

INFORMATION

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Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

TG52 – Transport and the Built Environment

Introducing New Task Group on Transport and the Built Environment

Commencement of Task Group 52: Transport and the Built Environment

Task Group 52 has recently started. The subject of this Task Group is transport and the built environment. The involved partners aim to cooperate and to transfer knowledge and experience between each others and other well-known research institutes on transport and building. They want to stimulate international research projects. The combination of research on both subjects and the integral approach will help forward the knowledge development process and the finding solution process for the problems in crowded urban areas.

A showcase

In the past spatial development decisions have been made leading to a conflict situation between traffic flows & transport infrastructure and present and future buildings. A striking example is the Dutch town of Maastricht. Here problems occur where an international road corridor goes directly throughout the city, including traffic congestion, noise pollution, unsafety. Another example is the major traffic congestion in Holland, where the efforts to increase capacity focus on building infrastructure. The secondary effects of these solutions are that the surroundings of the infrastructure become an even more interesting area and attractive settlement, subsequently leading to more transport flows finally

ending into congestion again. It becomes even more important to handle this problem because of the lack of space and an overburdened infrastructure.

What is the importance of integrated research on Transport and the Built Environment?

This conflict is due to a lack of integral approach. Momentary the main aspects have been looked at separately. Decision makers do not overview the complete decision area. They are just paying attention to the offices and dwellings to be built and, separately, to the logistic and mobility problems. Residential areas are being developed apart from the question what the consequences are for the transport flows and the transport means. It is possible that most preferred transport option couldn't be realized because the buildings in the surroundings form an obstacle. This process results in suboptimal solutions. Besides, instruments and tools are often missing to visualize the coherence and the consequences of decisions quickly.

A balance must be found between the need for mobility and how this adversely affects accessibility, sustainability and safety by weighing various social interests against one another in a complicated decision-making process.

The task group will serve the necessarily integral approach. By a cooperative attitude and a cohesive view on both transport and the built environment the

described problems can be solved. This combination should lead to a high quality area design and a high quality of life. Buildings, spatial development, logistics and transport should be in balance.

Who is involved?

The following research institutes are already involved in this Task Group.

- VTT
- CSIR
- CSIRO
- TNO

All four parties focus on both Traffic and Transport and on Building. We would like to invite other interested parties to join this Task Group. Please send your reaction to the secretary of the Task Group.

Contact Addresses

TNO Building and Construction Research
Department of Building Process Innovation
Roland van der Klauw (**coordinator**)
P.O. Box 49
2600 AA Delft
Tel: +31 15 276 31 33
Fax: +31 15 276 30 24
e-mail: r.vanderklauw@bouw.tno.nl

TNO Building and Construction Research
Department of Building Process Innovation
Nienke Maas (**secretary**)
P.O. Box 49
2600 AA Delft
Tel: +31 15 276 31 37
Fax: +31 15 276 30 24
e-mail: n.maas@bouw.tno.nl