

**Invitation to become a member of the newly formed
WCTRS Special Interest Group on “National and Regional
Transport Planning and Policy”**

Dear Colleague

It is an honour for me to invite you to become a member of this newly formed SIG G2 “National and Regional Transport Planning and Policy”.

Below you will find the proposal to form a new SIG G2 which I have submitted to the WCTRS Board, and which has been accepted. I am now seeking Researchers around the world, who share a common interest in this topic. I would like to reach a broad coverage of researchers dealing with national and regional transport masterplans and policy.

If you are interested in joining, please send me an email, with your contact details and a short CV. I will then keep you informed regarding further steps.

For your information – there is a specific call for papers for a session at the WCTRS 2016 in Shanghai where I also invite you to submit your abstracts/papers.

Regards and look forward to receiving your mails.

Yours sincerely

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**Proposal for WCTRS Special Interest Group on
“National and Regional Transport Planning and Policy”**

This note proposes to WCTRS to form a Special Interest Group (SIG) on National and Regional Transport Planning and Policy, which will serve as a forum facilitating discussion, communication and activities related to National and Regional Transport Planning and Policy worldwide.

The aim of this SIG is to provide planning and policy for both passenger and freight transport at both the national and regional level. It includes all transport modes that contribute to national and regional economic development, climate change and quality of life. While transport planning and policy is already established as a research focus within the WCTRS in the SIG G3 – Urban Transport Planning and Policy (former SIG 10), the regional, national and international perspective are not explicitly addressed in the WCTRS, hence the proposal for G2.

SCOPE

In recent years transport related issues/challenges/impacts have become more obvious although a series of transport masterplans and policies which have been developed and implemented at a regional, national and international level in order to mitigate the negative impact of the growing demand of mobility.

This SIG will address this issue and investigate the different approaches around the world.

Policy topics we plan to investigate are not strictly limited to transport related policy instruments such as harmonious traffic movement, regulation and deregulation, traffic management and control, tools for assessing and evaluating policy options, infrastructure development and private-public partnership.

It is also planned within this SIG to address the implications of national and international mega-trends such as population growth, aging, globalization, scarceness of non-renewable resources and social developments such as economic, environmental (e.g. sea level rise) and political crises (wars, refugees,...) how these trends are taken into consideration in national and regional transport planning and policy making and to quantify their impacts on the future economy, environment and quality of life.

The SIG also addresses the historic, present and future developments of national and regional transport planning and policy activities on different continents, and takes into consideration their individual economic stages and political contexts (keyword “path dependency”).

Another key focus will be put on the consistency of existing and future national and regional transport policies and their impacts on related rural and urban transport systems, and the implications and impacts at the international and global level.

Close collaboration and knowledge exchange will be established with selected SIGs from the other Topic Areas within the WCTRS framework.

Therefore we propose a new SIG under the WCTRS framework. We expect to promote substantial research and contribute to fundamental reforms of regional and national transport and land use planning. We believe this will become one of the highlighted topics in WCTR Shanghai and therefore help attract many participants from all over the world and particularly from developing countries.

A variety of issues could be addressed including but are not limited to:

- History of national and regional transport planning and policy processes and implementation
- Path dependency of national and regional transport planning and policy processes
- Investigation of policy instruments on regional, national and international level, their impacts, time lags and transferability to other countries/continents
- Inventory of regional and national transport planning and policy processes and documents
- Technology innovation in regional and national transport planning and policy processes
- Integration of intelligent transport system for regional and national transport planning and policy processes
- Impact of big data availability on regional and national transport planning and policy processes

The SIG would ideally include a broad range of research topics but not limited to land use analysis, transport planning, transport policy, traffic flow theory, transport engineering, economic analysis, human behaviour and technology innovation.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the SIG is to promote research relating to regional and national transport planning policy to improve the economic, environmental and social environment globally. Via international workshops and group meetings, the SIG will gather outstanding and experienced transport experts to promote studies in this field.

The second objective of the SIG is to hold dedicated sessions dealing with regional and national transport planning and policy in the WCTR conference and to produce high-quality research in this field.

Lastly, the SIG aims to become a link between WCTRS and other organisations.

ACTIVITIES

Firstly, the "National and Regional Transport Planning and Policy" SIG will hold international workshops to promote joint studies in this field. This SIG mainly focuses on "regional and (inter-) national scale" while other SIGs focus more on the urban level. As the scope, methods and instruments are similar to SIG G3, the mechanism and influences on regional and (inter-) national level are distinct topics.

Secondly, the "National and Regional Transport Planning and Policy" SIG will organise dedicated sessions regarding National and Regional Transport Planning and Policy in later WCTR conferences, and aims to hold special sessions in other high-level international or regional conferences.

The SIG will also seek opportunities to promote collaboration and cooperation among WCTRS, government administration and practitioners worldwide.

MEMBERSHIP

The SIG will be led by A.o.Univ.Prof. Dr. Guenter Emberger from Vienna University of Technology, Austria.

Members from all countries are warmly welcome!