

The 'Right' to Travel:

Seeing the World in a Globalised,
Climate-vulnerable Era

Chris Wood

Widen the Choice Rural Transport Partnership

&

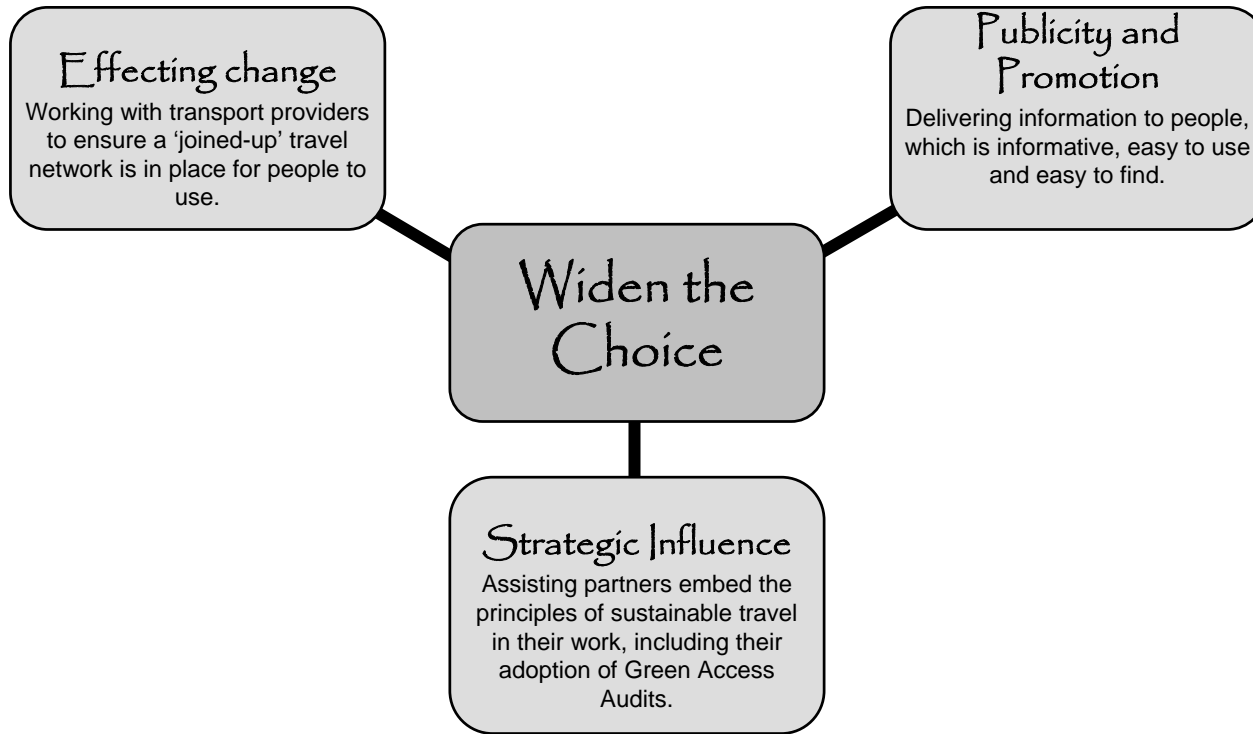
Transplan

Widen the Choice



Transplan

Widen the Choice



Do we have a right to travel?

- “...Slinn invokes the 'silent majority' in defending the right to travel in a carbon-constrained age...”

Local Transport Today, 488, 21/2/08.



Do we have a right to travel?

- “...people have a right to choose which form of transport they want to use...”

Association of British Drivers:
http://www.abd.org.uk/fuel_tax.htm.



Do we have a right to travel?

- “Everyone has the right to travel where they wish, when they want to and by whatever means they choose.”

Peter Roberts, Drivers' Alliance:
<http://www.contracthireandleasing.com>.



Widen the Choice



THE
NATIONAL
TRUST

NATURAL
ENGLAND

Transplan

Do we have a right to travel?

- By *whatever* means?



An historical perspective

- Good roads and cheap travel;
- Freedom of movement ;
- Both modern phenomena.



An historical perspective

- When people wanted, needed or had to move, they did. But it wasn't easy.



The Middle Ages

- **Slow transport:**
 - Walking.
 - Horse-back & cart.
 - Poor roads.



The Middle Ages

- Restrictions on travel:
 - Fear of travellers.
 - Attack.
 - Restrictions on outsiders.
 - Vagabondage.



The Middle Ages

- Even pilgrimage was mostly local:
 - Within a few day's walk.
 - Permission needed.
 - You might not come back!



The Modern Era

- Massive expansion of travel opportunities:
 - Trains.
 - Planes.
 - Automobiles.
 - ... and bicycles!



Impacts of travel #1

- Environment



Impacts of travel #2

- Health



Impacts of travel #3

- Danger



Impacts of travel #4

- Landscape



Impacts of travel #5

- Deprivation



Impacts of travel #6

- Disease



Impacts of travel #7

- Loss of diversity and local distinctiveness



Impacts of travel #8

- Social vulnerability



Human rights?

- Freedom to *travel* can be selective.
- Freedom of *movement* as a human right...



Human rights

- Freedom of movement is personal – not by *whatever* means.

ights - Mozilla Firefox
ools Help
http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/

Welcome to the United Nations. It's your world.

Search UN Website Go

عربي 中文 English Français Русский Español

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Preamble
Article 1
Article 2
Article 3
Article 4
Article 5
Article 6
Article 7
Article 8
Article 9
Article 10
Article 11
Article 12
Article 13
Article 14
Article 15
Article 16
Article 17
Article 18
Article 19
Article 20
Article 21
Article 22
Article 23
Article 24
Article 25
Article 26
Article 27
Article 28
Article 29

On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the full text of which appears in the following pages. Following this historic act the Assembly called upon all Member countries to publicize the text of the Declaration and "to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories."

Useful Links

- [Other language versions](#)
- [Human Rights Day 10 December](#)
- [60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

PREAMBLE

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, Therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Inbox - Microsoft Out... K:\Images Microsoft PowerPoint... The Universal Dec

Widen the Choice



Transplan

Human rights

- *Access not mobility.*
- **No discrimination.**
- **Quality of life.**
- **Obligations.**



Rights not achieved – e.g.

- Rural access deprivation.
- Suppression of freedoms by traffic, pollution and danger.
- No 'Right to Roam'.
- Countryside closure in FMD fiasco.



Price

- Pricing to effect change is seen as 'social engineering'.
- But, what is natural about market prices?
- Ecological Tax Reform.



Travel to broaden the mind

- Travel and meaning.
- Grockel, visitor, or pilgrim?
- Different values to the journey.



Obligations

- Rights come with responsibilities, *e.g.:*
 - Highway Code.
 - Country Code.



Decoupling experience from mass-travel

- Think beyond congestion:
 - Reduce travel *per se*.
 - Price travel through fuel (a good proxy for carbon), not congestive effect.



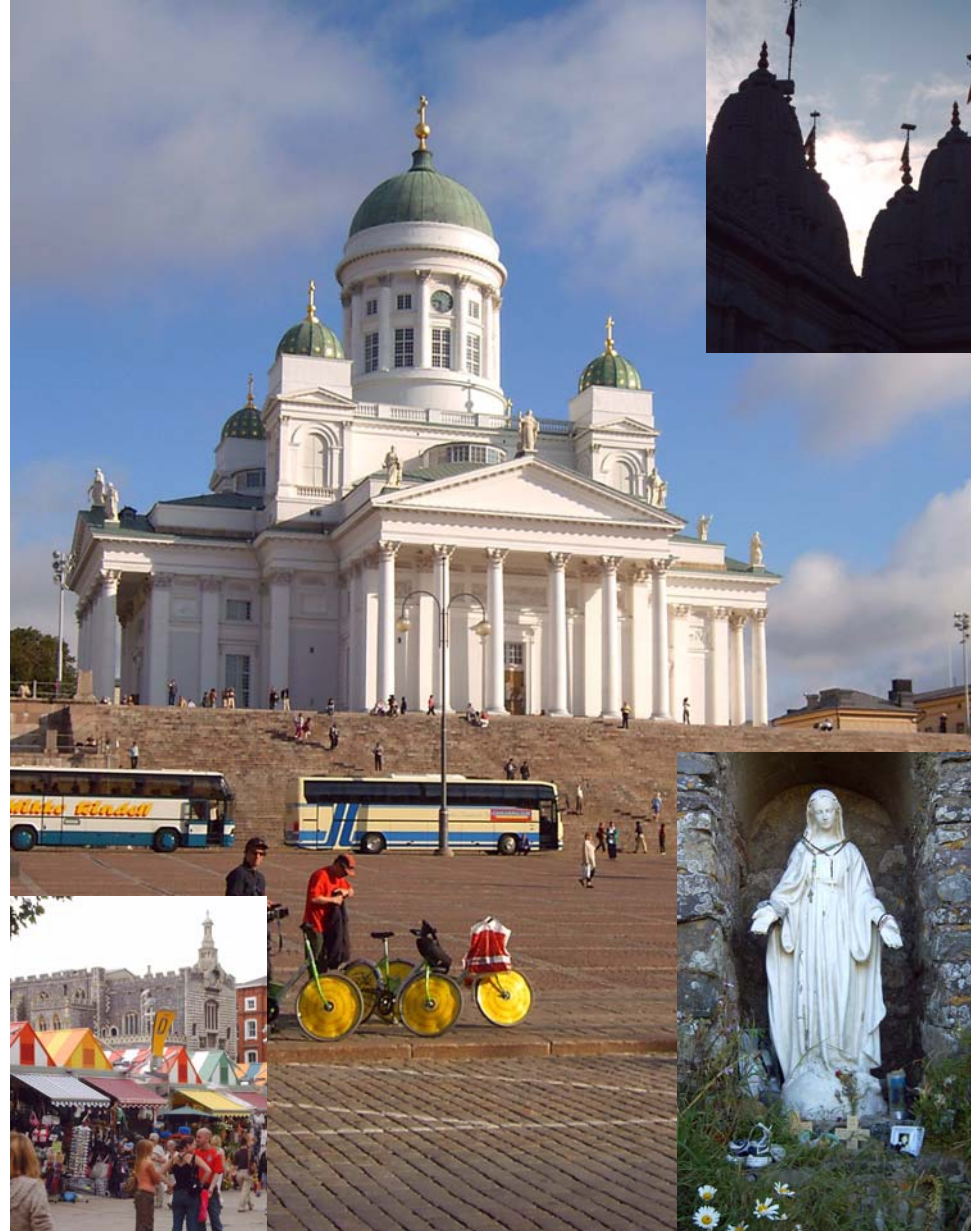
Decoupling experience from mass-travel

- Question speed and time-savings:
 - More speed = more travel.
 - High speed undermines local access.



Decoupling experience from mass-travel

- Can needs be met closer to home?
 - Can long-distance journeys be made special again?



Policies

- **Ecological Tax Reform**
 - Fuel tax.
 - Car ownership tax.
 - Carbon credits?
 - Support for green transport.
 - Removal of employment taxes.



Policies

- **Deceleration**
 - Reform of appraisal.
 - No expansion of roads, air and high-speed rail.
 - Prioritising green modes.
 - Planning for traffic degeneration.
 - Speed limit reductions.
 - Reform traffic policing.



Policies

- **Planning for relocalisation**
 - Sense of place.
 - Good urban & rural design.
 - Ensuring attractive foot & cycle access.
 - Prioritising the local economy.



Thank You for Listening

Chris Wood

Widen the Choice
Rural Transport Partnership

&

Transplan

Widen the Choice



THE
NATIONAL
TRUST

NATURAL
ENGLAND

Transplan