

Who are you?

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- By learning a (Human) Geographer / Town Planner
- Career: community development, regeneration, health, regulatory bodies – and transport.
- TRU: development of Community Transport sector
- supporting vulnerable / excluded people and groups to be more engaged in the development of services
- helping local groups to raise and find support around transport issues
- supporting people and communities in accessing services (key public / those provided by the voluntary/community sector)



Transport in GM - Challenges

- long period of economic growth, but impact has been uneven
 - across social & economic groups, and geographically
- transport network has struggled to cater for the increase in the scale & nature of movement associated with growth
- uneven benefits of economic growth are, in some cases, reflected in access to transport – and to jobs, education and services.
- parts of the transport network operating at or ‘above’ capacity at peak times, esp. parts of the rail, tram and road network
- continued concern about the impact of congestion on the road network in some parts of the conurbation – the existence / causes of which are hotly debated

Transport in GM - Challenges

- bus remains the major 'mass transit' mode, but the network is inefficient and does not meet the needs of all communities, and suffers from a particularly negative image amongst some.
- bus patronage is stable, but decline in recession and public spending cuts could lead to a spatial and temporal shrinking of the network.
- Perception of "public transport" as being unreliable, expensive, impractical, unsafe – or just 'not an option'.
- strong attachment to the car as the preferred mode of travel
- barriers to accessing the network for some groups
- barriers to integration of transport. Institutional? Economic? Social? Technological?



Transport in GM - Challenges

- significant investment in the network has and is being made – but was less than was hoped for
- lack of immediately available resources to ease pressure on parts of the network at ‘breaking point’
- reality of major public spending cuts on the horizon
- elements of the network dependent on public sector support / subsidy
- city region will slowly emerge from recession – demand will grow again



Transport in GM - Challenges

- city region has a range of environmental concerns
- Air Quality – especially around major roads
- Range of potential impacts on health, morbidity, mortality, quality of life, productivity
- Mass transit can have a role in reducing this problem –
- It remains that often it is still a contributor.
- What is the role of:

- management of the road network
- emergence of cleaner technologies

‘Mass transit is good for the environment’ – proportion of the public ‘don’t buy it’.

Transport in GM - Challenges

- If the existing infrastructure is struggling, how do we get a future network that can cope with demand?
- MIER study proposes the formula for supporting the most deprived areas includes proximity to – or access to employment, especially ‘entry level’ employment.
- what role does the transport network have in ensuring the impacts of economic growth are more even - that everyone has a better chance to share in the benefits of that growth?
- What role does mass transit have in tackling environmental concerns?
- what is the role of statutory and accountable bodies in all this?

