

TRI's 25th Anniversary Timeline

Edinburgh Napier UNIVERSITY

1996

TRI (Transport Research Institute) was established as a result of the BEng degree in Transportation Engineering, then the MSc, and the formation of the Transportation Engineering Research Unit (TERU) in 1987.

1997-2007

Howard Kirby, Professor of Transport Studies - Director of TRI.

Interested in fostering cross-disciplinary and cross institutional research in road safety and psychology. Focus of research was: travel demand; information technology applications; safety and environmental impacts.

2007-2014

Professor Kevin Cullinane – Director of TRI

The focus of research was around maritime and logistics.

- Member of the UK REF Sub-Panel 14 – Civil & Construction Engineering (2011-2014)
- Chairman of the International Steering Committee of the International Association of Maritime Economists (IAME) Annual Conference, Santiago, Chile (2011) (TRI was a co-organiser)

October 2011

In collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) and the Institute of Transport and Maritime Management Antwerp (ITMMA), TRI successfully organised the annual conference of the International Association of Maritime Economists (IAME), held in Santiago de Chile. The conference was an international forum for the exchange of research and information among those interested in maritime and maritime-related issues, and this year had a particular focus on shipping markets, port devolution and a changing geography of world maritime transport.

TRI developed significant collaborations with Chinese institutions in 2012. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for future collaboration was signed with the School of Maritime Studies and Transportation at Ningbo University. The School of Naval Architecture, Ocean & Civil Engineering at Shanghai Jiaotong University also expressed its interest in collaborating with TRI in joint research and establishing a PhD education programme. In October, a Chinese delegation from the Beijing Municipal Institute of City Planning and Design visited TRI to discuss transport policy, research, and also future collaborative opportunities in the area of transport engineering and management.

2012

September 2012

Supported by the Scottish Government's Electric Vehicle Procurement Support Scheme, TRI was commissioned to develop three new electric car charging points set up at Edinburgh Napier University's Craiglockhart, Sighthill and Merchiston campuses. Transport Minister Keith Brown joined Edinburgh Napier's Principal and Vice Chancellor, Professor Dame Joan Stringer at an official launch at the University's Craiglockhart campus. The charging points were fitted with a mini-computer and a wireless transmission to allow TRI researchers to monitor and analyse their use.

2012 - 2014

TRI successfully organised the Scottish Transport Applications and Research (STAR) Conference on behalf of Transport Scotland, the national transport agency of the Scottish Government for 3 years running. The Conference was aimed at everyone engaged in any aspect of transport from research to campaigning, strategic planning, policy development, project management to operations and infrastructure provision and maintenance. TRI continues to be members of the STAR Committees.

2013

TRI secured a Marie Curie project entitled 'EU-China Research Network on Integrated Container Supply Chains' (ENRICH). The four year project addressed changes in operational, environmental, economic, technical and managerial practices in different segments of the rail, road, air and sea transport industries from an overall container supply chain perspective. The funding supported TRI members to spend 30 research months in China to work with researchers from Beijing Jiaotong University and Wuhan University of Technology.

February 2014

Professor Keith Dickinson was appointed Interim Director of TRI.

2015-2019

Professor Tom Rye, Professor of Transport Head of TRI and Head of Civil and Transport Group.

Tom set to work on developing and implementing a new strategy for TRI. Research areas were: land-based transport, transport policy, modelling, parking and management, road safety, transport psychology, behavioural change, sustainable transport, energy and the environment.

October 2015

With support from the Scottish Government, TRI hosted its first Electric Vehicle event. The Minister for Transport and Islands, and Lord Provost both gave an address. This is now an annual event and we are now in our 7th year!

November 2015

TRI held a 2-day seminar on Smart Urban Mobility. A number of presentations from this event were developed into papers for a special issue of Transportation Research: Part A.

2016

Professor Tom Rye was appointed Chair of the Universities' Transport Studies Group (UTSG) for a 3-year period and Jason Monios was appointed Secretary.

June 2016

Research Excellence Award - Professor Tariq Muneer was awarded the Principal of Edinburgh Napier University's Research Excellence Award.

June 2016

A road safety improvement scheme at Sheriffhall Roundabout on the A720 Edinburgh City Bypass won two major awards, following research on its impact by TRI. The project team was presented with the John Smart Road Safety Award at the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT) annual awards ceremony. The project then picked up the Excellence in Technology and Innovation award at the 14th annual Scottish Transport Awards in Glasgow. The scheme comprised an installation of intelligent road studs, which illuminate in conjunction with green traffic signals at the roundabout. Richard Llewellyn's PhD research paper "Active Road Studs as an Alternative to Lighting on Rural Roads: Driver Safety Perception," is the first of its kind to investigate the effects of the use of active road studs on the confidence of drivers at night.

EU SUNRISE project – SUNRISE will develop, implement, assess and facilitate learning about new, collaborative ways to address common mobility challenges at the neighbourhood level.

2017

5 PhD students graduated from TRI: Aisling Doyle, Joseph Appiah, Shelly-Ann Julien, Clare McTigue and Faqhrul Islam.

Park4SUMP will work on traffic and travel avoidance; it will support less car dependent lifestyles and put into practice innovations in planning and location policy as part of sustainable urban mobility planning (SUMP).

DIAMOND's main goal is to turn data into actionable knowledge with notions of fairness, in order to progress towards an inclusive and efficient transport system.

2018

September 2018

Appointment of Professor Adrian Davis as Professor of Transport & Health. Professor Davis came to the post – believed to be a world-first – with a track record of more than 30 years' work in helping to develop and grow this inter-disciplinary field.

2019

CAV Forth project – CAV Forth is a collaborative project part-funded by the UK Governments' Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CCAV). The project will convert five full-size Alexander Dennis single-decker manually driven buses into autonomous vehicles.

TRI hosted the 9th International Symposium on Travel Demand Management 3-day event. Invited keynote speakers were: Dr Chandra Bhat, Professor Juan De Dios Ortuzar and Professor Glenn Lyons. The papers were reviewed for inclusion on a Special Issue in Transportation Research Part A "Travel demand management in smart cities". TRI also hosted the TDM Symposium in 2005.

JAN 2020

Professor Pat Langdon became Interim Head of TRI.

Research in the area of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning for transport technology, CCAV, Human factors and Engineering Design, and Inclusive transport design. HEART (Hydrogen-Electric & Automated Regional Transportation) project – a leading initiative to decarbonise air travel in Scotland and the UK. TRI is working with The Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) on future Technology Innovation pathways, including AI and robotics.

2022

TRI will host the 54th Annual Conference of the Universities' Transport Study Group (UTSG) conference in Edinburgh

April 2021

TRI celebrates its 25th anniversary by holding a series of events.

