Transport and Social Sustainability

Seminar at OUCE

Steve Atkins | 17 January 2008
Overview

Sustainable Development

Social sustainability

Transport and social issues

Transport appraisal methods (NATA)

NATA refresh and the next steps
Sustainable Development is about economic, environmental and social issues.

Environmental & economic issues generally well-known by transport professionals.

Social sustainability is relatively new dimension.
Sustainable development - UK

**UK Guiding Principles on Sustainable Development** (UK Sustainable Development Strategy, 2005)

- **Living Within Environmental Limits**
  - Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources, and biodiversity to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.

- **Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society**
  - Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all.

- **Achieving a Sustainable Economy**
  - Building a strong, stable, and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays), and efficient resource use is incentivised.

- **Promoting Good Governance**
  - Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society - engaging people's creativity, energy, and diversity.

- **Using Sound Science Responsibly**
  - Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.
Social Sustainability

Six key elements of social sustainability

• Meeting the diverse needs of people now and in the future
• Promoting personal well-being
• Promoting social cohesion and inclusion
• Creating equal opportunities for all
• Promoting good governance
• Engaging people’s creativity, energy and diversity
Meeting Diverse Needs – Now and Future

Meet fundamental human needs, recognising rights of existing and future generations

- transport: accessibility planning
- long-term inter-generational goal
- land use planning and sustainable communities
- procurement and investment
GDP and life satisfaction in GB
Social Sustainability

Promoting personal well-being

Well-being or happiness goes beyond physical good health and economic well-being:

- relative income, personal and social relationships, meaningful work and participation in communities:
  - personal status and fulfilment
  - good physical and emotional health
  - respect from peers
  - relationships with family and friends
- transport:
  - access to activities enhance life satisfaction
# Social Sustainability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Promoting social cohesion and inclusion</th>
<th>Undesirable from political perspective – socially (moral) and economically (public expenditure)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>– factors of deprivation:</td>
<td>Tackling social exclusion is a key objective of government policies</td>
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<tr>
<td>• unemployment</td>
<td>Transport has been recognised as a means to overcome local disadvantages and gain access to better jobs, education, facilities and services</td>
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<tr>
<td>• low educational attainment</td>
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<td>• poor health</td>
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<td>• low incomes</td>
<td></td>
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<td>• poor housing</td>
<td></td>
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<td>• high crime</td>
<td></td>
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<td>• poor accessibility</td>
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Social Sustainability

Equal opportunities for all
Social sustainability requires fair treatment of everyone and in particular the elimination of unfair discrimination

Groups: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation and socio-economic status

Public authorities must actively strive to promote the position of those who are disadvantaged

Transport: 3 issues
- transport authorities and operators not to discriminate
- operator staff treat customers with dignity and respect
- Equality Impact Assessment

US – legal requirement to demonstrate that schemes using federal funding do not discriminate against particular groups
Social Sustainability

Promoting good governance
Having a voice in decision making that affects you is an important aspect of the framework for social integration

Developing countries often poorly served by institutions of the state and of society – powerless to influence key decisions affecting their lives

Transport planning – recognition of the need to consult with the affected population about issues and schemes that affect them

Corporate Social Responsibility programmes and reporting
Social Sustainability

Engaging people’s creativity, diversity and energy
People’s lives are enriched by participation in a wide range of arts, culture and sporting endeavours – transport serves the destinations where such activities take place

Transport infrastructure, vehicles and services can also be a part and promote such programmes

One percent of the construction cost has been allocated to public art for some major projects
Transport & Social Sustainability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distributional Impacts</th>
<th>Well – being</th>
<th>Time Dimension</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td><strong>Accessibility</strong> – the ability to reach opportunities for work, education, health care, shopping, recreation, entertainment and social activities – including quality and cost attributes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td><strong>Externalities</strong> – impacts of transport on lives and lifestyles – health, safety, personal security, fair treatment, personal fulfilment; arts culture and aesthetics, etc.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td><strong>Rights &amp; Social Justice</strong> – treating people with dignity and respect; consultation of those affected, encouraging and promoting active citizenship and participation; social capital.</td>
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<td>Disability</td>
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<td>Including intergenerational considerations and whole life assessments</td>
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<td>Faith</td>
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<td>Sexuality</td>
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<td>Poverty</td>
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Integrating Social Issues into Transport Appraisal
Transport Appraisal & Social Sustainability

• From COBA to NATA

• Cost benefit analysis to multi-criteria analysis

• Include happiness and well-being?
  - personal
  - societal
  - governmental
Transport Appraisal & Social Sustainability

- Sustainability Appraisal
  - Health Impact Assessment
  - Equality Impact Assessment
  - Social Impact Assessment?
- NATA refresh
- Government policy objectives
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1998</th>
<th>2007</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
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<td>Environment</td>
<td>Climate Change</td>
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<td>Safety</td>
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<td>Integration</td>
<td>Equal opportunities</td>
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