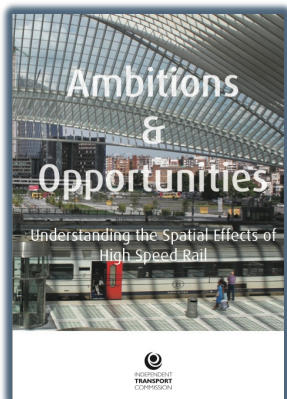


## ITC NEWSLETTER

## WINTER/SPRING 2015

### RESEARCH UPDATE

#### The Spatial Effects of High Speed Rail: Ambitions and Opportunities



The ITC released in late November a new report exploring the spatial effects of High Speed Rail (HSR), entitled *Ambitions and Opportunities*. The report was launched at a special event kindly hosted at King's Cross by Argent Group, and keynote speeches were given by The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, the Secretary of State for Transport; Sir Albert Bore, Leader of Birmingham City Council; and André Delpont, strategic adviser to the Bordeaux Euratlantique redevelopment project. Following the keynote speeches a symposium was held to discuss the way forward, and the report was featured in the local and national press.

The ITC report examines past experience of planning for HSR connectivity in various European countries as well as through the UK's High Speed One scheme. It identifies where the impacts of HSR have led to urban renewal, and provides lessons and recommendations for the UK's cities and regions. The ITC will now be commissioning a new phase of the project during 2015, involving a series of workshops in the main English city-regions, and leading to a set of tailored reports that will identify initiatives that can be implemented early to capture the benefits from HSR investment.

#### Delivering improved airport capacity

The ITC has continued its series of research papers on aviation issues by commissioning a study looking at the commercial and financing aspects of the Airports Commission's shortlisted options for airport expansion. The research, undertaken by independent consultant Peter Hind and RDC Aviation, uses a wide range of sources to explore the challenges faced by the various schemes.

The report confirms that the aviation industry's prime business models, hub and spoke and lower cost point-to-point, have both developed strongly globally in the past two decades and are both likely to flourish in the future



serving different markets. The researchers suggest that UK connectivity requires both systems. In addition, the report explores cost and pricing issues for airlines and investors. The authors indicate that all the shortlisted schemes would require substantial new capital investment and lead to significantly higher charges. This will pose different challenges for each scheme, and the report calls on the Airports Commission to investigate these issues thoroughly because they will determine which options are more or less deliverable.

The research also indicates that noise and environmental challenges should not be insurmountable obstacles to runway expansion in any of the schemes, given the marked improvements in aircraft technology and the opportunities to improve flight paths, access heights, and noise mitigation measures. The report has been submitted to the Airports Commission as part of the ITC's response to their recent consultation, and we will be undertaking further research before the Commission releases its final report in the summer.

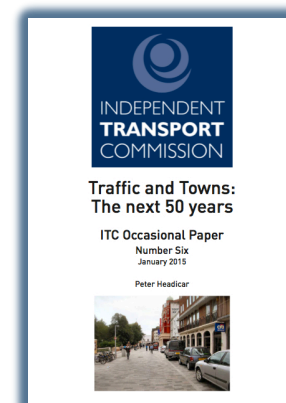
#### Traffic and Towns Occasional Paper

The ITC has launched a new paper in our Occasional Paper series. This series of short policy papers explores emerging issues in transport and land use, usually with a focus on subjects outside the major research projects that the ITC has commissioned. The new paper, by ITC Commissioner and Oxford Brookes University academic Peter Headicar reflects on the seminal Buchanan report and the prospects for traffic in our towns and cities over the next fifty years.

Peter Headicar argues that many of Colin Buchanan's predictions have come to pass, but also identifies major changes that we are now experiencing in terms of population growth, settlement patterns and travel trends, all of which will have major effects on how we plan for traffic in our towns in the future. The paper offers a number of recommendations that policy makers would do well to heed, and it calls for a much more effective integration of local land use and transport policies. The ITC will be continuing to explore these themes through our Annual Lecture and also through our ongoing research project investigating road and rail travel trends, which will report in the summer.

For more information on recent ITC research and events please see our website: [www.theitc.org.uk](http://www.theitc.org.uk)

To request extra copies of ITC reports please email: [secretary@theitc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@theitc.org.uk)



## ITC EVENTS

### 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY ITC WINTER DISCUSSION EVENING

#### What are the transport implications of greater devolution to the English cities and regions?

The devolution of powers to our cities and city-regions is an issue that has been rising up the political agenda. Most European cities already enjoy greater powers than their counterparts in Britain, and have used these powers to improve their local transport networks. However, in England we have a range of different local government structures, such as the GLA, the Combined Authorities and other City and County Councils. As devolution gathers pace we should identify which solutions are desirable and how through this our cities and city-regions can best improve their transport infrastructure.



To debate these issues, an evening of discussion and debate was held at the Alan Baxter Gallery on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015 with a selected audience of experts. The evening was chaired by ITC Chairman Simon Linnett, and the discussion was introduced by a panel of experts including: Professor Tony Travers, Director of LSE London; Cllr Sian Reid, former leader of Cambridge City Council; and Cllr Andrew Fender, chairman of the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee. Responses were offered from ITC Patrons Sir Patrick Brown and former transport minister Lord Freeman.

Key issues raised through the discussion included the need for devolution to be tailored according to local needs and different spatial scales. It was recognised that devolution could result in better decision making as a result of increased co-operation and a better understanding of local transport problems. On the other hand, concerns were expressed about the need to manage potential conflicts between national infrastructure needs and local politics, and the importance of improving democratic accountability at a local level. Several delegates noted that unanswered questions remained about devolving financial responsibilities, and argued that local authorities needed greater control over how they could collect and spend funds. In addition, improved co-operation between Government departments was called for in order to develop more coherent devolution policies.

## ANNUAL DINNER FOR CORE BENEFACTORS

9<sup>th</sup> December 2014, House of Lords, hosted by The Rt Hon Lord Adonis

The ITC was delighted to welcome our core benefactors to our Annual Dinner held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December in the magnificent surroundings of the Attlee Room at the House of Lords. The evening was kindly hosted by Lord Adonis, ITC Patron and former Secretary of State for Transport.

ITC Patron Lord Freeman gave the welcome address, noting how transport infrastructure now occupied a central position on the national policy agenda. Guests, including all ITC 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 from our project leaders. Following a discussion on the key transport policy challenges that the nation was likely to face in an election year, a vote of thanks was given by ITC Patron Sir Patrick Brown.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**28<sup>th</sup> April: Discussion Evening on transport and health policy**  
**6:15 to 9:00pm at the Alan Baxter Gallery, London**

Our Spring Discussion Evening will explore the interplay between transport and health policy. The evening will be chaired by ITC Chairman Simon Linnett and guest speakers confirmed include Richard Hunt CBE (Chair of London Ambulance Service), Clare Moriarty (Department for Transport) and Phil Insall (Head of Health at Sustrans).

**25<sup>th</sup> June: 2015 ITC Annual Lecture on cities and transport**  
**6:30 to 9:00pm at City Hall, London**

The ITC is delighted to be welcoming **Sir Howard Bernstein** (Chief Executive of Manchester City Council) and **Sir David Higgins** (Chairman of High Speed 2 Ltd) to deliver the third ITC Annual Lecture looking at the relationship between transport and our cities. TfL Commissioner **Sir Peter Hendy CBE** will give the vote of thanks.

**All our core supporters will receive invitations to these events; for enquiries please email Lucy Kilborn, ITC Events Secretary, at [itc.events@outlook.com](mailto:itc.events@outlook.com)**