

Chair's Report for 2017

This report covers the calendar year 2017, corresponding to the period covered by the Finance Report and accounts. During 2017 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 2017 the TEG held nine monthly meetings where experts spoke on a range of topics:

- January – **Danail Popov**, Frontier Economics. *Strengthening the links between transport appraisal and evaluation.*
- February – **Lynne Miles**, Arup. *Crossrail 1 Baseline Evaluation.*
- March – **Margot Finley**, Arup. *The use of the demand cap in appraisal.*
- April – **Mark Curran**, Transport for London. *Implementing London's Night Tube.*
- May – **Andrew Smith and Phill Wheat**, ITS Leeds. *Econometric evidence on vertical integration and the size and structure of rail franchises: What can we learn?*
- June – **Julian Ware**, Transport for London. *Land value capture.*
- September – **Janice Morphet**, Visiting Professor at the Bartlett School of Planning, UCL. *Brexit: implications for transport in the UK.*
- October – **Andrew Last**, Minnerva Limited. *Concessionary Bus Travel for Older and Disabled People.*
- November – **Dick Dunmore**, Steer Davies Gleave. *The economics and prospects of Europe's night trains.*

We were fortunate to have an excellent group of speakers in 2017 which attracted strong attendance averaging 30, ranging from 18 to 41. 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 2017, 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.

Publicity

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

- Our website (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.

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

As in 2016, all members of the Committee made significant contributions to the running of the TEG during 2017. 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.

We were saddened to hear of the death of David Spurling this year who had been a Member since TEG's early days, and since joining the Committee in 2014 had helped with many ideas and suggestions for future talks. We offered our condolences to his family on behalf of TEG.

In conclusion...

In conclusion, 2017 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 2018 will be also be a great year.

Margot Finley, 12 March 2018