

The Authority, the 'public' transport system, and the crowd

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How much 'authority' will Transport Authorities have in an age where the population can communicate, advocate and agree amongst itself what it wants without them? What roles will they perform and how will they engage with this new world?

Users of public transport are very aware of the fact that most public transport is run by private companies for profit (First Group, Stagecoach etc), and that cancellations or abandonment of operations can happen with minimum consultation. As a Cycle Campaigner, Peter is very aware of the in-built tendencies of many Transport Authorities to avoid consultation, keeping decisions internal and confidential.

What new influences will the public have over the planning, implementation and operation of public transport, and will this make public transport more effective and efficient? Will the crowd make 'public' transport more publicly accountable? How will attitudes to transport choices be changed by the subversive media campaigns that are currently appearing on youtube and flickr? What changes will organisations such as the Climate Camp, Plane Stupid, StopUrban4x4s have? How should academics engage with it and how should today's students prepare for a future in the transport sector?

As an information technologist Peter is fascinated by the transformation of power relationships that is occurring in the new connected world where everyone can be a broadcaster. Peter will present a number of examples of campaigns and information services that are changing the rules of engagement between the public and the Authorities.

If possible then please check out some of the sites shown overleaf and be ready to discuss where all this is likely to lead.

Challenging Authorities:

[Climate Camp](#), [\(re\)parking](#), [freeourdata](#), [Plane Stupid](#), [stopurban4x4s](#), [Car free days](#)

Challenging attitudes:

[Making cycling Dangerous](#), [SUV City](#), [4x4 advert parody](#), [Stopurban4x4s](#)

Training for activists:

[BeTheMedia](#), [SeedsForChange](#),

Building the Creative Commons (the data to underpin new community generated services):

[Openstreetmap](#) (creating a free editable transport model)

[Modelling buildings of the world using Sketchup](#)

[Capturing details for individual roads](#), and [cycle routes](#), and [footpaths](#)

Providing Services for free:

[Cycle journey planning](#) a free photo cycle journey planner for Cambridge

[Cycling mapping](#) free editable cycle mapping based on OpenStreetMap

[Fill that hole](#) CTC empowering cyclists to report potholes (and having a system to make sure they are sorted)

[Train delays](#) get compensation easily

The government's view:

[The Power of Information](#), a report to the government

[The government's response](#) A generally very favourable response