

Chair's Report for 2019

This report covers the calendar year 2019, corresponding to the period covered by the finance report and accounts. During 2019 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 2019 the TEG held nine monthly meetings where experts spoke on a range of topics.

- January – **James Gillingham**, Cambridge Economic Policy Associates. *Highways England's ring-fenced funds.*
- February – **Greg Marsden**, Institute for Transport Studies, Leeds. *All change? Do shifts in travel demand trends matter to transport economics?*
- March – **Glenn Lyons**, University of the West of England. *The many assumptions about self-driving cars – where are we heading and who is in the driving seat?*
- April – **John Segal** and **Jenny Taylor**, Systra. *Evaluation of the 26-30 Railcard pilot.*
- May – **Professor Helen Simpson**, University of Bristol. *The economic impacts of HS1 in Kent.*
- June – **Ivan Viehoff**, CEPA. *Alternative institutional structures for airports.*
- September – **Seyram Kumapley**, Transport for London. *The business case for the West London Orbital rail scheme.*
- October – **David Starkie**, Case Associates. *Investment and growth: the impact of Britain's post-war trunk roads programme.*
- November – **Dick Dunmore**, Steer. *Monitoring the European rail market.*

We were fortunate to have an excellent group of speakers in 2019 which attracted strong attendance averaging 20, ranging from 12 to 35. 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 2019, 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 2018, all members of the Committee made significant contributions to the running of the TEG during 2019. 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 Adriana Moreno Pelayo and Iris Ning added new perspectives and energy to the committee and their ideas and contributions were gratefully received.

Many thanks must go to Gregory Marchant (Treasurer and Membership Secretary), Dick Dunmore (Secretary and Webmaster) 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, 2019 was a great year for the TEG with great speakers, a great venue, a great committee and an enthusiastic membership.

Tali Diamant, acting Chair, 2 November 2020