UCL **TRANSPORT** INSTITUTE

Briefing note, July 2014

Crime and Transport Roundtable Discussion

Held during the International Crime Science Conference in London on 16 July 2014, this roundtable discussion brought together key academics and practitioners to discuss the question "What is the most important current problem in transport crime?".

The panel

Andrew Newton – Senior Research Fellow at the Applied Criminology Centre, University of Huddersfield

Vania Ceccato – Associate Professor at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm, Sweden

Steve Burton – Director of Enforcement and On-Street Operations at Transport for London (TfL)

Homre Varley – Inspector in the Metropolitan Police Service leading the safer Transport team in Hackney borough

Chaired by:

Reka Solymosi of the **UCL Crime and Transport Group**

This document summarises the key points from the discussions

Key Points

- Transport systems do not exist in a vacuum; they are part of the wider environment and are affected by what goes on around them.
- One research problem is disentangling transport crimes from non-transport crimes in the surrounding environment.
- Practitioners emphasized the complex interrelationships between the community and transport, for example throwing bricks at roads and railways is a relatively low level offence but one which can cause disruption and road casualties.
- Another challenge is that of creating sustainable crime reduction interventions and maintaining their effectiveness and visibility.
- How to predict emerging transport-related problems? To assist in thinking about future crimes it is possible to consider legitimate use of public transport and apply the Misdeeds framework*.
- Another approach is to think about the parallels between transport crime and cyber crime where a distinction is made between cyber enabled crimes (such as fraud) and cyber dependent crimes (such as the spreading of malware) - could this be applied to crimes involving transport?
- It is also important to consider the transport user's perspective. When asked about crime on transport systems, users often focus on violent predatory crimes, which are infrequent, but the fear of crime remains an important issue that affects ridership and so should be addressed.
- Overall, depending on what definition of transport crime you adopt, the priorities change.

> **" The researcher's problem is whether to take a holistic approach and consider transport and all the surrounding area or divide responsibilities. "**
> Dr. Vania Ceccato, KTH

What Next?

Join the discussion by signing up to the UCL Crime and Transport mailing list here or by emailing Reka at r.solymosi.11@ucl.ac.uk

> **" We consciously take a broad approach to defining transport crime as 'on or around transport systems' to include everything; if you're robbed on the way to the bus stop, it is our concern. "** Steve Burton, TfL

* Ekblom, P (2005) 'How to Police the Future: Scanning for Scientific and Technological Innovations which Generate Potential Threats and Opportunities in Crime, Policing and Crime Reduction', in M. Smith and N. Tilley (eds.), Crime Science: New Approaches to Preventing and Detecting Crime.Cullompton: Willan