



18th International NECTAR Conference
Munich, Germany, 13 - 15 July 2026

**Call for papers for the thematic session of Cluster 1: Transport Infrastructure
Impacts and Evaluation**

**Examining the appraisal and evaluation of transport policies and
projects in a multi-actor environment**

A range of approaches are used in the appraisal and evaluation of transport policies and projects, developing over the past decades. These aim to inform planning and decision-making on transport policies in a multi-actor environment. A challenge is that evaluation approaches are generally based on assumptions of technical rationality. However, this overlooks the normative assumptions made by practitioners, either in developing project appraisals and evaluations, or by wider groups such as politicians and citizens. The normative assumptions within evaluative approaches may differ relative to the views of wider actors in the decision-making process. This may include varied issues, such as the technical approaches to appraisal, e.g. procedures of aggregation and discounting; the consideration of distributional issues; and the resolution of contestation in views. This Call for Papers is interested in papers that: 1) consider the use of knowledge and power in project appraisal and evaluation; 2) reflect on the episteme (the structures framing knowledge) in evaluation; and 3) develop emerging approaches to evaluation, which may help prioritise projects more effectively relative to aspirations for sustainable urban mobility.

Papers are welcome that address these questions either from theoretical viewpoints or through case studies. The following specific topics are of interest:

- Critical discussion of rational procedures and normative assumptions underlying evaluation approaches and how to deal with them in multi-stakeholder processes.
- Evaluation approaches that can help to appraise the viewpoints of different stakeholders (e.g. multi-criteria analysis and multi-actor multi-criteria analysis).
- Emerging, innovative approaches to evaluation that support participatory planning through the involvement of stakeholders.
- Deliberative and discursive approaches to project appraisal and evaluation.
- Analysis of knowledge, power and episteme in transport planning, project appraisal, evaluation and implementation – helping to understand the procedures used, impacts, and differing views between groups and by space and time.
- Wider case studies on the application of new, innovative foresight methods in specific contexts (e.g. local and regional transport planning).

Deadline for abstract submission

The deadline for abstract submission is January 31, 2026. Abstracts (max. 500 words) should be submitted electronically, using the form available on the conference website and following the instructions found there: <https://nectar26.eu/>

A copy of the abstract should also be sent to the cluster co-chairs Dr. Niek Mouter (n.mouter@tudelft.nl), Prof. Robin Hickman (r.hickman@ucl.ac.uk) and Dr. Imre Keseru (imre.keseru@vub.be).

Criteria for acceptance

Criteria for acceptance are scope, scientific quality, NECTAR membership, and the possibility of fitting the presentation in a coherent conference session. The number of participants in this thematic session will be limited to 8.

Venue

NECTAR 2026 will be hosted by the Accessibility Planning Research Group at Chair of Urban Structures and Transport Planning, Technical University of Munich (TUM), at the Technical University of Munich, in collaboration with the NECTAR Board and its thematic clusters.

Participation and NECTAR membership

All practical details will be communicated through the conference website. In order to participate in the conference, a consecutive and current two-year NECTAR membership is necessary (2024-2026). Non-members can find details of how to join the association on the “Membership” page of NECTAR’s website: www.nectar-eu.eu/membership

Important dates

Abstract submission: January 31, 2026
Notification of acceptance: April 1, 2026
Confirmation of attendance: April 30, 2026

We look forward to seeing you in Munich!

Prof. Robin Hickman, University College London
Dr. Nick Mouter, Technical University Delft
Dr. Imre Keserü, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Prof. Andrew R. Goetz, University of Denver

NECTAR is a European-based scientific association. The primary objective is to foster research collaboration and exchange of information between experts in the field of transport, communication and mobility from all European countries and the rest of the world. It is a multidisciplinary social science network bringing together a wide variety of perspectives on transport and communication problems and their impacts on society from an international perspective. For further information on NECTAR, use the link: <http://www.nectar-eu.eu>.