Making strong connections – Reforming Urban and Regional Transport Networks

CEDA: Transport Infrastructure Series
Wednesday 25 May 2011

Professor Corinne Mulley
Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies
Outline

› The role of economics
› Networks, systems and accessibility
› Australia vs the world
› Australian performance
  - Mode share
  - Cost
  - Customer satisfaction
› Improving performance in Australia

Source: Parramatta Advertiser, 13 Jan 2009
The role of economics

- Economics is fundamentally about allocation of resources
- Individual decisions vs. Government decisions
- Government responsibilities
Commitment to networks and systems (not ‘projects’ or ‘corridors’)

- Importance of network effect

Transport provides accessibility

Source: http://mappery.com/map-of/Melbourne-Australia-Public-Transportation-Map
Public transport objectives

› Public transport policy objectives are multidimensional
  - Economic aspects
  - Environmental sustainability
  - Social aspects

› Public transport quantitatively more difficult to provide in rural areas
  - Density
  - Diverse purposes and viability
Public transport use

› Evidence
   - the ‘forget the timetable’ **frequency**
   - journey times
   - parking

What sort of public transport? Coverage versus frequency trade-off

... but when it’s presented this way, they see why it’s a tradeoff.

Source: Dr Jarrett Walker
Objectives met through frequency

› Patronage growth
› Financial
  - Fare return
› Environmental impact reduction
  - from reduced private vehicle trips.
  - Reduced emissions.

Objectives met through coverage

› Social Inclusion
› “Equity”
  - Entitlement to a public service.
  - “We pay taxes too”
› Redistributive aims
Measuring performance:
- Mode share
- Costs
- Population or customer satisfaction
Australian cities are difficult to benchmark against other world cities in the aspects known to be important in public transport provision

- In terms of size, Australian cities have more in common with Europe
- In terms of densities, Australian cities have more in common with North America
- CBD employment shares are relatively low

Source: teacher.scholastic.com/.../australia_globe.gif
Travel in all Australian Cities

Tiny amounts of travel by public transport
Absolute dominance by private car

Source: State of Australian Cities, 2010, p 55
Major Cities Unit
Mode share for travel to work for Australian Cities

Still small amounts of travel by public transport
Absolute dominance by private car

Source: State of Australian Cities, 2010, p 106
Major Cities Unit
(Poor) International comparison: daily trips per inhabitant

High number of daily trips

Source: UITP Mobility in Cities database
Modal information

**Percentage of trips by public transport**

- **Low % by public transport**
- **High % by private car**

**Percentage of trips by private transport**

Source: UITP Mobility in Cities database
(Poor) International comparison: costs of motoring

But costs of motoring are low

Cost ($) of one private motorised passenger kilometre for the traveller

Source: UITP Mobility in Cities database
Public transport is highest priority issue for transport in Australia

› Highest priority in every quarter of TOPS and in every state

Performance: Satisfaction
Property Council Auspoll

% of residents who agree their city has a good public transport service

City average: 36
Brisbane: 45
Perth: 42
Adelaide: 42
Melbourne: 37
Darwin: 36
Sydney: 32
Hobart: 29
Canberra: 24

Source: The Property Council of Australia (2011), My City: The People’s Verdict
Australia has to ‘live’ with the urban form/low density cities it has, at least in the short run.

Improving public transport in the short run is not about doing the big things – eg creating new links - but making sure money is well spent.

Key issues

- Network planning, co-ordination, integration and high frequency
- Fares systems and policies
- Supportive policies: eg parking policy
- Innovative ways to deliver coverage
- Travel demand management eg TravelSmart

Source: http://www.asap.co.uk/blog/which-is-worse-%E2%80%93-ryanair-or-easyjet.htm
Improving public transport performance – long run

› In the longer run

› Key issues
  - transport and land use planning
  - Taxation
PROFESSOR CORINNE MULLEY
Chair in Public Transport and Director of Public Transport Programs
Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies (ITLS) | University of Sydney Business School

corinne.mulley@sydney.edu.au