Transport systems facilitating full participation in society – catering for equal and social inclusion

Urban Transport Planning Summit – 18 August 2010

Professor Corinne Mulley
Chair of Public Transport | Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies
Outline

1. What is social inclusion and the role of transport
2. Elements of the accessibility gap
3. Closing the accessibility gap
   - Role of flexible transport services
   - European experience
   - Barriers in NSW
4. The way forward
1. What is Social Inclusion

› Participation in society and life opportunities
  - work, education, health, shopping, social/recreation, volunteering
  - exclusion often associated with poverty

› Australian Social Inclusion Board

› Social Inclusion Policy

Launched Jan 2010

Parramatta City Council Annual Report
Role of transport

› Role of transport as enabler to inclusion
  - Provides access to opportunities

› Role of public transport in social inclusion
  - Independence
  - Choice

› Wider role of public transport
  - Health and environmental benefits
  - For all members of society

Bankstown Bites Festival
What prevents people using public transport?

› Spatial gap
› Time gap
› Cost gap
› Physical accessibility
› Information gap
› Attitudinal/Cultural/Behavioural
  - safety, security

Source: SMH, Nov 2007
Spatial gap

The gap between conventional public transport and community transport

Conventional public transport
- eg Service Planning Guidelines for bus services (NSW)
  - 90% of households within 400 m of rail or bus in daytime
  - But not everyone can walk 400 m
  - Many factors affecting use of public transport

Community transport
- Eligibility criteria
Conventional public transport in NSW

› How well is the NSW government meeting its own 90% criteria?

› 86% of Sydney households meet 400 m criteria

› 11 out of 15 contract regions don’t meet 90% of households criteria

› 200,000 households in Sydney not within 400 m

Assumptions
- Straight line distance to bus stop
- Households from 2006 Census
- Bus data from April 2010

Source: Bureau of Transport Statistics, Transport NSW, Request No. 10/287
Spatial gap - topography

www.walksydneystreets.net

RTA
Frequency

Night time and weekend services

Length of trip

Service does not operate on Saturday, Sunday or Public Holidays
Easier, simpler fares

TRAVEL FASTER · CHEAPER · EASIER

Family Fun Day Sunday
$2.50 per person

You don’t have to spend a lot on a fun day out for the whole family.

For $2.50 per person, your family can enjoy a fun day out with unlimited travel on Sydney’s buses, trains and ferries.

A family must include at least one adult and one child*.

Visit 131500.com.au for conditions of the ticket and travel information.

Buy your ticket any Sunday from bus drivers (excluding PrePay services), CityRail stations, ferry ticket offices and authorised newsagents, 7-Elevens and convenience stores.

* An eligible child is aged up to 15 yrs, or 16-18 yrs with a valid school travel pass or current 21+ card. Children under 4 yrs travel free.
Physical accessibility gap
Information gap
Commuters uneasy about using night trains

Clay Lucas

August 14, 2010.... The Age

MELBOURNE commuters are increasingly scared about using the city's trains at night, with only 40 per cent of commuters saying they are happy with the number of staff on the rail system, new research shows.
Community transport

› Closing the accessibility gap
  - Door-to-door transport
  - Personal assistance

› Very specific program
  - HACC eligibility + “transport disadvantaged”
  - For specific types of travel

› Very small program
  - Budget: approx $36 million pa (NSW)
  - Clients: 150,000 pa (NSW)
  - Passenger trips: 2.5 million pa (NSW)
There is a gap between conventional public transport and CT

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Role of Flexible Transport Services

Increasing flexibility

- **route**
  - Fixed months in advance
  - One day in advance
  - Fixed one hour before trip

- **vehicle**
  - Available for only part of the day
  - Available all day
  - One type of vehicle
  - Many types of vehicle

- **operator**
  - Contracted
  - Commercial

- **passenger**
  - Special transport services e.g. CT
  - General public only
  - No restrictions
Urban DRT for all

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**Regiotaxi, Netherlands**
Carta Flex, Charleston, US

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Increasing flexibility
Flexible transport in Australia

Is Australia so different that flexible transport will not work here?

› Australian cities are difficult to benchmark against other world cities

› Different characteristics suggest different comparators
  - In terms of population size, Australian cities have more in common with Europe
  - In terms of densities, Australian cities have more in common with North America
  - In terms of built up area, Australian cities are slightly higher than Europe but considerably lower than North America
  - South American and Asian comparators have higher populations and very high densities due to their small built up areas

› Some evidence of flexible transport schemes in Australia
Increasing flexibility

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Telebus, Victoria
Barriers to flexible transport services in NSW

Research findings

1. Policy, regulation and legislation
2. Economic issues: funding and fares
3. Operational issues: fleet and vehicles
4. Attitudes, culture and relationships
5. Information, education and promotion

4. The way forward – Improving social inclusion

Closing the accessibility gap

› Improving conventional public transport
  - More services closer to people

› Improving community transport
  - Wider eligibility
  - Wider range of trip purposes
  - Reducing cost to users

› Flexible transport services
  - Flexible in route and/or timetable
  - Demand responsive

› Setting accessibility targets
  - Urban areas vs non-urban areas
  - Needs vary by demographic groups

Parramatta City Council Annual Report
Where to spend the extra $:
- Corridors vs local routes
- Rail vs bus services vs community transport vs FTS

Where should extra $ come from:
- Reallocation in transport?
- Diversion from other sectors eg health or education?

Flexible transport:
- Quantifying demand
- Cost-effectiveness
- New governance models