**Older people’s travel and mobility needs. A reflection of a hierarchical model 10 years on.**

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**Abstract**

At this historic half-century celebration of UTSG, we wanted to reflect on our own work that was first published a decade ago at [USTG in 2008](http://www.drcharliemuss.com/uploads/1/2/8/0/12809985/musselwhite_haddad_older_people_driving_travel_needs.pdf). The work, exploring transport issues in an ageing society, was based on a series of focus groups, interviews and travel diaries with 26 older drivers and interviews with 31 older people who had given up driving, producing a hierarchy of travel or mobility needs. It comprises three levels, grouping together responses based upon when in the conversation they had emerged. At the primary level, needs initially discussed were *practical needs*, the need to get from A to B, as quickly, reliably, cheaply as possible. This was followed by the secondary level: this comprised of *psychosocial needs*, the need for independence, roles, status, self-esteem and impression management that mobility affords. The model concluded with a tertiary level of need that emerged towards the end of conversations, the need for mobility for its own sake, just to get out and about and to see the world, a need we termed as *aesthetic needs*. Since then, our model has been translated into different languages and been cited 116 times across different formats. Using 10 years of feedback from academics, policy makers and practitioners, as well as from older people themselves, we will reflect on our model around four key themes: (1) The utility and usefulness of needs in understanding travel behaviour and turning them into policy or practice; (2) the validity of our model; (3) fitting our model to future changes in transport and social policy; (4) understanding the relationship between travel needs and health and wellbeing. We will conclude by offering a way forwards for studying travel needs of older people, examining how the model might need amending and implications of this for policy and practice.