
Newsletter

June 2005

Research

The SOLUTIONS project, investigating sustainability of land use and transport in outer neighbourhoods, began in April 2004. In the first few months, research on the theoretical aspects of city forms and transport network patterns was undertaken. This understanding fed in to the decision on formulation of land use and transport options to be tested for the four case study areas. At this juncture the experience of the Cambridge Futures Study, in which some of the SOLUTIONS researchers were involved, was used as a starting point. Currently the work on testing strategic land use and transport options for London and the south-east of England case study is underway.

The theoretical work on city form and transport network patterns at neighbourhood level also helped frame local design options applicable to the case study areas. Currently local design options are being worked out for Cambridge case study. Similar work on the London case study commenced in May 2005.

The city-wide and local options being developed for the various case study areas need to be assessed for environmental, social and economic sustainability. A basic framework for appraisal has been developed and currently the work on specifying sub-criteria for assessment is underway and is expected to be completed by end of Aug 2005.

A microsimulation model is being developed to test the local designs under the supervision of Professor John Douglas Hunt, University of Calgary, Canada. The model will help ascertain how satisfactory are the neighbourhood layouts from the residents' view point in terms of accessibility for local trips.

Work on identifying the local study areas for Tyne and Wear case study has begun. Field visits were made in collaboration with the local partners and stakeholders on 27 April 2005, to identify potential local study areas. The possibility of linking an existing land use model with a detailed transport model for strategic modelling for Tyne and Wear area is being explored.

Draft literature review on social accessibility was completed in Feb 2005. Since this area of research is rapidly developing, the literature review is being periodically upgraded. In addition, a pilot survey has been initiated to examine the behaviour of outer city residents in relation to the use of local facilities and their propensity to walk/bicycle for local trips.

Coordination

The SOLUTIONS website was launched in Dec 2004. The website is periodically updated and from time to time, academic papers are put up on the website for

wider dissemination amongst the general public. A coloured brochure briefly describing SOLUTIONS project is available for download from the website.

Key events

Annual Research Conference (2004)

The conference was held on 15 Dec 2004, in Cambridge. Discussion papers relating to generic urban form, methodology for carrying out strategic and local design, and assessment of options were presented. In addition, members of the International Advisory Group presented papers on modelling urban sustainability, and economics and transport. All the papers presented are available on the website for download.

Stakeholders' workshops and meetings

A workshop for the Cambridge Southern Fringe local study area was held on 16 Dec 2004. Nearly 30 people, who were local government officers, councillors, voluntary agency representatives, real estate developers, and residents of the area, participated. The aim of the workshop was to get a feedback from the participants on the various local development options for the area.

A stakeholders' meeting was organised on 27 May 2005 at Cambridge in which baseline data on the two local study areas in Cambridge (Northstowe and Cambridge East) was presented. The local government representatives who participated in the meeting informed about the current proposals and constraints to development in these two areas. A second meeting on these two local study areas is scheduled to take place on 12 Sept 2005, in which a wider spectrum of stakeholders are expected to participate.

Workshop on modelling (28 June 2005)

SOLUTIONS and Special Interest Group-1 (Spatial Development and Transport of the World Transport Conference) organised a joint workshop at UCL, to explore key methodological issues relating to strategic and microsimulation modelling. Papers presented at the workshop may be downloaded from the website.

Forthcoming key events

Annual Research Conference (2005)

The conference will be held on 5-6 Dec 2005 at UCL. The presentations at the conference will focus on the London case study and outputs from the work so far on strategic and local designs, assessment, and microsimulation modelling.