

## Special Call for Papers

for WCTR 2026 in Toulouse by

### Special Interest Group SIG G2

### National and Regional Transport Policy and Planning

#### Introduction

Since its inauguration at WCTR 2016 in Shanghai, SIG G2 has been developing its works in three primary research areas. It started with an analysis of the development of national transport policies and planning, which resulted in one journal special issue in *European Transport Research Review*<sup>1</sup> and another journal special issue ongoing for *Asian Transport Studies* in cooperation with EASTS (East Asia Society for Transportation Sciences; not yet published).

In WCTR 2019 in Mumbai, India, it developed a journal special issue focusing on New Mobility Services<sup>2</sup>, followed by several workshops jointly organized with IATSS (International Association of Traffic and Safety Sciences) and WCTRS SIG C4, and a session onto micromobility at Transport Research Symposium 2025 in Rotterdam.

Since 2021, a series of online workshops and conference special sessions at WCTR 2023 in Montreal focusing on innovations and sustainability of mobility in rural, peripheral and remote regions, in cooperation with OECD-ITF. In 2025, SIG G2 launched a series of intensive workshops to revisit and understand widely used and “standard” appraisal and modeling techniques used in transport policymaking. In the meantime, during the COVID-19 pandemic, SIG G2 contributors developed a book *International Perspectives in COVID-19 Responses in Public Transport*<sup>3</sup>.

For the upcoming WCTR 2026 in Toulouse, upon the activities as research communities up until now, SIG G2 particularly welcomes submissions of papers further developing these lines of research, particularly the following three topics.

#### Scope and Topics

##### Topic 1: Blind spot of existing appraisal methods used in transport policymaking

Appraisal tools are becoming increasingly removed from societal goals and emerging policy problems. Evaluations stemming from different values in different disciplines are increasingly

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.springeropen.com/collections/dntp>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/special-issue/10MRFR71DNC>

<sup>3</sup> <https://shop.elsevier.com/books/international-perspectives-on-public-transport-responses-to-covid-19/shibayama/978-0-443-13295-7>

becoming important, as well as non-monetary evaluations. In light of these developments, SIG G2 particularly welcomes your papers dealing with:

- Critical reviews of existing appraisal methods such as cost-benefit analysis, survey methods such as stated preference surveys, methods for causal inference, and modeling approaches such as four-stage modeling.
- Discussions on “blind spots” and limitations of such methods and approaches
- Consequences and biases in policy-making that arise from the nature of such appraisal and modeling methods.
- Reviews from multidisciplinary perspectives (not only from economics points of view but also from other disciplines)
- Feedback and learnings from policy decisions using above-mentioned appraisal methods
- Appraisal of unwanted/unintended/rebound effects in travel behavior, location choice, travel time budget, etc.
- “Failures” and relevant learnings from the development of appraisal methodologies, which are not typically shared/published in scientific papers
- Comparisons of different appraisal and/or modeling techniques

## **Topic 2: Innovations and sustainability of mobility in peri-urban, rural and remote regions**

While sustainable urban transport attracts large numbers of researchers and practitioners, mobility in peri-urban areas (transitional zones where urban and rural characteristics mix), rural areas, as well as remote regions (geographically distant regions from urban centers with services, amenities and opportunities) are much less researched and discussed. SIG G2 particularly welcomes your papers dealing with:

- Policy-making and technological development to improve accessibility to facilities, services, amenities and opportunities independent of automobiles
- Indicators, analysis methods, KPIs and modeling approaches to enable evidence-based policymaking towards better accessibility
- Critical reviews of measures and strategies often used in these areas
- Legacy and relevant unwanted effects from past planning before sustainability came to the agenda
- Emerging technologies and innovations for passenger and freight transport
- Acceptance of new technologies in these domains

Of course, SIG G2 welcomes papers dealing with other topics in the domain of national and regional transport policy and planning!

## Submission of full papers and inquiries

- Visit the WCTR 2026 website at <https://www.wctr2026.fr/> and get informed about the deadline, format and submission methods
  - For your information, as of May 2025, the submission deadline is set to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025. This may be updated – please keep yourself informed from the official WCTR 2026 website.
- Develop your manuscript in line with the submission guideline and submit to WCTR 2026 via the official submission portal.
  - **Make sure that you choose Topic Area G: Transport Planning and Policy, Session Track G2** as your primary preferred session track. You can choose any session track as your secondary preference.
  - Submission via other methods such as e-mail attachment will not be accepted.
- **Drop a short e-mail** to both Dr. **Takeru Shibayama** ([takeru.shibayama@tuwien.ac.at](mailto:takeru.shibayama@tuwien.ac.at), +43-1-58801-23114, TU Wien, Austria) and **Ms. Chantal Koehler** ([chantal.koehler@tuwien.ac.at](mailto:chantal.koehler@tuwien.ac.at)), indicating following information, as soon as you receive a confirmation of submission.
  - **E-Mail subject must contain “WCTR2026 SIG G2 Submission”** – otherwise your e-mail will get lost and may not be considered for Special Session/Issue!
  - Paper ID issued from the submission system
  - Full paper title
  - List of authors in the order you put into the submission system
  - Contact details of corresponding author (e-mail(s), affiliation, telephone)
  - Secondary session track you choose.

## Expected outputs

- Dedicated session(s) for each of the topics under Session Track G2 during WCTR 2026 in Toulouse.
- Quality papers will be invited to journal special issue(s) which SIG G2 will organize after the conference.
  - As of May 2025, the details of Special Issues are still tbd. In the past conferences, SIG G2 developed special issues in Transport Policy (Elsevier) and European Transport Research Review (Springer)
- Contributors will be invited to mid-term events that will be organized between WCTR 2026 and WCTR 2029.

## Deadlines and important dates

The following dates are as of May 2025 and for information purposes only. For the latest information, please visit the WCTR 2026 Official Website at <https://www.wctr2026.fr/>.

- **April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025** - Submission opening
- **September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025** (23h59 - Paris Local Time) - Deadline for submission as of May 2025



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- **February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026** - Notification of paper acceptance
- **April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026** - Deadline for registration of presenting author
- **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026** - Deadline for submission of final papers for conference

If you have any questions, please contact Takeru Shibayama ([takeru.shibayama@tuwien.ac.at](mailto:takeru.shibayama@tuwien.ac.at)), putting “WCTR2026 SIG G2 Question”.

**We are looking forward to your contributions on behalf of all SIG G2 members!**

Yours sincerely,

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