

## Chair's Report for 2018

This report covers the calendar year 2018, corresponding to the period covered by the finance report and accounts. During 2018 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 2018 the TEG held nine monthly meetings where experts spoke on a range of topics.

- January – **John Galilee** and **Keith MacKenzie**, Transport Scotland. *Evaluating rail – the development and piloting of guidance to evaluate new infrastructure projects.*
- February – **Helen Bowkett**, Arcadis. *Agent-based modelling.*
- March – **Phil Goodwin**, UCL & UWE and **Gordon Stokes**, TSU Oxford. *Young People's Travel, past, present and future.*
- April – **Fitsum Teklu**, SYSTRA. *Updating the rail Passenger Demand Forecasting Handbook.*
- May – **Tom Worsley**, ITS Leeds. *The evolution of transport cost-benefit analysis: how we got to where we are.*
- June – **Peter Jones** and **Paulo Ancaes**, UCL. *The valuation of community severance caused by busy roads.*
- September – **Dick Dunmore**, Steer. *The Kangaroo route – observations after a million miles.*
- October – **Helen Bowkett**, Arcadis and **Andrew Price**, Jacobs. *The economics of the Lower Thames Crossing.*
- November – **Margot Finley**, Arup. *Programmatic Appraisal.*

We were fortunate to have an excellent group of speakers in 2018 which attracted strong attendance averaging 29, ranging from 18 to 50. We are very grateful to the speakers for coming to present to us.

### Members

It was great to see another year of energy and enthusiasm for transport economics from TEG's members. The engagement of members in the meetings, and in particular the discussion session after presentations, makes TEG an enjoyable and stimulating group to be a part of.

### 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 2018, 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.transecngroup.org](http://www.transecngroup.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 2017, all members of the Committee made significant contributions to the running of the TEG during 2018. 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. Newer committee members Carol Smales and Tim Gent added new perspectives and energy to the committee and their ideas and contributions were gratefully received.

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, 2018 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 2019 will also be a great year.

*Margot Finley, 6 February 2019*