

**A Handbook on Sustainable  
Urban Mobility and Spatial Planning**  
Promoting Active Mobility



# Economic analysis of the transformation of urban transport systems

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UNITED NATIONS



**TRANSPORT**

# Definitions

Effective and efficient urban transport includes:

- **Providing accessibility to various locations at affordable pricing**
- **Minimizing travel times between various locations**
- **Internalizing transport system externalities such as air pollutions, noise emissions, road accidents and others**



# Challenges

Creating efficient urban transport systems is a complex task, it requires:

- A multidisciplinary approach (spatial and urban infrastructure planning, social demography and geography, urban transit and logistics demands)
- Need to conduct a cost, risk, benefit analysis of policies whether they be single or combined policy measures
- Consider also additional factors, such as the size of the city, the size of their markets, the level of technological development, vehicle automation, availability of ITS etc.



# Categories of policy-making

- **Avoid policies (avoiding or reducing travel)**

E.g. prevention of urban sprawl

- **Shift policies**

E.g. Creation of bike and walk paths at the expense of vehicular traffic

- **Improve policies**

E.g. Support to electrification of vehicle fleet, including for urban freight transport

- **Combined policies**

E.g. any combination of the above



# Analytical model for policy analysis

- Transport policy cost-risk-benefit analyses in a variety of cities of different sizes could provide a sound empirical basis for the development of an analytical model
- Elaboration of such an analytical model to assess suitability of transport and/or combined policies can be an important step forward for cities, empowering them to make better informed decisions in the future for transformation of their urban transport systems



Thank you for your attention

