

News archive 2002

December

2002

Dr Bob Noland, in collaboration with ICF Consulting, is evaluating the cost effectiveness of various European Union initiatives to improve road safety. The work, being conducted for DG-TREN, is evaluating the effectiveness of proposals to increase the usage of safety belts, enforcement of speeding legislation, and increased random alcohol testing of drivers.

November

2002

Washington Ochieng on 27 November 2002 gave a departmental seminar on 'What can Geomatics offer for Civil and Environmental Research?' A copy of the presentation can be obtained at

http://www.cts.cv.ic.ac.uk/documents/seminars/Seminar_20021127.pdf

October

2002

Dr Bob Noland was invited to participate in the UCLA Extension Lake Arrowhead Symposium on the Transportation/Land Use/Environment Connection. The focus of this year's symposium was on Tackling Traffic Congestion. Dr. Noland provided a presentation on the environmental issues associated with various policy initiatives promoted as reducing traffic congestion.

Dr Washington Ochieng contributed to Channel 4 News on Wednesday 9th October on the on-going debate on the congestion charging scheme due to be introduced in London on February 17. The piece looked at both technological, political (including policy) and social aspects of the scheme. Dr Ochieng emphasised the importance of following a credible system acquisition and operational procedure if the public is to have confidence in the system. He also mentioned the importance of adopting a system that was expandable and flexible both to technological and policy changes. The piece (in text & video) can be accessed at

<http://www.channel4.com/news/home/z/stories/20021009/congestion.html#3>.

There was also a follow on article in the Daily on the Metro Newspaper and the Daily Telegraph (Business Section) on Sunday 13 October 2002.

Dr. Rod Kimber, of the Transport Research Laboratory, was appointed Visiting Professor to the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering from 1 October 2002 for three years. He has nearly thirty years experience of research, research management and national policy development in transport. He is currently Director of Science and Engineering at the Transport Research Laboratory, a position he has held for five years, and is on the main Board of the Transport Research Foundation (TRF), which has owned TRL since its privatisation in 1996. He is also Technical Director of the AA Foundation for Road Safety Research, and is Chairman of the TRF Fellowship. As a Visiting Professor, Rod will focus on traffic safety, making contributions at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

September

2002

Dr Washington Ochieng and a number of industrial and academic partners have been awarded over £2 million for a GNSS Applications Faraday Partnership. The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, announcing this on Friday 6 September 2002 said that the Partnership will facilitate next generation GNSS applications and maximise the user benefits of GNSS infrastructure such as Galileo. It is to be coordinated by the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) with Imperial College as one of the founding members. It brings together government, industrial and leading academic institutions with the objective of positioning the UK at the forefront of GNSS applications developments by fostering the knowledge, skills and resources necessary to exploit the landmark opportunities currently being created by new GNSS signals and services. The Geomatics Research Group Leader at the Centre for Transport Studies, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Dr Washington Ochieng will lead the College's contribution to the Partnership. His reaction to the news was that "the Partnership is an excellent opportunity for us to carry on with cutting edge research in navigation systems design and applications, and to provide the training and skill to enable UK industry to compete within and outside Europe in this exciting and rapidly expanding area. We very much look forward to this challenge! "

Washington Ochieng chaired a session on satellite augmentation systems at the annual international conference organised by the United States Institute of Navigation in Portland, Oregon, USA in September 2002.

June

2002

The new Centre For Transport Studies website has been launched. Dynamically driven by database content, this website will give up-to-date news on the research and

events at CTS. The website has been developed and designed by Steve Robinson and the webmaster is Bob Noland.

May

2002

The Centre for Transport Studies football team had their first 5 a side game on Monday 20 May in Hyde Park. It was extremely competitive and well played. No yellow or red cards were issued. We hope to make this a regular event and at some stage be in a position to challenge other sections within Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Washington Ochieng was quoted extensively in an article in the New Scientist Magazine (04 May 2002) entitled 'Global Fix - What's wrong with GPS that Europe's spending billions on an alternative?' The article identified both the strengths and weaknesses of GPS and attempted to justify the need for Europe's Galileo system, and at the same time pointed out some of the challenges ahead of the Galileo development and use. If you want to read more on this and you are an authorised Imperial College user, the article can be accessed via INTRINSIC on the college website.

John Polak was one of a number of Imperial College staff invited to make a presentation to Dr Rajendra Pachauri Director of the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) and chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Polak presented an overview of CTS and described a number of specific projects in the area of energy, environment and transport.

Jan-Dirk Schmöcker has joined the Centre for Transport Studies to work on a number of projects related to traffic operation and travel behaviour. He first studied at the Technical University of Berlin and then graduated from the University of Newcastle in September 2000 with an MSc (Distinction) in Transport Engineering and Operations. Before joining CTS he worked on a number of research projects at the University of Newcastle in the areas of network modelling and microsimulation, network reliability and traffic control.

April

2002

On the 10 April, the Centre for Transport Studies hosted the second UK VISSIM User Group meeting. Proceedings were opened and closed by Professor Mike Bell. Around 50 people attended 10 presentations, including one from CTS researcher Jin-Young Park in which he described the development and application of emissions and dispersion sub-models for use with VISSIM.

On the 8 April, the Centre for Transport Studies hosted the third meeting of the Employers' Forum of the National Masters Training Package in Transport. The

Employers' Forum brings together representatives of leading Consultants, Local Authorities, Central Government Departments and Transport Operators who employ graduates in Transport Studies. The meeting attracted over 40 senior-level participants, who heard presentations from a number of the NMTP Universities on current developments in MSc teaching. The NMTP consortium is coordinated by Imperial College London and comprises additionally, University College London, Leeds University, Napier University, University of Newcastle, University of Southampton and the University of Westminster.

As part of our research seminar series, Prof. Markos Papageorgiou, Director of the Dynamic Systems and Simulation Laboratory at the Technical University of Crete presented a entitled "Can Ubiquitous Ramp Metering Eliminate Motorway Congestion?"

John Polak has been invited to serve on the Management Group of the Transport Planning Society's Transport Planning Skills Initiative. This initiative, which was formerly launched at a seminar held at the Institution of Civil Engineers on 29 April, aims to address the shortage of skilled transport planners through a range of activities designed to increase the attractiveness of transport planning as a career. Further information of the initiative can be found at <http://www.tps.org.uk/>

March

2002

In consortium with ICF Consulting, CTS has been awarded an on-call contract with the European Commission (DG-TREN). This work will provide support to the Commission on both transport and energy policy analysis, GPS and transport technology issues, environmental impacts of transport, and analytical work in travel behaviour.

As part of our research seminar series, Dr Geoffrey Gosling from the Institute for Transport Studies at the University of California Berkeley presented a seminar entitled "Analysis of Factors Affecting the Occurrence and Severity of Air Traffic Control Operational Errors".

Washington Ochieng has been invited by the United States Institute of Navigation to Chair a session on augmented navigation systems at this years world-wide institute of navigation GPS conference to be held in Portland, Oregon in September. This is a prestigious annual event where the state-of-the art and futuristic research in positioning and navigation is presented and discussed.

February

2002

On 13 February, Imperial College played host to the Annual Dinner of the Transport Planning Society. The guest speaker at the dinner was Mr Bob Kiley, Commissioner of Transport for London. He described and contrasted his experiences of

running major urban transport systems in New York and London and set out his views on the key issues confronting Transport for London over the coming years, including the proposed Public Private Partnership for London Underground.

On 19 February, Imperial College played host to the Annual Paviers' Lecture, organised by the Worshipful Company of Paviers. The lecture was given by Mr Norman Haste OBE, FEng, Project Director for the Terminal 5 project at Heathrow. The lecture gave a wide ranging overview of the T5 project in all aspects including planning, weighing the economic factors, the transport issues, environmental factors, the major engineering challenges, and the organisation of a multi billion pound undertaking together with an understanding of the risks for the airport operator.

The Centre for Transport Studies has been commissioned by Transport for London to undertake an analysis of patterns of variability in bicycle traffic in London. The aim of the work is develop a set of seasonal and weather related adjustment factors that can be used to assist in the identification of the impacts of local cycle policies. The project will be led by John Polak, with contributions from Xiao-Liang Han.

January 2002

John Polak and Bob Noland gave invited presentations to a seminar organised by the DTLR into the implications of recent research findings on the modelling of departure time choice. Polak presented his recent work on the application of OGEV models to peak spreading and Noland presented work on the modelling of HOV lane use.

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John Polak has been awarded a new project under the EPSRC/DTLR Future Integrated Transport research programme entitled "Scoping a Model Travel Behaviour Dataset Programme to Address Research and Policy Needs in Transport". The aim of this project is to identify the key shortcoming in existing travel behaviour data and to scope a programme of research aimed at addressing these needs. The work will be carried out in collaboration with Professor Marcus Wigan of the Transport Research Institute at Napier University.

A second new project was also awarded under the EPSRC/DTLR Future Integrated Transport research programme entitled "Optimising Personal Logistics: Improving the Efficiency of Travel by Improved Household Activity Scheduling". The principal aim of this 3 year project is to develop a personal activity scheduling function to support individuals and households in the activity scheduling behaviour. The work will be carried out in collaboration with Professor Kay Axhausen (ETH Zurich), Professor Sean Doherty (Wilfred Laurier University) and with industrial

collaborators including Saturn Technology and PTV. The project will be carried out under the direction of John Polak with contributions from Mike Bell.

Washington Ochieng and Lin Zhao have been awarded a contract by Transport for London to contribute to the review of the Countdown system by carrying out an assessment of the capability of stand-alone and augmented navigation space-based systems to support the navigation functionality of the Countdown system. Currently, the system uses roadside beacons and distance information from odometer to determine the location of buses.

Professor M.G.H. Bell, formerly Professor of Transport Operations and Director of the Transport Operations Research Group in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Newcastle, has been appointed to a Chair in Transport Operations, with effect from 1 January 2002. The appointment has been partly facilitated through financial support from the Rees Jeffrey's Road Fund. Mike Bell is a leading international figure in the field of transport network analysis and operations and will contribute in these areas across the full range of the Centre's teaching and research activities. We are delighted to welcome Mike to the Centre and look forward to a long and fruitful association.