

Chair's Report for 2023

This report covers the calendar year 2023, corresponding to the period covered by the finance report and accounts. During 2023 the Transport Economists' Group (TEG) continued to share, discuss and debate the latest research and ideas in transport economics with a wide array of fascinating topics including meta evaluation of Local Major schemes; the evaluation of e-scooter trials, the benefit framework of the Elizabeth line; digital exclusion in London; developing electric vehicle networks in the UK; updates to GJT elasticities and the economic appraisal of the Thamesmead public transport programme. Our programme engaged a wide range of global participants and encouraged thoughtful debate, we are grateful to our presenters and the organising committee.

During 2023 most our meetings were online, but we do enjoy meeting in person and as a group hope to do so more often, at least once a quarter in 2024. In-person meetings allow us to network and socialise together although we recognise that online meetings allow more attendants from outside of London to participate and the overall preference seems to be for online provision. We have found that a hybrid approach (live meetings with facilities to dial in) unfortunately do not work well.

Attendance at meetings stabilised at an average of about 20 members.

Monthly Meetings

We were fortunate to have an excellent group of speakers in 2023, not least our very own Adriana Moreno Pelayo, and we're grateful for their fascinating presentations. The TEG held nine monthly meetings where experts spoke on a range of topics:

- January: Joint meeting with DfT, TFL and Arup: The Elizabeth line's benefit framework and the line's impact on London
- February: Gary Oakes presented on Meta-evaluation of Local Major Schemes
- March: Adriana Moreno Pelayo presented on the national evaluation of e-scooter trials
- May: Menno Yap and Howard Wong presented on updates to GJT elasticities and value of time weightings
- June: Alex Smith presented on Digital exclusion in transport
- October: Aditya Khandekar presented on developing electric vehicle charging networks in the UK
- November: Jake Billington and David Christie presented on the approach to appraising the Thamesmead Public Transport Programme

Members engaged enthusiastically and challenged constructively with these topics.

Publications

The Transport Economist, journal of the TEG, continued to be superbly edited by Committee member Peter Gordon. Three editions of the journal were published for 2023 (Volume 50 – Number 1 to 3).

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.
- Linked-In alerts to upcoming meetings

Committee

In 2023 we welcomed two new committee members: John Collins and Iven Stead, we are delighted that you have joined. All members of the Committee make significant contributions to the running of the TEG and we are most grateful to their continued involvement. Thank you to Dick Dunmore who continues to serve as Secretary and Webmaster. Thank you to Peter Gordon, Editor of The Transport Economist; to Gregory Marchant, Treasurer and Membership Secretary who has kept our accounts in order and to Adriana Moreno Pelayo, instrumental in hosting our virtual meetings. Thank you also to Julian Ware for auditing our accounts. Thank you to all the committee!

We are very grateful to Melanie Buchan for her excellent work as our Group Administrator, thank you! 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.

And let's not forget our members who continue to present and engage us with stimulating and thought-provoking topics and conversations and questions at each TEG meeting, thank you and I here's to an engaging and captivating 2024!

Tali Diamant, Chair, 6 March 2024