resulting in a wide distribution beyond the membership;
- A flyer for each talk sent out with the monthly email, intended to be suitable for posting on office notice boards;
- A Twitter account (@TransEconGroup) which is used to alert followers of forthcoming talks - this now has 586 followers;
- A LinkedIn group for TEG used for discussions and for notices on the monthly talks - this now has 586 members.

## **Committee**

All members of the Committee have made significant contributions to the running of the TEG during 2014. Many thanks must go to Dick Dunmore (Secretary and Webmaster), Gregory Marchant (Treasurer and Membership Secretary) and Peter Gordon (Editor of *The Transport Economist*) for the important responsibilities they have each taken on to manage the ongoing activities of the TEG. Sincere thanks also go to the Committee members without portfolio, Tom Worsley, Gerard Whelan, Margot Finley and David Spurling, who have provided good suggestions for speakers and have also variously convened the monthly meetings or written reports for the journal. David Spurling joined the Committee in March 2014 and I look forward to serving alongside him in the future.

I would also like to thank Melanie Buchan for her excellent work as our Group Administrator.

The purpose of the Transport Economists' Group is to provide a forum for economists and others interested in transport to meet regularly, discuss topical subjects and keep up-to-date with current developments in transport economics. Expert presentations on various topics are enhanced by the lively debate and discussion that invariably follows. It is only thanks to this contribution from our members that TEG is such a valuable place for the exchange of ideas. With the support of the membership I am certain that the TEG will continue to play this important role in 2015 and beyond.

*Scott Clyne*

*Chair*

*15 March 2015*