The Transport and Health Integrated Research Network

Dr Sarah Jones, Public Health Wales.
Professor Charles Musselwhite, Aberystwyth University
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A health perspective on transport / cars

• 12,000 years of roads
• Advantages – trade, development, communication
• Disadvantages – illness, disease
Roads seen as a public space, which all citizens had an equal right to. Including children at play.

“What evil bastard would drive their speeding car where a kid might be playing?”
Road traffic crashes... Killing people since 1896...

“Such a thing should never happen again”

HM Coroner, 1896
SECRETARY HOOVER'S CONFERENCE WILL SUGGEST MANY WAYS TO CHECK THE
ALARMING INCREASE OF AUTOMOBILE FATALITIES.—STUDYING HUGE PROBLEM

Secretary Hoover's Conference Will Suggest Many Ways to Check the Alarming Increase of Automobile Fatalities.—Studying Huge Problem

According to the latest report, Secretary Hoover will hold a conference on the prevention of automobile accidents. The conference is scheduled to take place on June 1st and is expected to attract representatives from various industries and organizations involved in road safety.

The report notes that over the past year, there has been a significant increase in the number of automobile accidents, with fatalities rising by 20%. This is alarming, and the Secretary of Commerce is taking the matter seriously. The conference will focus on discussing and implementing strategies to reduce the number of accidents and fatalities.

The conference will bring together experts from the transportation industry, law enforcement, medical professionals, and other stakeholders to share information and ideas on how to improve road safety. The Secretary of Commerce has expressed confidence that the conference will yield practical solutions to address the issue.

In preparation for the conference, the Secretary's office has already begun gathering data and conducting research on the causes of automobile accidents. This will help identify areas where improvements can be made and will provide a solid foundation for the discussions that will take place during the conference.

The Secretary has also emphasized the importance of public awareness and education in reducing the number of accidents. He has called on all stakeholders to work together towards a safer road environment.

The conference is expected to be a significant step towards addressing the issue of automobile accidents, and the Secretary's commitment to the cause is expected to result in positive changes for the betterment of road safety.

In conclusion, the Secretary Hoover's Conference on automobile safety is an important event that will bring together experts to address the alarming increase in fatalities. The conference is a testament to the Secretary's commitment to ensuring public safety and reducing the number of accidents on our roads.

Source: Secretary Hoover's Conference on Automobile Safety

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The above text is a fictional representation of a news article discussing a conference on automobile safety. It was created to simulate a newspaper article and provide a narrative on the topic.
Government safety posters ridicule jaywalking in the 1920s and '30s. (National Safety Council/Library of Congress)
IF YOU KILL SOMEONE WITH A GUN, IT’S “MURDER.”
YOU’LL DO 20 YEARS TO LIFE FOR THIS.

IF YOU KILL SOMEONE WITH A CAR, IT’S “AN ACCIDENT.”
IT’S OKAY, YOU DIDN’T SEE HIM.
What does road traffic do for us?

- Air pollution
- Road traffic injuries
- Social isolation / loneliness
- Physical inactivity
- Noise

**Road traffic**
- Produces
- Causes
- Increases
- Encourages
- Creates
- Exacerbates
- Creates
- Inequalities
Community severance
- Car dependency
- Isolation and loneliness
- Low social capital and support
- High deprivation = more main roads
- Health and wellbeing impacts

Road traffic casualties and injuries
- 153,000 casualties in UK/year
- Big improvements in numbers
  - But mostly for vehicle occupants
  - Vulnerable road uses - walking/cycling - still high
- Older pedestrians & young drivers
- Those living in areas of high deprivation

Pollution
- Vehicles still high level of pollutants
- Research indicates 8.8m early deaths each year worldwide
- Direct health consequences e.g. asthma, emphysema, lung cancer
  - Narrows arteries and weakens muscles
  - Stroke and dementia link.

Reduction in active Travel
- All cause mortality down by 20%
- Cardiovascular disease by 30%
- Reduce high blood pressure and stroke
- Mental health improvements
- Low levels in UK of active travel
- Obesogenic environments
Some potential research avenues for THINK!

- Identification of interventions to increase active travel and the use of public transport equitably.

- 20mph default speed limits – chance to improve all 4 areas – injuries but also pollution, community severance and active travel. When and how do they work to improve health and how to implement them successfully.

- How to engage stakeholders and the public in transport and health debates and gain acceptability of the public in some of the interventions.

- Transport innovations, such as electric bikes and autonomous vehicles and their effect on health.

- Transport system innovations, smart cities, Mobility as a Service etc. how to build in health.

- The issue of health inequalities arising from changes to the environment.

- Rurality, transport and health.
Mapping out potential projects for THINK!

Projects 1.1: To scope, design and carry out complex system evaluation of proposed transport and transport related schemes on the health of individuals and the population (NIHR grants, complex and realistic evaluations; EU Projects)

Projects 1.2: To utilise “big data” sets (ESRC)

Projects 1.3: To develop tools, products and solutions to improve healthy transport. (UKRI, industrial strategy challenges)

Projects 1.4: To explore new and strengthen existing connections between transport and health through research with partners, especially around inequalities (eg Welcome)

Projects 1.5: To sustain and grow the network into a consortium (MRC PRP / RCUK Large Centre Grants)
Work stream 1: The THINK Foundry. To generate new knowledge in transport and health (therefore enriching the network). The foundry supports two different strands of work:

1. Support for researchers and practitioners to systematically work together to develop, submit and win new funding in research.
2. Support research into policy and practice with workshops with key stakeholders aimed at maximising impact.

Work stream 2: The THINK Academy. To increase knowledge and skills in transport and health (therefore enhancing the network). The academy hosts the following strands of work:

1. Monthly plain English summary of research findings for practice and policy, blogs and vlogs.
2. A seminar series on transport and health to run every 3-4 months.
3. Attendance at conferences
4. An annual THINK conference
5. Supporting training needs of professionals new to transport and health, including
   a. An annual continual professional development workshop
   b. Bespoke training support
   c. Systematic mentoring scheme with experienced researchers
6. A website with a repository of information
7. Social media presence
8. Promotional material

Work stream 3: THINK Participate. To develop professionals and the public’s understanding the relationships between transport and health (therefore integrating the network). Participate will provide resource to develop opportunities for collaborative working through:

1. 8 secondment opportunities for people from research to work in policy or practice to work together on a mini project around transport and health.
2. 8 visiting practitioner opportunities for people from policy and practice to work in academic settings to work together on a mini project around transport and health.
3. Interactive roadshows with the public to help prioritise key issues, with published outcome material, along with summaries for the public developed.
Partnership working
**VISION and BEYOND**

**• To make Wales the world leader on the integration of transport and health, setting the global agenda for integrated transport and health research, policy and practice, through**

1. new knowledge generation
2. established integration of transport and health professionals, policy makers and academics,
3. professionals, policy makers and academics with specialised skills and abilities in transport and health
4. strengthening and supporting the implementation of local actions on transport choices for our health, environment and prosperity.

**• To improve the health of people of Wales by reducing the negative impacts of transport by helping practitioners and policy makers identify the problems and achievable and workable solutions, for example,**

- improving active travel provision and quality,
- increasing the number of people who walk or cycle,
- reducing pollution and impact of pollution from vehicles,
- reducing severance of communities and the number and severity of crashes on the roads,
- with special regard for groups that are disproportionately affected by the negative health impacts, for example people living in areas of high deprivation, children, young drivers, older people and all ages of pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

**• To contribute to the economy of Wales and stimulate job creation**

- Increase number of people working in transport and health
- investment in research, education and also practice and policy e.g. environment-friendly transport including active travel, rail and light rail; clean and efficient public transport, efficient intermodal connections etc
But we need a strapline!
Get voting!

A. THINK – moving Wales well
B. THINK – moving Wales healthier
C. THINK – Healthy movement, Healthy Wales
D. THINK – Healthy movement Wales
Thank you for your time
Please get involved!

Dr Sarah Jones, Public Health Wales sarah.jones27@wales.nhs.uk @gdlSarahJones
Professor Charles Musselwhite, Aberystwyth University chm93@aber.ac.uk @charliemuss