

Urban Transport IX

Urban Transport and the Environment in the 21st Century

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TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE 21ST
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Published by

WIT Press

Ashurst Lodge, Ashurst, Southampton, SO40 7AA, UK

Tel: 44 (0) 238 029 3223; Fax: 44 (0) 238 029 2853

E-Mail: witpress@witpress.com

<http://www.witpress.com>

For USA, Canada and Mexico

Computational Mechanics Inc

25 Bridge Street, Billerica, MA 01821, USA

Tel: 978 667 5841; Fax: 978 667 7582

E-Mail: info@compmech.com

US site: <http://www.compmech.com>

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A Catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library

ISBN: 1-85312-961-5

ISSN: 1462-608X

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Only minor corrections to the text may have been carried
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Printed in Great Britain by Bookcraft Ltd, Bath.

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PREFACE

There is an increasing focus today on the sustainability of the quality of life in our cities which involves many aspects such as land-use, recreation, services and notably urban transport. This is, in fact, the subject of a sister conference called The Sustainable City which takes place in May 2004 in Siena. Urban transport plays an essential part in the concept due to its linking and interaction with work, residential and service areas, and has an important bearing on air quality, safety, and social aspects. In fact urban transport may well be regarded as the nucleus for sustainable city planning. The study of urban transport itself is complex and involves many separate disciplines as shown by the variety of papers in the book. These cover transport systems, traffic integration, simulation systems, air pollution, noise pollution, accessibility and mobility, cost and investment, infrastructure, rail and road vehicles.

It is clear that there is unlikely to be one panacea for urban transport or for the fabric of our cities in any particular circumstance, and this is perhaps fortunate as variety itself provides a special interest to the quality of life. At the same time, the backdrop to urban transport research which this conference series has documented over nine years, is one of a serious shortfall in many of our cities in coping with the pressures of transportation and the ramifications for their inhabitants. This conference provides the latest research and proposes solutions but it is important that planners and city authorities are aware of such work in providing sustainable urban transport for their communities.

Special thanks are due to all contributors and in particular to members of the International Scientific Advisory Committee for their time and expertise in reviewing the abstracts and papers. We very much look forward to meeting all delegates at our ninth Conference in Crete.

The Editors
March 2003

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