

**Date:** 28th March 2021  
**Time:** 14:00-15:30  
**Venue:** Virtual

# MINUTES

## Travel & Transport Topic Support Network

**Attendees:**

Trudy Cunningham	TC	University of Dundee
Christopher Osbeck	CO	University of Aberdeen
Kelly Wiltshire	KW	Nestrans
Ben Standish	BS	Edinburgh Napier University
Viola Retzlaff	VR	University of Glasgow
Steven Giannandrea	SG	City of Glasgow Colleges
Jayne Ann Brown	JAB	Cycling Scotland
Lucy Lisle	LL	University of Brighton
Cesar Torres	CT	Act Travelwise Scotland
Alex Luetchford	AL	University of Edinburgh
Adam Kesby	AK	Sustrans
Siôn Pickering	SP	University of Edinburgh
Kirk Burton	KB	Robert Gordon University
Johannes Schamp	JS	University of Stirling Students' Union
Matt Woodthorpe	MW	EAUC-Scotland
Scott Thomson	ST	EAUC-Scotland

	SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS	ACTIONS
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> <i>Trudy Cunningham, University of Dundee and Travel &amp; Transport Convenor</i>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Business travel flight emissions and policies – a time of opportunity?</b> Siôn Pickering - SRS Projects Coordinator, University of Edinburgh; Network Manager: Roundtable of Sustainable Academic Travel.  Presentation slides and recording available on Sustainability Exchange.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Engaging with local authorities on sustainable travel</b> Adam Kesby – Active Travel Champions Officer, Sustrans  Presentation slides and recording available on Sustainability Exchange.	

<p>4</p>	<p><b>Group Discussions</b></p> <p><b>a) Lockdown travel trends</b></p> <p>TC – following suspension of parking during COVID-19, University of Dundee have had external public and businesses using parking sites. Parking regulations will now be re-instated from 1<sup>st</sup> May to try tackle issue. Changed parking provider and increased parking fine to £85. University can also contact DVLA for driver details. Longer term the University is encouraging staff to work from home which will have an impact on parking income.</p> <p><a href="#">Car parking   University of Dundee</a></p> <p>Seeking income for electric charging benches – can be used for charging electric bikes and phones on the go.</p> <p>AK – <a href="#">University of Leeds and YouGov</a> did a poll to look at travel trends in response to COVID – walking is the big behavioural switch (20% more people walking regularly), expected car switch never happened – as many people who bought a car gave up one. Cycling has increased compared to the pre-pandemic period but this is thought mostly to be leisure cycling and not commuting. The study found that if people worked from home two days a week, then we could cut morning trips by 14% - similar to school holiday levels.</p> <p>Other noted research studies on lockdown travel trends: <a href="#">CREDS 2021</a>; <a href="#">Nestrans</a></p> <p>JB – it’s good to recognise that one of the best times to break or change a habit is when there is a big personal change such as COVID. Although very difficult to do, this is also an opportunity to support staff and students to make positive behavioural changes. Being experimental is useful to try new things.</p> <p>TC – just before lockdown UoD had issued e-bikes to different departments and these were very popular with requests for further provision. Staff are now having issue due to COVID using e-bike fleet. We’ll have to look in to protocols to ensure safety for users of e-bikes and car fleets.</p> <p>VR – feel it’s a bit too early to see definite trends at UoGlasgow due to COVID messaging e.g. don’t share a car, don’t use public transport – means people are more likely to use a private car at the moment. Expected a lot more people cycling and installed cycle racks but these haven’t been used as expected due to most staff and students working and studying from home. Might have to have some of these removed to create social spaces. E-bike fleet is not being used as much at the moment due to safety concerns – allowed some to be used for commuting but once back to normal working would need to formalise that.</p> <p>BS – At Edinburgh Napier University there is anecdotal evidence of people wanting to get cycling as well as people not wanting to use public transport. Received funding from Cycling Scotland for some new bikes to support staff that might not otherwise have access to a bike.</p> <p>CO – on E-bike fleets, UoAberdeen has managed to keep the e-bike fleet well used. This was done through contacting door access staff to analyse which departments are most on campus. This highlighted medical, IT, security and grounds teams being on campus – contacted these to say e-bike fleet is available. This resulted in take up, especially for grounds staff</p>	
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due to COVID protocols e.g. only one person in a fleet vehicle at one time – a pair of staff could visit a site with one in a car and the other on an e-bike. Addressing safety risk – although outside and exposed to fresh air we issued every person with a small packet of disinfectant wipes to wipe down bike before and after use. Also through issuing bikes to particular departments users know there's limit use from a wider pool of people.

AL – looking at the Edinburgh pool bikes scheme they have been operating throughout the pandemic. Their safety advice is wash hands before and after use, and that bikes are also disinfected when they are returned to the depot. People can look at guidance on their website.

**SP – University of Edinburgh also going down the route of encouraging staff to work from home longer term where possible. Have other institutions done calculations of what that looks like? e.g. 3 days per week at home. This will make a huge difference to local travel plans.**

TC – feedback from senior exec team and academics at University of Dundee is looking at going back 3 days per week max within the office.

OS – looked into anecdotal data from staff groups at University of Aberdeen suggests 20 – 40% reduction in the number of staff coming on to campus. Challenge is that the staff groups that are intending to work from home are not necessarily the staff groups that are using the car parking. Alternatively, staff groups such as portering and cleaners are coming in at unsociable hours when there is no or limited public transport so they tend to use their cars. Also expect challenges with people who normally car share as it will be more difficult to find a match between location and work days. Will see what happens over the next year before committing more firmly to things due to uncertainties still.

LL – at University of Brighton return to work survey going out shortly including travel questions. Expected to work from home where possible. VC sent email out recently saying things won't go back to pre-COVID but that university is also a social experience and don't want the campus to be quiet. So still waiting and seeing.

**MW – as institutions work on Work From Policies, are you getting involved in those discussions?**

SP – SRS as a department is involved in these discussions with an equality's lens first approach, and then sustainability. Got to recognise that WFH works for some people, but for others it doesn't e.g. due to home environment not being suitable.

**b) Campus funding mechanisms for sustainable travel / parking costs**

TC – in 2019 Dundee City Campus applied for the Switched-On Town and City funding. University of Dundee awarded £150k for 4 new electric vans, 1 electric car and 12 new charging points. University only had to cover VAT costs. For parking charges, UoDundee has introduced Pay As You Go with Ringo – this has been well received vs a day ticket as many staff have only been coming on to site for 2 hours instead of 7 hours.

	<p>VR – UoGlasgow have changed parking temporarily so that people can pay £1 a day to use parking – though expect this will go back to a criteria-based parking scheme in future. Monthly and season tickets no longer work going forward for people working from home most of the week, so will have to see what the public transport providers will also offer.</p> <p>CO – At UoAberdeen we had offered annual permits and daily vouchers (scratchcards at £1 a day). Concerned going forward that people will need more flexibility so the annual permit is not likely to be of use to people; and scratchcards produce a lot of waste, moving them about, and café's which sell them aren't likely to be open that quickly. Been talking to parking enforcement company about paying online through app or online portal combined with automatic number plate recognition cameras for larger car parks. Though still require staff for smaller car parks, and ANPC don't do things like police disabled bays, double yellow lines etc.</p> <p>Keen to get in differential parking rates in as a system e.g. got 50 days at £1 a day, and then increases to £1.50 for days after that. Conscious of issues such as people who have to travel regularly or don't always have other means, particularly lower paid staff. Still working through this.</p> <p>VR – Do we think season passes are too expensive? At approximately £20 per month for parking, that is relatively quite cheap even when used only for a 2 days per week.</p> <p>CO – I agree. Compared to local authority car parks and street parking, they are charging £1 an hour vs us at £1 a day. This doesn't create a good incentive to not travel by car to campus. Hopefully with a differential charging system we can say we are not penalising everyone but those that are using it more often. It will hopefully address lost income which pays for the inter-campus shuttle bus.</p> <p>BS – 10% of car parking income has provided a budget for sustainability projects, roughly £20k. This has been lost this year resulting in restraints in sustainability projects. Internal discussions are focussing on how to address this income gap and ensure pay for use, however not penalise staff and students in the short-term who don't feel safe using alternative modes of travel.</p> <p>AL – historical issues of shuttle bus service between campuses at UoEdinburgh – hope these will be addressed for the large part by the incoming Scottish Government policy shift of free bus travels for under 22's expected to come in this summer. Funding spent on shuttle bus travel currently might be redirected to provide subsidies for mature students for example, but costings need further exploring.</p>	
5	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>No further items.</p>	
6	<p><b>Thanks and Close</b></p> <p><i>Trudy Cunningham, University of Dundee and Travel &amp; Transport Convenor</i></p>	