Date: 2nd July, 2012  
Location: SMART room 6.105  
Time: 1:30pm  
Presenter: Professor John Preston  
Transportation Research Group, Civil, Maritime and Environmental Engineering and Science, Faculty of Engineering and the Environment, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton, SO17 1BJ, UK. Tel: +44(0)23 8059 4660. Email: jpreston@soton.ac.uk

Abstract: There are concerns that Britain’s ageing infrastructure will become increasingly inadequate in the 21st century, that this will impact on future economic and environmental performance and insufficient attention is being paid to this issue. This presentation outlines some of the work of the Infrastructure Transitions Research Consortium (ITRC), a five year research programme that began in January 2011, led by the University of Oxford and including six other Universities and over 40 stakeholders from British Government and Industry. The aim of ITRC is to develop and demonstrate a new generation of simulation models and tools to inform the analysis, planning and design of national infrastructure. Particular attention is being paid to the energy, transport, water and waste sectors with respect to balancing capacity and demand under uncertainty, understanding the future risks of infrastructure failure, managing infrastructure as a complex adaptive system and developing integrated transition strategies for infrastructure systems. The University of Southampton is leading work on the transport and waste sectors and on complex adaptive systems and integrated strategies. This presentation summarises the results of a fast track analysis of infrastructure futures and the development of demand and capacity assessment models, with particular reference to transport which is a particularly problematic sector.

Bio: John Preston is Head of the Civil, Maritime and Environmental Engineering and Science Academic Unit and Professor of Rail Transport at the University of Southampton, having previously
been Director of the Transportation Research Group. He has almost 30 years of experience in transport research and education. He has taught transport options on Economics, Engineering, Geography, Management and Planning courses. His research in transport covers demand and cost modelling, regulatory studies, and land-use and environment interactions. His initial work concentrated on rail but subsequent work has covered all the major modes of transport. He has held over 120 research grants and contracts, and has published over 200 articles, book chapters, conference and working papers. He is the Principal Investigator on two major grants for the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and Co-Investigator on two more (including ITRC), whilst also undertaking research for industry and local government. He is Chair of the Universities’ Transport Study Group, Co-Chair of the World Conference on Transport Research Society’s Rail Special Interest Group and a Committee Member of the International Association of Rail Operations Research and International Conference on Competition and Ownership in Land Passenger Transport.