

ITC NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2014

RESEARCH UPDATE

Improving the Efficiency of Freight Movements: the contribution to UK economic growth

The ITC has released an interim report from its freight and logistics research work stream. The report, which reviews the efficiency of freight movements and their contribution to UK economic growth, was launched at our summer discussion evening in July and is receiving widespread coverage in the trade press.

The report identifies several important challenges facing the sector, including the need to reduce empty container movements, the impact of container shipping and port-centric distribution trends, and the potential for developing better urban freight distribution networks. This stage of the research has focused on reviewing existing evidence, and the research team led by Nick Gazzard has covered more than 200 papers and articles, and conducted a series of interviews and meetings with leading operators, academics, policymakers and logistics suppliers. The research found that the global and UK logistics industries are undergoing rapid and significant change due to an increase in online shopping and re-shoring, which is having an effect on fleet size and configuration as well as logistics costs. The report makes clear that the UK freight and logistics sector is of considerable importance to the UK economy but there is a need for much more detailed and commonly agreed statistical measurements in order to measure trends accurately.

A number of important recommendations for further work are proposed, including bringing key stakeholders together to discuss the statistical challenges uncovered, as well as the commissioning of case studies to explore potential solutions to the challenges identified.

Paying for Roads and Road Use: Attitudinal research technical report

The ITC has completed its attitudinal research work investigating public attitudes towards reform of how we pay for roads and road use. The research was made possible through a generous grant from the Rees Jeffreys Road Fund, and employed a wide range of consultation methods to determine what the public really think about roads reform.



The research comprised discussion groups, an electronic panel survey, and a series of citizens panels, with more than 2200 participants from across the UK. The findings show that citizens are willing to consider new forms of paying for road use when properly informed, and that fairness issues are a great concern if reforms are to be widely welcomed.

The results were presented at a special dinner with Lord Bradshaw and many of our supporters in early July, and we will now be consulting widely with political leaders and civil servants. Once this consultation process has been concluded the ITC will publish the policy implications arising from this work.

The Spatial Effects of High Speed Rail: Learning from Europe

The ITC has continued its research work into learning from European experience about the impacts of High Speed Rail on cities and regions. In the spring a summary paper was compiled, entitled 'Capturing the Value of High Speed Rail – Learning from Europe' sharing insights gained from the Lille symposium and transferring valuable lessons to the UK situation. The ITC's research was widely referenced in Lord Deighton's recent Growth Task Force report entitled *High Speed 2: Get Ready*.



Over the summer the ITC is running a series of three expert workshops on the quality of place (hosted by Space Syntax), capturing value (hosted by British Land), and governance and delivery (hosted by Arup). Additionally, with support from the DfT we are taking select leaders from UK cities on a series of additional study visits to Lyon/Avignon, Paris, and Antwerp/Liege to explore the lessons for the UK regions. The feedback and information gathered from this phase of the study will be compiled into a major report on lessons that the UK can learn from Europe on how best to capture the value from investment in major rail infrastructure. This report is expected to be released at a major symposium in November 2014 to which all our supporters will be invited.

For more information on recent ITC research and events please see our website: www.theitc.org.uk

To request extra copies of ITC reports please email: secretary@theitc.org.uk

ITC EVENTS

8TH APRIL DISCUSSION EVENING

How can we improve skills and education in UK transport?

The quality of skills, education and training is a critical issue facing any industry, including transport. On the 8th April 2014 the ITC hosted a discussion evening to explore the question of how to improve education and skills in the transport and land use sectors. In particular, the discussion was designed to investigate the quality of skills provision and how a career in transport could be made attractive for the brightest and best young people.



The evening was held at the Alan Baxter Gallery and discussion was chaired by Kris Beuret OBE, an ITC Commissioner and Director of Social Research Associates. The subject was introduced via presentations from an expert panel comprising: Keith Mitchell, Chairman of Peter Brett Associates; Dr Tony Whiteing, Head of Education at the ITS, Leeds University; Paul Nowak, Assistant General Secretary of TUC; and Martin Richards OBE, from the Transport Planning Society.

A wide range of important issues were raised. These included the need to identify different skills and training needs across the industry, as well as concerns that redundancies during the recession had resulted in a shortage of skilled people at a time when major infrastructure investment was increasing. Delegates noted that Universities, schools and employers all have a role in addressing skills needs. Many pointed out that there was a recruitment problem in some areas of transport, and stressed the importance of making transport more attractive in schools, especially at an early stage before A-level choices were made. Additionally, many argued that those in the transport sector needed to be positive advocates for the industry. Delivering transport is critical to our everyday lives, and people want to feel that their work is valuable, so if those in the industry can enthusiastically share the story of transport this can increase interest in careers. Finally, there were strong calls for local authorities and Government to recognize the value of transport for the economy, and to understand that they have a key role in skills formation.

3RD JULY 2014 THE SECOND ITC ANNUAL LECTURE

What are the fundamental motivations that drive human movement?

The second ITC Annual Lecture took place on 3 July 2014 at the Sky Pavilion at Rothschild with great views across the City of London. Following an introduction by the ITC Chairman Simon Linnett, guests listened to fascinating presentations by Charles Pasternak, Founder of the Oxford International Biomedical Centre, and also from author and design critic Stephen Bayley. A vote of thanks was kindly given by Philip Rutnam: the Permanent Secretary at the Department for Transport.



The lecture explored the fundamental motivations behind human travel, with Professor Pasternak explaining the biological developments that had made us a mobile species, including a natural proclivity towards curiosity and adaptability. More than 100 senior figures attended the Lecture and a video of the event will be posted on the ITC website.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

21ST October: ITC Discussion Evening on Transport and Behaviour

6:15 to 9:00pm at the Alan Baxter Gallery, London

Our Autumn discussion evening will explore what transport can learn from behavioural psychology, and how this can be used to create improved transport design and systems. ITC Commissioners Kris Beuret OBE and John Dawson will lead discussion, and guest speakers will include expert Crawford Hollingworth.

9TH December: Annual Dinner for ITC Core Benefactors

7:00 to 10:30pm at the House of Lords, Westminster

We are delighted to announce that our 2014 Annual Dinner for Core Benefactors will again this year be hosted by our distinguished Patron **Lord Adonis** in the magnificent surroundings of the House of Lords. This will be an opportunity for us to thank our Core Supporters and Patrons as well as to review achievements.

All our core subscribers have places reserved for them at these events; for enquiries please email Lucy Kilborn, ITC Events Secretary, at itc.events@outlook.com