



Changing Size, Changing Transport

Taller, Heavier, Wider, Older: The implications for travel, costs and equalities, rights and responsibilities.

26th November 2009
9:00am – 5:00pm
Friends House, Euston Road

Programme

- 9:00am Registration
- 9:30 Welcome and Introduction
Chair: Nick Newton
- 9:40 Obesity Trends in the UK and Transport. How travel choices can affect weight and other health aspects.
Jenny Mindell University College London
- 10:00 Size Matters. Market research findings on public attitudes and behaviour towards larger passengers on buses, trains and taxis
Kris Beuret Social Research Associates
- 10:20 Older Age, Disability and Transport: the difficulties faced
Ann Frye
- 10:40 Keynote
- 11:10 Tea/Coffee
- 11:30 All Passengers are Born Equal? Understanding at passenger needs
Anthony Smith Passenger Focus
- 11:50 Airline Industry Speaker
- 12:10 Lunch
- 1:00pm Law of Entitlement
Hazel Genn University College London
- 1:20 Workshop Breakout Sessions – Delegates to meet in small groups to discuss what they believe the key issues are. Groups will be formed of a cross range of professionals.
- 3:00 Roundtable Discussion – Key Issue Agreement generated from small groups. Discussion of future steps to resolve/understand the issues raised
- 4:30 Conclusion/Next steps
Nick Tyler University College London



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Background

This conference will look at the implications of a physically changing population on travel provision in order to promote debate in parliament and inform policy. The Crucible Centre at University College London, (UCL) is in collaboration with the International Longevity Centre (ILC) in holding on a one day conference to raise the underlying issues and concerns from the academia and industry.

The population is changing shape. Many people are becoming taller, wider, and heavier. Everyone is becoming older and the percentage of the population that is older than 65 continues to rise. These changes all have effects on the cost of provision and equalities. These issues have the real potential to affect service providers. For example people becoming wider may affect transport providers ability to charge more to carry people whose size might necessitate the use of two seats. Canada has recently legislated that on internal flights, airlines should book two seats for the price of one for clinically obese people.

These issues are clearly important for the future and impact on all modes of transport. They need to be discussed urgently so that the transport sector can work together and be prepared for the future implications, The conference will bring together experts from different sectors to

- a) understand what the effects of an increasing number of wider, taller and heavier people in transport systems will be and
- b) define what the industry sees as the key issues.

As a result of the discussion at this conference Baroness Sally Greengross (ILC) will establish a small group to look in greater depth at the issues raised. Baroness Greengross will in turn lead this as a debate in Parliament and aims to establish a technical group to look at the issues raised. Those who would like to be involved in any of these further stages need to attend the conference.

Who should attend?

Bus, train, and underground operators
Plane and ferry operators
Academics in size, obesity, ageing and transport
Passenger and human rights experts

The Crucible Centre – UCL

How old will people be? How will we cope with the continual decline of functions such as dexterity, eye sight or mental capacity? Will there be an evolution in the way cultures live due to changing age and capability profiles? Understanding how different cultures understand and cope with ageing people will help us to better manage the future. However, how realistic is it to expect this to continue when the older members of the family are not dying until they are 125? How is this affected by the design of the environment – is it easier for the family to cope with an ageing relative at home if transport and the constructed environment is designed to cope – and how much should we be investing in such design? What will the future be like for ageing people and their family and carers – and how we

can design the environment to make it easier? How will the economic impact of the ageing population affect the budgets available for such expenditure and what would be the likely tax effects on the younger population?

These are the questions being posed by the UCL CRUCIBLE Centre for Lifelong Health and Wellbeing.

Supported by 4 Research Councils (BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC and MRC), CRUCIBLE provides researchers from across the whole of UCL with ways of meeting, collaborating and developing interdisciplinary research projects to investigate multifaceted questions such as those highlighted above. On top of this CRUCIBLE offers money for buy-outs and small feasibility studies to encourage researchers to spend time sculpting proposals that they feel are important to understanding lifelong health and wellbeing, from bench to bedside and beyond.

Outside the university gates, CRUCIBLE seeks to ensure its remit covers training medical, social services and other professionals to cope with these questions over the next 50 years. It is vital that students learn today how they can gain from understanding that solutions to these questions are to be found interlinked across many disciplines. CRUCIBLE is establishing MSc and PHD programmes that emphasise this and provides future leaders and problem solvers with the tools to transfer this knowledge into the wider society and thus will strengthen their future careers.

The UCL CRUCIBLE Centre is directed by Professor Nick Tyler, who is based in the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering. www.ucl.ac.uk/crucible