



INDEPENDENT TRANSPORT COMMISSION

the independent research voice in transport and land use policy

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MEDIA RELEASE

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ITC CALLS FOR BETTER CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN TRANSPORT

With the winter season upon us, the Independent Transport Commission (ITC) has released a new Occasional Paper looking at better means of coping with crisis events such as freak weather. Our Transport systems are safer now than ever before, but after a couple of years that have seen heavy rain, snowfall, volcanic ash, strikes and accidents disrupt our systems, the ITC paper argues that further measures can help us better prepare for crises.

Three key recommendations are made. First, the ITC paper argues that increasing problems with capacity shortages on our public transport systems will make the effects of crises worse. Second, better communication with the public will assist in managing expectations and will help us become more resilient. Third, the paper argues that the Civil Contingencies Act is struggling to achieve its aims. Operators, insurers, unions and network providers all need to work together more closely if the problems associated with past crises are to be avoided.

Simon Linnett, Chairman of the ITC, explained: *“This important paper is designed to offer some pointers on how transport can better plan for future crisis events. We need to be aware of the impact good communication and greater capacity can have in mitigating the effects of transport crises. The Volcanic Ash crisis, for example, was worsened by contrasting information from various sources which confused the public. A pre-planned communication strategy involving all the key players would have helped here.”*

In the paper the Commission calls for better cost-estimates of crisis outcomes and more research on the risk of various crises so that policy makers are aware of the unintended consequences of their decisions.

The paper follows a special ITC debate hosted earlier in the year with Andrew Haines, Chief Executive of the Civil Aviation Authority, Dr David Quarmby CBE, author of the Government’s Winter Resilience Review, and Rosanna Briggs of the National Steering Committee on Warning and Informing the public. To learn more about the work of the ITC or to view a copy of the Occasional Paper, please visit www.theitc.org.uk.

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Notes for Editors

For further information please contact the ITC Secretary Dr Matthew Niblett on mobile 078 1317 4582, email matthew.niblett@keble.oxon.org .

1. The ITC Occasional Paper is available in electronic copy and will be on the Commission's website from 14 December 2011. It was authored by a number of ITC Commissioners.
2. The ITC Occasional Paper series is designed to raise key issues and generate debate; they are short think pieces and not research reports.
3. The ITC Paper was derived from a Discussion Evening held on 17 January 2011. The Commission holds its expert 'Forward Thinking' Discussion Evenings quarterly at the Alan Baxter Gallery in Farringdon, London.
4. The ITC, founded in 1999, is Britain's leading independent think tank investigating issues in planning, transport and land use. It has 14 unpaid Members, a small Secretariat and connections with the University of Oxford. Simon Linnett, executive Vice-Chairman of Rothschild is the current ITC Chairman. The Commission's current core funders are Go-Ahead Group, Firstgroup and Stagecoach Group.

Members of the ITC:

Alan Baxter CBE, Kristine Beuret OBE, Mary Bonar, John Dawson, Elizabeth Gilliard, Nicholas Finney OBE, Dr Stephen Hickey, Nigel Hugill, Sarah Kendall, Professor Peter Jones, Simon Linnett (Chairman), Dr Gregory Marsden, Steven Norris, and Professor John Worthington.

The Patrons of the ITC include Lord Adonis, Sir Patrick Brown, Sir Terry Farrell and Professor Sir Peter Hall.

