



**WCTRS Scientific Committee Meeting**

**Date: Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Location: Washington DC**

**Attendees.**

- In-person
  - Lori Tavasszy – Chair – B5
  - Tae Oum – WCTRS President
  - Marc Ivaldi – CDT Chair Toulouse
  - Dan Sperling
  - Giovanni Circella
  - Martin Trepanier – VC Conference
  - Martin Desnervic
  - Ashish Verma - H4
  - Maria Attard
  - Kun Wang
  - Grant Matson
- Online
  - Rosario Macario
  - Sergio Jara Diaz – VC Prizes
  - Aseem Kinra – B1
  - Bhargab Maitra – TA D, D3
  - Chantal Roucolle – CDT Deputy Chair Toulouse
  - Fusun Ulengin
  - Gopal R Patil
  - Helena Titheridge
  - Hideki Nakamura – VC SIG Development



- Johan Woxenius
- John Preston – A3
- Laetitia Dablanç – WCTR-Y Chair
- Lisa Hansson – G1
- Ozay Ozaydin – VC Publications, Journal – E1
- Patrick Jochem – F2
- Rabi Mishalani
- Shinya Hanaoka – H1
- Steve Ison
- Takeru Shibayama – G2
- THU-Meng Li
- Varameth Vichiensan – H5

## **1. Opening, agenda, minutes – Lori Tavasszy**

- a. Started the meeting with introductions and welcome to the meeting.
- b. Key Objective: Start new cycle of SCC 2024-2026.
- c. No comments on previous minutes, they are approved.
- d. No objections to the proposed changes for B3 and C4.

## **2. President's report on WCTRS – Tae Oum**

- a. Tae Oum provided an update on the transition of the secretariat to UC Davis from Leeds.
- b. Update on the task forces:
  - i. Covid-19:
    - 1. Yoshi Hayashi-Junyi Zhang successfully completed the task force work.
      - a. Books, journal articles, and policy brief.
  - ii. Survey Efficiency Benchmarking:
    - 1. Completed the first-year report and tabled in the Montreal Conference.



iii. Charted Education & License Program:

1. Martin Dresner provided an update that the Chinese program was on hold due to changes in its incentive structure.
2. Need to explore a change in the anchor university.

iv. International Partners:

1. ATRS supporting SIG A1, UNESCAP (application can now be completed as the change in Swiss registration has been completed), and Asian Development Bank Research Institute (Tokyo).

**3. SIGs Status - Hideki Nakamura**

- a. Hideki Nakamura provided a summary of the SIG activities and reports.
  - i. 27 reports received, still need 4 more (D1, D4, G6, I1).
- b. SIG Chair and Co-Chair changes in B3, C4, D, F4, G1.
- c. Report on the number of papers from each SIG:
  - i. G1, I1, A4, G6 are encouraged to increase journal paper submissions as they are behind the average level.
    1. Lori Tavasszy mentioned that these are new SIGs.
      - a. Might want to be more rigorous when creating new SIGs to ensure they receive our proper attention.
      - b. Catherine Morency mentioned that there are important topics that the SIGs do not cover like the process of adding new SIGs.
    2. Submit proposals to Lori Tavasszy to start a task force.
    3. Rosario Macario – if we add new SIGs, we should reevaluate the current SIGs to reduce overlap and identify what is missing.
  - ii. Sharing the membership list concerns:
    1. Check if we can share the list due to GDPR concerns.
    2. Get writing approval from everyone to share (Name, no email).
  - iii. Request to see the number of people that are part of each SIG.



#### **4. Evaluation of WCTR Montreal World Conference – Catherine Morency; Martin**

**Trepanier; Lori Tavasszy**

- a. Low-income country participation is still low.
- b. Satisfaction Report: Sessions and special sessions were well received.
  - i. Poster session not as well received, need to explore making it more impactful.
  - ii. Too many parallel sessions, though the right number of sessions.
    1. Too few poster sessions.
- c. Open ceremony was well received, closing ceremony not as well received, possibly due to length.
- d. Thoughts from the organizers:
  - i. Too many parallel sessions, making complex scheduling.
  - ii. Limited number of special sessions.
  - iii. Poster sessions might be a solution to reduce sessions.
  - iv. Presentations need to be done in person and not through video.
- e. Laetitia Dablanc supports the idea of putting more emphasis on the poster sessions.
- f. Maria Attard said this might pose an issue as for travel funding for participants that give a presentation.
  - i. Suggested we can prepare a formal letter to show it is the same level as a presentation.
  - ii. Need to make sure the incentives are there to do it.
    1. Not just students to make sure it maintains the desired level of perceptions.
  - iv. Communication of schedule in an app or printed so it is easy to track and understand.

#### **5. WCTRS-Y Progress Report – Laetitia Dablanc**

- a. Report is available via link in presentation.



- b. Interest and questions from young members.
- c. PhD grants has not been working well as it is seen as a prize and not an educational experience.
  - i. Suggested moving funds to the prize committee.
    - 1. Doing so will remove one special session.
  - ii. Will need to vote on these suggestions during the next STC meeting.
  - iii. Might be a logistical issue with the three-year funding cycle.
- d. Looking for a co-chair for 2026 and then to transfer to a new head.

## **6. Preparations WCTR 2026 – Lori Tavasszy; Marc Ivaldi**

- a. Location and Venue:
  - i. Proposed location at the university, considering a convention center for AC but the university is still preferred.
    - 1. Full university access is available and free.
- b. Organizational Structure:
  - i. Introduction to key team members:
    - 1. Chantal Roucolle – Chair of Conference Program Committee
    - 2. Sylvain Bourgade – Chair of Communications Committee
    - 3. Stephanie Risse – Events Coordinator and Technical Referent
- c. Potential PCOs:
  - i. Discussing with three potential PCOs.
  - ii. Consideration of having the PCO between conferences to maintain knowledge and reduce the burden on local organizers.
- d. Funding and Support:
  - i. Funding requests to European-wide organizations.
  - ii. Support from Toulouse mayor and other institutions.
  - iii. At least 50 rooms and full university access.
- e. Overall schedule and milestones ahead – Lori Tavasszy.

## Schedule towards Toulouse 2026

[illegible]

1. Lori Tavasszy provided an overview of the schedule.
- 7. Publications status, 2023 Proceedings and SIs – Fusun Ulengin; Ozay Ozaydin**
- a. TA-A
    - i. A4 and A5 do not have enough paper to proceed.
  - b. TA-B
    - i. Most papers are in v4
    - ii. If special issues don't have enough pages, move them to normal issues.
  - c. TA-C
    - i. One special issue is being canceled due to not enough papers.
  - d. TA-D
    - i. 40 papers.
    - ii. Report provided live without presentation slides.
  - e. TA-E



- i. Not enough for special issues.
- f. TA-F
- g. TA-G
  - i. Merged issues to ensure the quality of special issues.
  - ii. G6 follow up required (merge, normal issues, etc.).
- 2. Proposed merging with another as it only has three papers.
- h. TA-H
  - i. H1 and H5 merged
- i. TA-I
  - i. Only four papers, no update on this TA.
  - ii. Request for report.
  - iii. Papers will need to be moved to a normal issue.
  - iv. Lori to follow up with TA to check status and get stronger commitment.
- j. Procedia
  - i. Working with Elsevier, received update.
  - ii. 316 papers (has gone down due to some withdrawals).
  - iii. Catherine said that it is important to note that special issues have a fee, there are requests to move to Procedia as the cost is already included.
  - iv. Estimate of 20 special issues expected (two additional from last time).
  - v. Need a report for what happens with AB papers (publications, withdrawal, rejections, etc.).
  - vi. Aseem Kinra – WCTRS-Y students were looking for a place to publish.
    - 1. Asked if they can be added to special issues or Procedia.

## **8. Transport Policy – Haijun Huang (presented by Kun Wang)**

- a. 3 editors retired, 10 new editors added.
- b. 15 volumes, paper number is lower than 2022 due to increased quality control and a reduced number of special issues.
- c. Editorial speed is stable.



- d. Impact Factor is 6.8, with expectations of an increase next year.
- e. Desk rejection rate is 65%, overall rejection rate 85%.
- f. Need to increase frequency of the reminder emails.
- g. Due to similar checks, the editor received numerous emails.
- h. Open access is 29%, higher citation rate.
- i. Difficulty in finding reviewers (standard for journals).
  - i. With new batch of editors, it should reduce workload on them thus giving them time to find reviewers.

**9. Case Studies in Transport Policy – Xiaowen Fu (presented by Kun Wang)**

- a. First-time Impact Factor of 2.5.
- b. Desk rejection rate increased to 62% (2022 was 37%) due to higher number of submissions.
- c. Overall rejection rate is approximately 80%.
- d. 4 new editors were added to improve the speed of handling papers.
- e. Elsevier mentioned citations from special issues is higher than normal issues if the topic is good, suggesting we explore this.

**10. New journal: Sustainable Transport & Livability – Ashish Verma**

- a. Launched on November 7, 2023, with 286 registrations for the event from 35 countries





### Editorial Board Members

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  - **Dr. Ashish Verma**, *Indian Institute of Science, India*
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  - **Dr. Kazuki Nakamura**, *Meijo University, Japan*
- **Editorial Assistant to EIC**
  - **Ms. Hemanthini Allirani**, *Indian Institute of Science, India*

b.

c. Expected to publish at least 25 papers per volume per year.

d. Focus of the journal:

- i. “Sustainable Transport and Livability will focus on publishing research that furthers our knowledge on the many linkages between sustainable transport and livability of cities and the policy, planning, design, and engineering interventions that affect these connections.”

e. A different publisher is good to have healthy competition with Elsevier.

f. Tae Oum has yet to sign the agreement with Taylor & Francis due to the following issues:

- i. It is non-exclusive (other non-WCTRS could be brought into the journal)
- ii. T&G gets the selection of the editor.
- iii. Revenue share is only 5%, the expectation is 10%.

g. This will be addressed in the STC, but wanted to present the issue to SCC.

### 11. WCTR Book Series – Masanobu Kii

a. No report, but there is an initiative to have a new topic that is not Covid-19.

### 12. Publicity – Maria Attard

a. Social Media – Maria Attard, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn.

- i. Social media follower numbers have been increasing.



- ii. SIG Chairs needs to update Maria Attard so we can announce when special issues are published.
- b. WCTRS Research Newsletter – Ashish Verma.
  - i. Monthly publishing since Feb 2021.
  - ii. Summary of updates on the newsletter was provided.
    - 1. New content coming out of the WCTRS Montreal Conference.
    - 2. Reminder for SIG chairs to provide content for the newsletter.
    - 3. Need to renew support as of February 2024.
- c. Someone pointed out that there are two Twitter accounts.
  - i. We have requested to have the second account, Lyon, closed but have not been successful.
    - 1. Ozay Ozaydin might have a connection in Twitter to help with this.
- d. LinkedIn account is not set up as an organization—(WCTRS-Y is)—this will need to be changed.

### **13. Any Other Business**

- a. Ashish Verma asked if there would be a meeting in the summer.
  - i. Lori Tavasszy will respond in the next section.

### **14. Next Meeting**

- a. Fully online – June 2024
  - i. Quick survey to find when the best time is for everyone.
  - ii. Tentative time would be 7 am Pacific Standard Time.
  - iii. Two days of meetings to accommodate the time zone differences.
- b. Jan 2025 – TRB
- c. June 2025 – Meet in person in Toulouse
  - i. Suggested to have a one-day workshop to build out the schedule and help justify the travel costs and time.

### **15. End Of Meeting**

- a. Meeting concluded.



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CONFERENCE ON  
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