

## Chair's Report for 2016

This report covers the calendar year 2016, corresponding to the period covered by the finance report and accounts. During 2016 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 Arup headquarters in Fitzroy Street, London. We are very grateful to Arup for making a room and refreshments available to us and for their support with meeting arrangements.

During 2016 the TEG held nine monthly meetings where experts spoke on a range of topics.

- January – **David Hunt**, ORR. *Building the Highways Monitor*.
- February – **Andrew Meaney**, Oxera. *Economic Evaluation of High Speed 1*.
- March – **Richard Batley**, ITS Leeds. *Provision of market research for values of travel time savings and reliability*.
- April – **Ian Palmer**, Transport for Greater Manchester. *The Northern Transport Strategy and the role of Transport for the North*.
- May – **Dick Dunmore**, Steer Davies Gleave. *The practicalities of scarcity charging for rail infrastructure capacity*.
- June – **Peter White**, University of Westminster. *Options for the local bus industry, in the light of the Bus Services Bill*.
- September – **Jeremy Drewe**. *Rail infrastructure tariffs to promote private investment – the case of Mongolia*.
- October – **Chris Campbell**, Department for Transport. *Wider Economics Benefits guidance update*.
- November – **Chris Morris**, Flight Ascend. *Appraising aircraft value and valuations*.

We were fortunate to have an excellent group of speakers in 2016 which attracted strong attendance averaging 28, ranging from 22 to 44. We are very grateful to the speakers for coming to present to us.

### Members

It was great to see some new faces this year at the monthly meetings alongside our usual passionate coterie of long term members. The membership brings TEG to life and the meetings are energised by the enthusiasm and passion of those who attend and contribute to the discussion.

### Publications

*The Transport Economist*, journal of the TEG, continued to be edited by Committee member Peter Gordon. Three editions of the journal were published for 2016, 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 that membership numbers are being maintained.

During the year, the committee discussed what could be done with the surplus funds we have, and we considered options such as a student bursary, holding a conference or a change in membership fees. No decisions were reached and we are open to suggestions from the membership.

## **Publicity**

The Committee continues to make efforts to publicise the TEG and our events, using the following means.

- 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.

Note that we have been inactive on our Twitter and LinkedIn accounts this year as we have not had a member willing to take on this responsibility.

## **Committee**

All members of the Committee made significant contributions to the running of the TEG during 2016. Their dedication and continued commitment to the TEG and the transport economics profession over many years makes it an enjoyable committee to be a member of. As a relatively recent joiner of TEG and the committee, it's encouraging to be in the company of such a passionate group.

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. Tom Worsley, a committee member without portfolio, also continues to make a particularly valuable contribution to the committee suggesting speakers and providing other insights and guidance.

We are very grateful to Melanie Buchan for her excellent work as our Group Administrator. Much of the work that keeps TEG running happens 'behind the scenes' which our members do not always have sight of. The contribution of volunteers like Melanie, and of committee members, makes TEG possible.

## **In conclusion...**

In conclusion, 2016 was a great year for the TEG with great speakers, a great venue, a great committee and an enthusiastic membership. I have no doubt that 2017 will be also be a great year.

*Margot Finley, 6 March 2017*