

ITC NEWSLETTER

WINTER/SPRING 2014

RESEARCH UPDATE

The Spatial Effects of High Speed Rail: Lille Symposium

The ITC has launched the next phase of our project on the spatial effects of High Speed Rail. This phase is exploring lessons from international experience, and has begun with a Symposium held in Lille, France, from 4 to 6 February. Delegates included David Prout, the Director-General of High Speed 2 at the Department for Transport and representatives from major cities across the UK.



The Symposium included a day of field excursions to learn about how High Speed Rail had changed cities and city-regions in France and the Netherlands. One group was hosted by SNCF in Paris and explored how improved High Speed Rail connectivity had regenerated suburban regions such as Massy. The second group visited the Netherlands, and learned how rail connectivity had assisted urban development in Rotterdam and Utrecht. A visit was also made to Schiphol Airport to examine how the airport had become a new business centre as a result of its excellent rail links. On the second day delegates learned about the success of redevelopment schemes in Lille and Bordeaux associated with new High Speed Rail connections. A summary report from the Symposium is being prepared and will be released in early March.

Aviation: the optimal size of a UK hub

The ITC has continued its series of research papers on aviation issues by commissioning a study looking at the optimal size of a UK hub airport. The research, undertaken by independent consultant Peter Hind and RDC Aviation, has used a wide range of data sources to explore the future viability of aviation business models and to see how large a UK hub airport might need to be in order to sustain good long-haul connectivity.

The research evidence gathered indicated that for the foreseeable future long-haul aviation remains likely to rely heavily on the hub-and-spoke business model. It is



therefore likely that a hub airport will best serve the UK's long-haul connectivity needs. The data used in the research showed that more UK-origin transfer passengers were already using Schiphol and Paris Charles de Gaulle hub airports rather than Heathrow, which now served fewer destinations than in 2005. As a result, the researchers suggested that the evidence supported the conclusions of the Airports Commission led by Sir Howard Davies, which proposed that an additional runway was needed promptly in the South-East.

The research also noted that in response to the provision of additional capacity airlines might seek to recover lost UK transfer traffic first and grow routes to mature markets only later. However, without a larger UK hub airport, routes are likely to continue to fall to a narrower range of lower-risk profitable destinations. The report concluded that the Airports Commission should consider further expansion at a UK hub if demand continued to rise. The ITC is continuing its work in this area by exploring the surface connectivity issues associated with each of the options outlined in the Airports Commission's interim report.

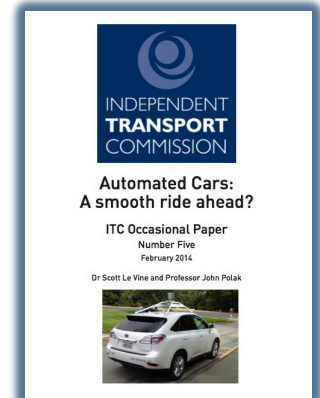
Automated Cars Occasional Paper

We are pleased to announce the release of a new paper in the ITC's Occasional Paper series. This series of short papers explores emerging issues in transport and land use, usually with a focus on subjects outside the major research projects the ITC has commissioned. The new paper, by Imperial College scholar Dr Scott Le Vine, examines the policy implications of automated cars.

Dr Le Vine argues that vehicle automation is already developing rapidly, and that Government departments must act to provide appropriate regulation. He suggests that policy makers will need to provide an appropriate balance between supporting private-sector innovation and protecting public welfare. The paper notes that the impacts of automation in cars will be both positive and negative, and that we should be prepared to anticipate a new framework for our roads, including the international standardisation of road signage and design. Dr Le Vine concludes the paper by noting that technological developments will inevitably outpace regulation and, although we can expect many advantages from automated cars, we cannot expect perfection.

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

22ND OCTOBER DISCUSSION EVENING

Rural Transport: How can we improve provision and accessibility?

Transport is essential for the sustainability of the UK's rural communities, providing connectivity for many residents to their key services, employment and families. At the same time, rural transport services has been declining since 2007 according to DfT figures, and many operators struggle to make routes financially viable. With many local services under threat from cutbacks and austerity measures, how can we ensure that rural transport in the future is accessible, affordable and more widely available? To debate these issues, an evening of discussion and debate was held at the Alan Baxter Gallery on 22nd October 2013 with a selected audience of experts.



The evening was chaired by Dr Stephen Hickey, an ITC Commissioner and Chairman of the Community Transport Association (CTA). To introduce the debate, the audience listened to presentations from a distinguished panel. John Birtwistle, Projects Director at FirstGroup explained the challenges faced by commercial operators of rural services; Bill Freeman, Chief Executive of the CTA explored the role of the charitable and voluntary sector in rural transport provision; and Peter Warman, Director of WarmanConsult focused on the future of rural transport and measures through which rural transport provision might be improved.

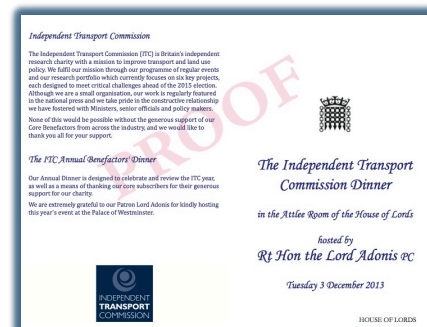
Key issues raised through the discussion included the need for local communities to play a greater role in bringing transport users together, and for strong leadership from local authorities in setting local transport strategies. It was also suggested that demographic trends were changing rural transport needs and behaviour. To improve provision it was suggested that legislative and regulatory improvements could help, such as allowing small bus permit operators to access the concessionary fare scheme. Other guests pointed to successful rural transport initiatives such as Liftshare and Wheels to Work as ways of matching transport with employment needs. Finally, it was suggested that technology and social innovation could help to provide new tools for demand-sensitive rural transport.

ANNUAL DINNER FOR CORE BENEFACTORS

3 December, House of Lords, hosted by The Rt Hon Lord Andrew Adonis

The ITC was delighted to welcome our core benefactors to the ITC Annual Dinner held on 3rd December. This year the event took place in the magnificent surroundings of the Attlee Room at the House of Lords, kindly hosted by Lord Adonis, ITC Patron and former Secretary of State for Transport.

Lord Adonis gave an inspiring welcome address, noting the importance of transport for regenerating the UK economy, and calling for a holistic understanding of how to plan our transport infrastructure. Guests, including all our core benefactors and Patrons, listened to a review of the year from the ITC Chairman as well as an update on the ITC's research programme. Following a discussion on the key transport challenges ahead, the valedictory vote of thanks was given by ITC Patron Sir Patrick Brown.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

11th February: ITC Discussion Evening on 'The Last Mile' of journeys 6:15 to 9:00pm at the Alan Baxter Gallery, London

Our Winter discussion evening will explore how we can improve the first and last miles of our journey. The evening will be chaired by Steve Norris, ITC Commissioner and former Transport Minister, and confirmed guest speakers include Phil Couchman (CEO of DHL UK), Ben Plowden, Anna Rose and Dr Alice Maynard.

8th April: ITC Discussion Evening on Education and Skills in Transport 6:15 to 9:00pm at the Alan Baxter Gallery, London

The ITC Spring Discussion Evening will look at how we can improve education and skills in the transport sector. Confirmed speakers include Dr Tony Whiteing, Martin Richards, Keith Mitchell and Paul Nowak. As usual a light supper will be provided after the event.

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