

Dear NECTAR friends

This NECTAR newsletter brings you an update on the upcoming international NECTAR conference in Toronto, a NECTAR workshop report and NECTAR event agenda.

After three and a half year of preparations and 2 postponements due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am excited to see many of you at the 16th International NECTAR conference in Toronto next month, July 20-22, 2022. It will be an exciting in-person event! In addition to the conference, The University of Toronto's Mobility Network is organizing a two-day summer school "Planning More Equitable Transportation Systems," July 18 and 19, 2022 at the University of Toronto's St. George campus. Graduate students and trainees who will be in Toronto attending the NECTAR 2022 conference have been invited to participate.

To those I will not meet in Toronto: I wish you a great summer and hope to see you in an upcoming NECTAR event.

Karst Geurs, NECTAR chair

### NECTAR conference update



The 16th international NECTAR conference in Toronto will have two keynote speakers discussing the conference theme "Mobilizing Justice: Moving Toward Action for an Equitable Transportation Future". The first keynote will be given by **Angela Gibson** at the opening event of the conference on July 21st. Angela is Head Strategy and Foresight of the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC). She has over 18 years of urban planning experience focused on creating complete and connected communities through facilitating the synergies between land use and transit planning.

On the second conference day, July 22nd, **Steven Farber**, Associate Professor of Human Geography at the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC), will give the second keynote. He is the Director of Mobilizing Justice, a national partnership conducting research in support of more equitable transportation planning, policy, and outcomes. His research investigates the social and economic outcomes of travel behavior, transportation planning, and urban form with an aim to provide empirical evidence in support of improved transport and social policy in cities. After Steven's talk, there will be a panel discussion with practitioners and academics on the conference theme.

Over **100** papers will be presented in the NECTAR conference in Toronto. The conference will have 20 general paper sessions and 12 thematic NECTAR cluster sessions. And of course there will be social events on all conference days. We are looking forward to having a great conference and good time among the conference participants.

### The NECTAR PhD Award goes to...

The winner of the fourth NECTAR PhD Award for the best recent PhD thesis work in the NECTAR field has been selected. A total of 11 outstanding PhD theses were nominated, and all of them reflected a high research quality. The PhD Committee, chaired by Professor Juan Carlos Martín, NECTAR vice chair, had a very difficult task selecting the winner. The award is established in memory of Professor Piet Rietveld, who chaired NECTAR in the years 2002-2007 and who with his exceptional academic abilities inspired and stimulated many young researchers, PhD students and the NECTAR community in general.

The PhD Thesis written by Jeroen Bastiaanssen (ITS Leeds) "Youth Mobility and Access to Economic Opportunities" was selected as winner of the 2022 NECTAR PhD award. The PhD research was conducted under the supervision of professor Karen Lucas and dr. Paul Timms at the Institute of Transport Studies, University of Leeds. The thesis aimed to enhance policy understandings of the relationship between (public) transport access and employment outcomes at the national and regional levels, with specific attention to the needs of young people.

Jeroen will receive the award at the Toronto conference and will present his work at the closing plenary session.

### Workshop report "Teleworking, commuting and the housing market in the post COVID19 era"

On 17 and 18 March, Olivier Bonin (NECTAR CL4 co-chair) organised a meeting of NECTAR's Cluster 4 in Marne-la-Vallée to discuss developments in teleworking, commuting and changes in the housing market in the post COVID-19 era. This seminar could take place on site and was a first in-person NECTAR event in almost two years! The setting up of a video conference, allowing about ten fellow Nectarists to participate in the meeting online.

The 12 presentations made it possible to identify three main themes, which served as a common denominator for the organisation of the sessions: global changes in mobility practices under the effect of COVID, changes in teleworking practices, and finally the impact of teleworking and COVID on the location strategies of households. A good balance was found between disciplines: geography, economics, regional sciences, sociology, with a range of work from modern econometrics and spatial analysis methods to semi-directive interviews and qualitative methods. The countries studied (several European countries and the state of California in the United States) were sufficiently diverse to allow trends to be identified, beyond regional particularities.

Overall, among all working people, we observed from our research both an increase in the use of telework for occupations where it was already possible during the crisis, as well as the acculturation of new occupations to these telework practices. However, the recent possibility of returning to the office has been accompanied by a decrease in the intensity of teleworking, and car traffic has returned to near pre-pandemic levels. In addition, several studies have shown that the rebound effects of telework seems to be confirmed and deserves special attention. Finally, active mobility, encouraged by tactical urbanism and the particular context of the pandemic need to be studied more than ever in the post-pandemic context.

### NECTAR agenda

NECTAR Cluster 8 (ICT) Special session "Mobile phones, mobility and transportation", Mobile Tartu Conference, Tartu, Estonia June 28-30, 2022,

NECTAR international Conference, "Mobilizing Justice: Moving Toward Action for an Equitable Transportation Future", Toronto, July 20-22, 2022

NECTAR Cluster 5 (Leisure, Recreation and Tourism) workshop on "Smart Transport for Sustainable Tourism", University of Évora, Portugal, September 12-14, 2022

Joint NECTAR Cluster 4 and 6 workshop on "Mobility and Accessibility after the Pandemic: Emerging Trends and Policy Challenges", Joint Research Center, Seville, 5-7 October 2022