UK Transport Research Centre: A Brief Outline

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Coverage

• What is UKTRC?
• Overall aims and vision
• What does it do?
• UKTRC USPs
• Research programme
• Overview
What is UKTRC?

• A national academic transport research centre, with close links to industry, policy and practice
• Funded by ESRC, DfT and SG
• Emphasis on bringing new social science thinking into transport research and policy
• A ‘virtual’ centre, managed by three universities, but open to all
UKTRC Aims

• To become the leading international centre of excellence for social science research applied to areas relevant to transport policy and practice, through:
  – Academic research directly funded by UKTRC
  – Showcasing leading UK research from other funding sources

• Focus on stakeholder engagement and capacity building
  – For UK transport research in general

• To provide an invaluable asset to the academic, policy and practice communities, and

• A catalyst for stimulating enquiry and innovation
What Does It Do?

• Funds programme of academic research
• Sponsors PhDs, runs summer school and other training events
• Synthesises existing social science research
• Extensive programme of KT & engagement activities
• Development of web site and Asset Base
• Academic consultancy framework with DfT
Research Programme - I

Research Projects (3 - 4 year):

1. **Impacts**: transport and its influence on economic competitiveness: labour markets and agglomeration [LSE, IC]
2. **Drivers**: effects of non-transport technologies on movement patterns [Lancaster, UWE]
3. **Governance**: influence on policy formulation and implementation [Sheffield, Napier, Leeds]
Research Programme - II

Scanning Exercises (12 – 18 months):
1. Transport and social/distributional impacts: gaps in knowledge and methodologies
2. Climate change: research gaps and/or transport applications
3. Paradigms and methods for studying social practices and travel behaviour
4. Transport and health: synthesising knowledge and identifying gaps [DfT funded]
UKTRC Director:
- Overall responsibility for the TRC’s operation and outputs
- First point of contact for sponsors, media, etc.
- Chair Executive Board
- Lead business development activities
- Contribute to research programme

Long-term Research Programme:
- Research projects and scanning exercises
- Grant administration
- Shaping future programme
- Quality control
- Developing UKTRC asset base:
  - knowledge, data, tools

Short-term Analysis for DfT:
- Range of analysis/advisory projects
- Contract administration
- Client liaison
- Quality control

Networking & Engagement:
- Developing networks/engaging stakeholders
- Policy and research publications
- Conferences, debates, etc.

Research Capacity Building:
- PhD studentships
- Training courses
- Sabbaticals and secondments

UKTRC Asset Base:
- Interdisciplinary knowledge base
- Data bases: documentation and links
- Tools and techniques
UKTRC Outputs

• Full-scale research projects and outputs
  – Partnership of transport and non-transport groups

• Shorter, scanning exercises and outputs
  – Inputs from wide range of participants

• Asset base, in the form of access to:
  – Reports
  – Data
  – Methods

• Conferences, workshops and debating events
• Training activities and Summer School
• Research synthesis reports & policy briefing notes