

Call for Evidence

Transport Mobility and Wellbeing

January 2014

Introduction

The Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT) is undertaking research into the relationship between transport, mobility, health and wellbeing and would like your input.

For the purpose of this Call for Evidence, if we refer to 'health' we mean physical health, and if we refer to 'wellbeing' we mean mental wellbeing, recognising this aligns to common understanding of the definitions rather than the World Health Authority (WHO) definitions.

Whilst a relationship between transport and health is generally recognised in broad terms – for example access to health care, personal mobility, better accessibility and the benefits of active travel on health - there is a need to understand the wider impact of improved mobility on mental health and wellbeing.

We have reviewed a significant amount of background academic papers, research and policy documents to date and we hope to build on that through this Call for Evidence by identifying rich, real-life case studies to inform our research. The research will be conducted for CIHT by Peter Brett Associates LLP (PBA), which is acting as a voluntary facilitator.

The final research paper will be widely disseminated to transport and health practitioners, planners and economists, and government so your contributions will be valuable to a large and relevant audience.

The project objective

It is hypothesised that by considering health and wellbeing when developing transport schemes and policies, a range of social, economic and environmental objectives could be addressed.

When developing the case for new transport schemes in the UK in recent times, the funders, professional advisers and users have tended to focus only on the direct economic benefits, without factoring in the quantified health and wellbeing savings. We question if health and wellbeing outcomes should be considered in scheme development, taken into account in the



design process, and embedded in the economic assessment and justification for transport projects.

Through this research, we aim to develop definitive definitions of what is meant by health and by wellbeing, identify links between transport, mobility, health and wellbeing and to identify the strategic key drivers for, or barriers against, improving health and wellbeing outcomes as a result of transport investment.

This will be achieved through reviewing what information is currently available and through developing a dialogue with health and transport professionals, policy influencers, charities, academics and other organisations which can assist in developing our knowledge base and can assist in answering our research questions. This work will culminate in the production of an accessible report of our findings.

It is our intention to move beyond traditional economic cost/benefit analysis towards a new model, where improvement of health and wellbeing outcomes as a result of transport contribution and investment can be quantified, with a range of indicators and robust measurement techniques.



Purpose of this call for evidence

We anticipate that there are a number of potential respondents who are highly experienced and knowledgeable on the topic of transport, mobility, health and wellbeing, and we would encourage you to respond, to enrich our research with your case studies, which will provide a depth to the research which cannot be achieved through a literature review alone. Your input, even if only on one or two of the call for evidence questions included in this document, could be of great value to the research team and the wider transport and health professions as a whole.

How to respond

We would be pleased to receive your responses by email, which can be sent to:

wellbeing@CIHT.org.uk

Please ensure your response reaches us by Friday 7th February 2014

When responding, please state whether you are doing so as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please make it clear who the organisation represents, and where applicable, how the views of members were assembled. We will acknowledge your response.

Confidentiality

If you would like your response to this call for evidence to remain anonymous, please make this clear in your submission. Responses may be published and all published contributors will be fully attributed unless anonymity has specifically been requested.

Help with queries

Please direct any queries about the subject matter of this document to Matthew Hughes at:
wellbeing@CIHT.org.uk.



Call for evidence questions

The key questions on which we are inviting comment are listed below. These are not exhaustive. Please only answer the questions relevant to you. We welcome comments in terms of the demographics, policy and case study experience on any closely related issues that you think we should consider.

1. Does direct investment in transport (either physical measures, e.g. the provision of cycle routes, or non-physical measures e.g. behaviour change programmes like personalised travel planning) lead to measureable health and wellbeing benefits? Please provide examples.
2. Do you have any experience of measuring health and wellbeing and what measurements do you use?
3. Are you aware of Transport and Health professionals forming partnerships and working together which you can provide examples of?
4. Do you have an example of where health and wellbeing has been directly impacted by transport and mobility (either positively or negatively) in the work that you do, (e.g. change in levels of coronary disease or levels of depression due to changes in level of transport provision or mobility)?
5. Do you have any examples of where transport infrastructure or services have been changed, or where changes are proposed due to the effects of changing demographics and travel trends in the UK?
6. What are the expected impacts of new local authority funding approaches (e.g. “single pot”, Local Enterprise Partnership directed funding) on transport, health and social services budgets?
7. If there are any further comments you would like to make, and/or if you would be interested in being involved in the workshops to develop this work please let us know.



What happens next?

The call for evidence ends on Friday 7th February 2014. Responses will be carefully considered and some respondents may be approached for additional comment on specifically defined topics and/or opinion. Access to our literature review will be made available to respondents if requested.

Two workshops are being hosted by CIHT on 3rd and 10th March 2014 and will be attended by a range of experts and interested parties in this field, along with a number of local authority representatives from public health and from transport. A selection of the key respondents to the call for evidence will be invited to discuss their work at these events. Please let us know if you are interested in being involved (see question 7).

A draft report will be compiled which will aim to establish any quantifiable relationship between transport projects and health and wellbeing outcomes, and facilitators and barriers to achieving this. The draft document will be presented at the CIHT Learned Society Lecture in May 2014. Input on the draft will be encouraged at that lecture in advance of CIHT and PBA publishing the final report in summer 2014.

About us

CIHT is a professional membership body and a learned society concerned specifically with the planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of land-based transport systems and infrastructure.

PBA is a leading development and infrastructure consultancy, who amalgamate their skills across a broad range of disciplines, from engineering and planning to regeneration and economics.

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