



WCTRS Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024

Location: Washington DC

Attendees

• **In-Person:**

- Lori Tavasszy
- Tae Oum
- Kun Wang
- Martin Dresner
- Chikage Miyoshi
- Candra Bhat
- Jo Shan
- Ashish Verma
- Maria Attard
- Haixiao Pan
- Letiticia Dablanc
- Marc Ivaldi
- Dan Sperling
- Giovanni Circella
- Chris Pringle - Elsevier
- Binyam Reja (World Bank)
- Grant Matson (Observer)

• **Online**

- Ali Huzayyin
- Antonio Musso
- Rosario Macario
- Sergio Jara-Diaz
- Anming Zhang
- Aseem Kinra
- Chunyan Yu
- Fusun Ulengin
- Hermann Maier
- Hideki Nakamura
- Junyi Zhang
- Kun Wang
- Laetitia Dablanc
- Ozay Ozaydin
- Tarek Sayed
- Yoshitsugu Hayashi



1. Opening, Agenda, Minutes – Tae Oum

- a. Motion to Approve the Minutes from the Last Meeting
 - i. Approved unanimously by all members with no objections

2. President's Report

- a. Transition of the WCTRS Secretariat:
 - i. Transition from University of Leeds to the University of California, Davis
 - ii. Thanks to Greg Marsden and his team for maintaining financial stability and aiding the transition

3. Report on Toulouse 2026 World Conference Preparation – 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 Profession Conference Organizers (PCO):
 - 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

4. Report on Task Forces

- a. Covid-19 – Yoshi Hayashi, Junyi Zhang



- i. Success with many resulting publications
- ii. Proposed new task force on Global Crisis and Disasters
 - 1. Overview of proposed task force was presented
 - 2. Goals of journals, books, seminars/workshops, report
- b. Subway Benchmarking – Pierluigi Coppola, Xiao Luo, Liping Le, Kyungtaek Kim, Giovanni Circella, Clark Lim, Chunyan Yu, Kun Wang, Tae Oum
 - i. Over 30 meetings held, lasting 60-100 minutes
 - ii. First benchmarking report has been published including 50 major cities
 - iii. Future steps include seeking sponsors and considering a 3-year cycle to sync with WCTR conference
- c. Education & License Initiative – Martin Dresner, Hong Chang Li, Yafeng Yin, Aseem Kinra
 - i. Update on the Chinese program, which is currently on hold due to changes in the incentive program
 - 1. Need to explore changing the anchor university
 - ii. Over 100 meetings over the last 2+ years, all 60-100 minutes
 - iii. Program developed and should be able to move to new locations/organizations

5. Journals

- a. Transport Policy – Haijun Huang (presented by Kun Wang)
 - i. 3 editors retired; 10 new editors added
 - ii. 15 volumes, paper number is lower than 2022 due to increased quality control and a reduced number of special issues
 - iii. Editorial speed is stable
 - iv. Impact Factor is 6.8, with expectations of an increase next year
 - v. Desk rejection rate is 65%, overall rejection rate 85%
 - vi. Need to increase frequency of the reminder emails
 - vii. Due to similar checks, the editor received numerous emails
 - viii. Open access is 29%, higher citation rate.



ix. Difficulty in finding reviewers (standard for journals)

1. With new batch of editors, it should reduce workload on them thus giving them time to find reviewers

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

- i. First-time Impact Factor of 2.5
- ii. Desk rejection rate increased to 62% (2022 was 37%) due to higher submissions
 1. Overall rejection rate is approximately 80%
- iii. 4 new editors added to improve speed of handling papers
- iv. Elsevier mentioned citations from special issues is higher than normal issues
 1. If the topic is good, suggesting we explore more special issues

c. Tae Oum presented Chris Pringle with a WCTRS Appreciation Award for his 30 years of dedication and contribution to building WCTRS financial sustainability and reputation.

d. New Journal – Taylor & Francis/WCTRS; Sustainable Transport and Livability (TSTL) – Ashish Verma, Aseem Kinra, Meng Li

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

Editorial Board Members

▪ **Editor-in-Chief**

- Dr. Ashish Verma, Indian Institute of Science, India

▪ **Associate Editors**

- Dr. Aseem Kinra, Universität Bremen, Germany
- Dr. Meng Li, Tsinghua University, China

▪ **Editorial Board**

- Dr. Greg Marsden, University of Leeds, UK
- Dr. Eva Heinen, TU Dortmund, Germany
- Dr. Maria Attard, University of Malta, Malta
- Dr. Manoj M., Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India
- Dr. Rahul T.M., Indian Institute of Technology Ropar, India
- Dr. Shinya Hanaoka, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan
- Dr. Anab Jara, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India

▪ **Editorial Board -continued**

- Dr. Helena Tilhridge, University College London, UK
- Dr. Aruna Sivakumar, Imperial College London, UK
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- Dr. Ram Pendyala, Arizona State University, USA
- Dr. Tanu Priya Ulleng, Institute of Transport Economics, Norway
- Dr. Kumar Sinha, Purdue University, USA
- Dr. Masanobu Kikuchi, Kagawa University, Japan
- Dr. Martin Trépanier, Université de Montréal, Canada
- Dr. Marianne Vanderschuren, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Dr. Kazuki Nakamura, Meijo University, Japan

▪ **Editorial Assistant to EIC**

- Ms. Hemanthini Allirani, Indian Institute of Science, India

ii.



- iii. Expected to publish at least 25 papers per volume per year
- iv. Focus of the journal:
 - 1. “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.”
- v. A different publisher is good to have healthy competition with Elsevier
- vi. Tae Oum has yet to sign the agreement with Taylor & Francis due to the following issues:
 - 1. It is non-exclusive (other non-WCTRS could be brought into the journal)
 - 2. T&G gets the selection of the editor
 - 3. Revenue share is only 5%, the expectation is 10%
- vii. This will be addressed in the STC, but wanted to present the issue to SCC
 - 1. Approval of the agreement will be needed from STC
 - a. Email approval will be sent

6. International Partner Organization Session (Chair: Tae Oum)

- a. TRB – Bill Anderson, Giovanni Circella
 - i. Victoria presented on "Critical Issues in Transportation 2024 and Beyond" report
 - ii. TRB 2024 update:
 - 1. Over 14,000 attendees
 - 2. Higher international participation
 - 3. 1000 sessions
 - iii. ICC Update by Caroline Almeras
 - 1. Currently supporting international partners and sponsored events
 - 2. Partner and TRB event calendar is linked in the presentation
 - 3. 2024 plans:



- a. Support Partner events
 - b. TRB 2025 is January 5th through 9th
 - c. WCTRS must submit a proposal if wanting a workshop
 - d. Consideration in merging reception for TRB ICC and WCTRS as the next TRB
- b. ITF (International Transport Forum) – Jagoda EGELAND, CoHead, ITF Research Centre at OECD
- i. 2023 ITF Summit:
 - 1. 3 research sessions
 - 2. 15 speakers
 - 3. Jointly organized by EC, ECTRI, ITF, TRB, WCTRS
 - ii. Preparations for 2024 Summit:
 - 1. Submission process is the same, details are linked in the presentation
 - 2. The deadline for submission is January 22, 2024
 - iii. Request for membership payment as many members did not attend WCTRS 2023, since event overlapped
- c. World Bank – Binyam Reja
- i. Focus on Climate Mitigation and Adaptation agenda
 - ii. Increased engagement to make logistics efficient, green, and resilient
 - iii. Many reports, periodicals, etc., publications
 - iv. Presented other topics, as well as Analytical Tools used to support evidence-based decision making
 - v. Preference for completing things in-house to allow for continued development and to make quick changes as new information comes in
 - vi. Partnership is a significant agenda item
 - 1. TRB, WCTRS, ITF, WRI, ITDP, ZEVC, African universities are some current partners
 - vii. Annual Conference of Transport Economics is likely to stay in March



- d. AET (Association of European Transport) – Herman Maier, Board Chair or Pierluigi Coppola
 - i. AET participate in the WCTRS's Task Force on Urban Rail Transit Systems Efficiency Benchmarking, leading the analysis of the European case studies.
 - ii. The flagship event from AET is the annual European Transport Conference (ETC).
 - iii. Other key activities include the monthly webinar series, and the Transport and Mobility Forum.
- e. EASTS (East Asia Society for Transportation Studies) – Akimasa Fujiwara, President
 - i. No Report
- f. CODATU – Cooperation for urban mobility in the developing world, Ali Huzayyin, VP; Varameth Vichiensan
 - i. Ali Huzayyin presented update on CODATU
 - ii. SIG H5 session in CADATU 2021 was very successful
 - 1. Planned for 2025
 - iii. Will continue to promote our initiative “Mobilize Your City”
 - iv. Contact Ali Huzayyin for any questions
- g. Club of Rome – Yoshi Hayashi
 - i. Goal, push for the changes to mobility to address planetary emergency, emerging new civilizations, minimizing negative impacts of the economy
- h. UNESCAP – Wei-Shiuen Ng
 - i. No presentation
 - ii. Working on application; delayed due to the change in Swiss registration
 - 1. This is completed now; the application will move forward.
- i. Air Transport Research Society (ATRS) – Martin Dresner
 - i. Held conference in Kobe, Japan
 - ii. 247 papers presented
 - iii. Next conference will be in Lisbon, Portugal on June 30-July 4, 2024



- j. Pan-American Society of Transportation Research – Jose Holguin-Veras
 - i. No report, any news will be sent by email
 - k. ADBI (Asian Development Bank Institute) – Seetha Ram
 - i. No report, any news will be sent by email
 - l. CCTA-WCTRS collaboration issue – VP Li Gang, Jin Mao, Hong Chang Li
 - i. No report, any news will be sent by email
 - m. ICTPA (International Chinese Transportation Professionals Association) – Joel Shon
 - i. Held conference in Taiwan with 300+ attendees
 - ii. Next conference will be held in North America, on a cruise ship for a 3–4-day event
 - n. ATRA (African Transport Research Alliance) – Neil Pedersen and Marg Akofio Sowah
 - i. No report, any news will be sent by email
- 7. Evaluation of WCTRS Montreal World Conference – Catherine Morency; Martin Trepanier; Gopal Patil**
- a. Low-income country participation is still low
 - b. Satisfaction Report: Sessions and special sessions were well received
 - i. Poster session was 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 the number of parallel sessions
 - iv. Presentations need to be done in person and not through video



8. Scientific Committee Report – Lori Tavasszy

- a. Conference was strong, but with too many sessions
- b. Publications are on track
- c. Changes requesting approval (Sergio Jara Diaz will be voted on at next meeting):

- VC Conf: Gopal Patil → Martin Trepanier
- VC Pubs: Fusun Ulengin; Procedia, Ozay Ozaydin for journal SI's
- VC Prizes & Awards: Sergio Jara Diaz →
- SIG-B3 co-chair:
 - Mahnam Saeednia of TU Delft and Elenna Dugundji of MIT
- SIG-C4 co-chair:
 - Dr. Babak Mehran → Dr. Hao Xu, Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno

i.

1. Approved by 100% vote.

- d. New tasks in schedule for next cycle:
 - i. Promotional webinar (October 2024)
 - 1. New activity to attract sponsors
 - ii. Will keep the online conference one year before the event

9. Special Issues and Proceedings Plan – Fusun Ulengin, Ozay Ozayidin

- a. TA-A
 - i. A4 and A5 do not have enough paper to proceed
- b. TA-B
 - i. Most papers are in version 4
 - 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 having enough papers.
- d. TA-D
 - i. 40 papers
 - ii. Report provided live without presentation slides
- e. TA-E
 - i. Not enough papers 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.)
 - 1. 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 the status and get a stronger commitment
- j. Procedia
 - i. Working with Elsevier, and received an update
 - ii. 316 papers (the total number 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 on what happens with AB papers (publications, withdrawal, rejections, etc.)

10. WCTRS-Y Progress Report – Laetitia Dablanc

- a. Report is available via link in the presentation
- b. Interest and questions from young members
- c. PhD grants have 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
 - i. Ashish Verma expressed interest in this position
 - 1. Tae Oum is concerned about Ashish Verma's number of positions

11. Publicity - Maria Attard, Ashish Verma

- a. Social Media – Maria Attard, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn
 - i. Social media follower numbers have been increasing
 - ii. SIG Chairs need to update Maria 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

12. Country-Regional Council – Tae Oum

- a. China – Haixiao Pan, Hong Chang Li, Chuntao Wu (Sichuan University).
 - i. Large, 15,000-person conference
- b. Japan – Shinya Hanaoka
 - i. Two other societies
- c. India – Ashish Verma
 - i. Continued strong interest from Indian members
 - ii. High registration rates and paper submissions
- d. Thailand – Varameth Vichiensan
 - i. No report
- e. Brazil/Latin America – Helena Cybis, Romulo Orrico
 - i. No report
- f. MENA – Ranal Mam, Maya Abou Zeid, Monica Menendez, Ali Huzayyin
 - i. Ali provided report as best he can, as he isn't the lead



- ii. He cannot confirm if they contacted the organizations, it is with the other members
- g. Africa – Fred Amonya
- i. No report

13. Report on Secretariat Move to UC Davis – Greg Marsden, Dan Sperling, Giovanni Circella, Antonio Musso

- a. Supporting SIGs and increasing membership in the US is one of the main goals – Dan Sperling
- b. Financial transfers and newsletters update – Greg Marsden
 - i. Transfers are underway and will be completed soon
- c. New Secretariat at UC Davis – Dan Sperling, Giovanni Circella, Grant Matson; organization of finance and WCTRS admin
 - i. Moved to a new venue for January meeting, will continue next year and address AV issue
 - ii. Newsletters will be sent by UC Davis
 - iii. Website transfer to be completed next week
 - iv. Payment system for lapsed members will be implemented
 - v. Draft budget presented:
 - 1. This will be reviewed and presented again
 - 2. WCTRS-Y
- d. Support to WCTRS activities – Dan Sperling, Giovanni Circella; coordination of activities and support to WCTRS from the new secretariat
- e. WCTRS Swiss Registration – Greg Marsden, Giovanni Circella
 - i. No report, follow up email will be sent if there is news

14. Any Other Business

- a. No new business

15. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned



**WORLD
CONFERENCE ON
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RESEARCH
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16. Summer Meeting

- a. Meeting will be fully online and it is expected to happen in June 2024.
- b. Tentative time is 7 am Pacific Standard Time.
- c. Spreading the SCC and STC meetings over two days will be necessary to accommodate time zone differences.