

Public Transport Research Group



Prof Graham Currie FTSE,
Director Public Transport Research Group
Director SEPT-GRIP
Monash University, Australia
March 2019





PUBLIC TRANSPORT
RESEARCH GROUP



MONASH University

CONNECTING CITIES

PTRG is the name for researchers at Monash University who are engaged in research on public transport systems, users, planning and policy.

DISCOVER MORE

A Scientometric Analysis of Public Transport Research

Leonard Heilig, University of Hamburg, Germany
Stefan Vogt, University of Hamburg and PUCV, Valparaiso, Chile

Abstract

Public transport research involves a lot of disciplinary and interdisciplinary research applying methods, techniques, and technologies to investigate, regulate, and advance public transport. The importance of research in this area has led to a large amount of publications in recent years. In this study, we conducted a comprehensive scientometric analysis of related literature published in 2009–2012 to empirically explore the consistency, focus areas, and key contributors of public transport research from a meta-perspective, providing novel insights into publication patterns, major topics, research impact, and productivity by focusing on short-term developments. As such, the results of this study provide a novel perspective on public transport research and may help achieving an overview on important characteristics.

Keywords: Public transport, public transport research, scientometric analysis, scientometrics, keyword cluster analysis.

Introduction

Public transport, as a mode of transportation moving people from one place to another, is a publicly-used form of conveyance (Levinson et al. 2015), plays an essential role not only in providing sustainable transport forms (Krygienn et al. 2004) and serving the needs of those who are dependent on efficient transport systems, but also in supporting social equity principles (Vibster and Bly 1982). The perception of local public transport in terms of accessibility, safety, and efficiency rate only increases with the interplay between different inter-urban and urban transport systems, including car and bike sharing systems, become increasingly important in our modern society, but also in developing countries (Schall et al. 2015). Public transport demand is stimulated by social and economic conditions (e.g., city size, income, car ownership, land use) as well as by direct demand factors such as service quality (Webster and Bly 1982). Against this backdrop, public transport

World Review of Public Transport Research (2009-2013)

Heilig L and Vos S (2015) 'A Scientometric Analysis of Public Transport Research'
Journal of Public Transportation Vol 18 No 2

Top 3 world Universities in Public Transport Research

- Uni of Toronto, UCal Berkeley, MONASH UNIVERSITY

Most Productive Authors (World Ranking)

- PTRG Staff - Graham Currie 2nd, Alexa Delbosc 11th
- PTRG Associates – Avi Ceder 3rd, John Nelson 10th

Most Cited World Authors

- Graham Currie 5th

Other International Awards

TRB Largest Transport Conference in the World (13,000 delegates)

- Best Paper in Public Transport
 - 2012
 - 2017

World Conference on Transport Research

- Best research paper in Transport Policy 2016

ARRB Transport Research

- Research Impact Award 2017



PTRG is part of a wider collaborative framework in transport research across multiple groups/ faculties

Key Research Groups



Institute of Transport Studies



Institute of Railway Technology



MONASH ART DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE



Key Research Themes

Railway
Engineering &
Technology

Public Transport
Policy & Operations

Traffic &
Transport
Systems

Intelligent
Transport
Systems

Design in
Public
Transport

Model Data
Fusion

Light Weight
Vehicles

Aerodynamics

Transport
Safety

Key staff, the associate team & students



Prof Graham Currie
Chair of Public
Transport



Nicholas Fournier
Research Fellow



Dr Alexa Delbosc
Senior Lecturer
DECRA Fellow



James Reynolds
Research Fellow



Katerina Pavkova
Research Fellow



Wendy Walker
Website
Manager



Dr Farhana Naznin
Research Fellow

- 27 PhD students
- 52 Research associates across Monash University (e.g. ITS, MADA, MUARC), International Universities, and external experts
- 48 Masters Students; most in China
- 10+ final year civil engineering undergraduate research students per year

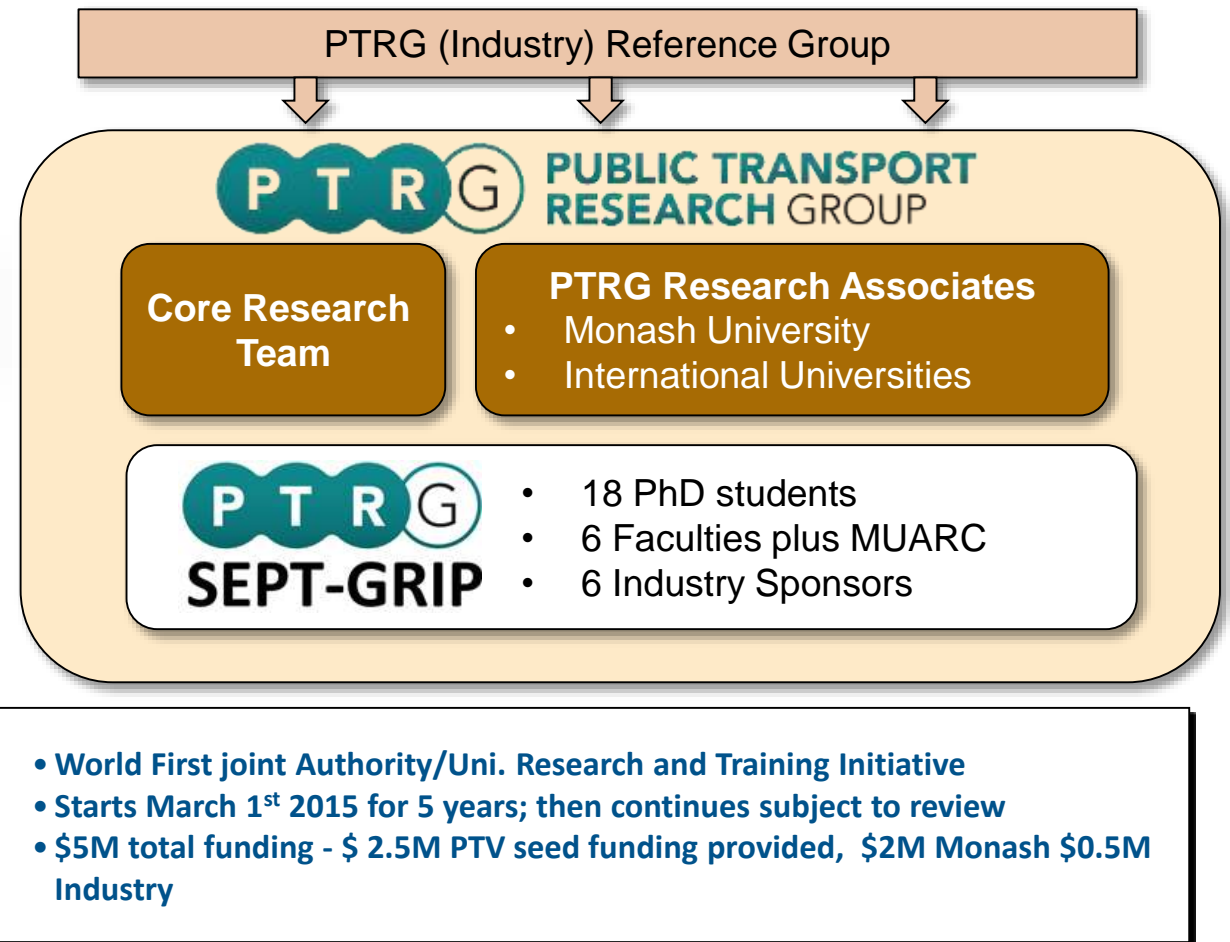


Laura McCarthy
Research Fellow



Dr Kun An
Lecturer

Rebadged in 2015 as the TFM-Monash Public Transport Research Group (PTRG)



Its aim is “to enhance PTV’s Planning and Management Using Applied Research and Training” through:

University Research

Contract Research

Joint PTV/Monash Research

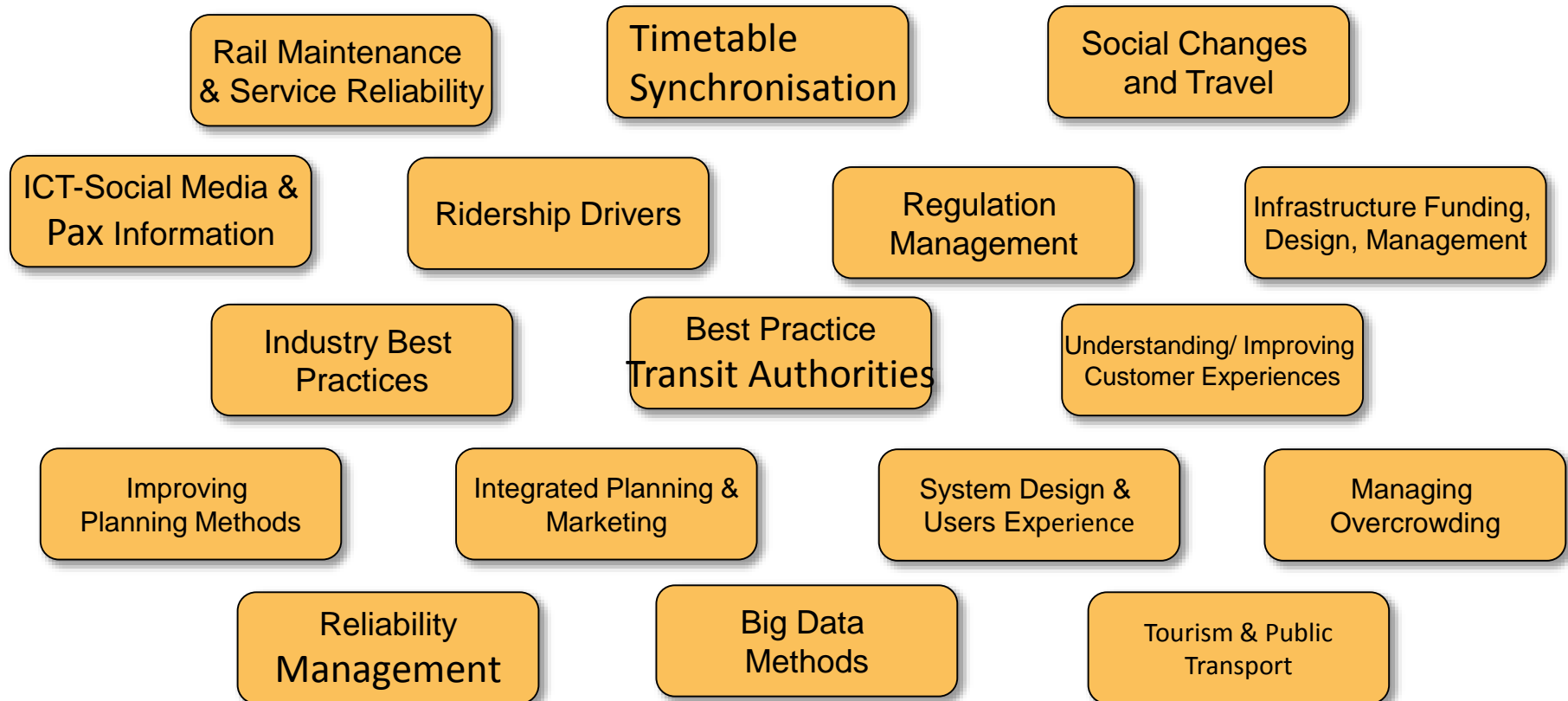
Training/Masterclass Programs

Public Engagement

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VICTORIA **PT>**

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Topic focus is highly varied and inter-disciplinary:



OECD (ITF) Review – world practice in private sector involvement in Public Transport

Research Program

- Part of the International Transport Forum international research program:
 - Public Transport Market Organisation and Innovation
- Includes researchers from:
 - Australia, Japan, Korea, Chile France, UK, Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands, Spain, Russia, India and Mexico

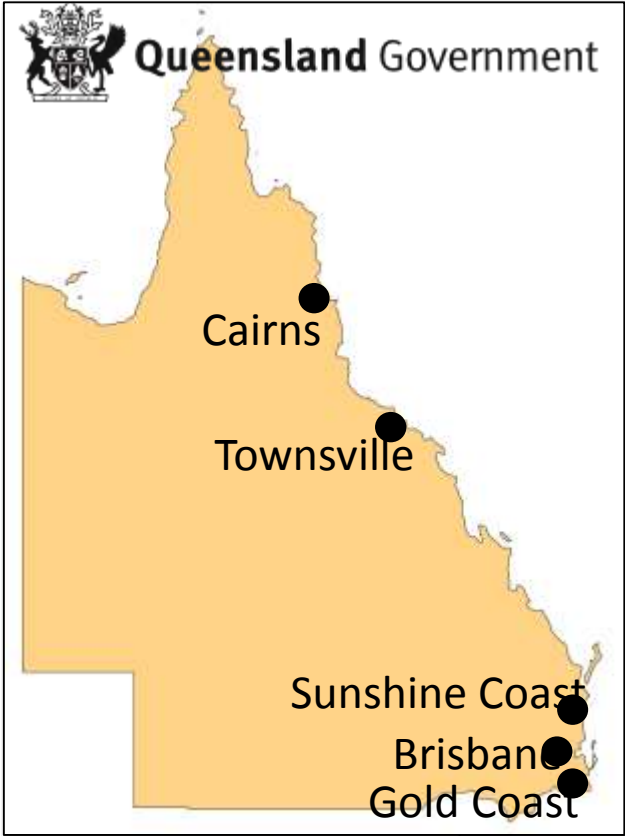


Benchmarking how urban PT can better cater for international tourists

- A. Information
- B. Cost/Ticket
- C. Service Level
- D. Special Service

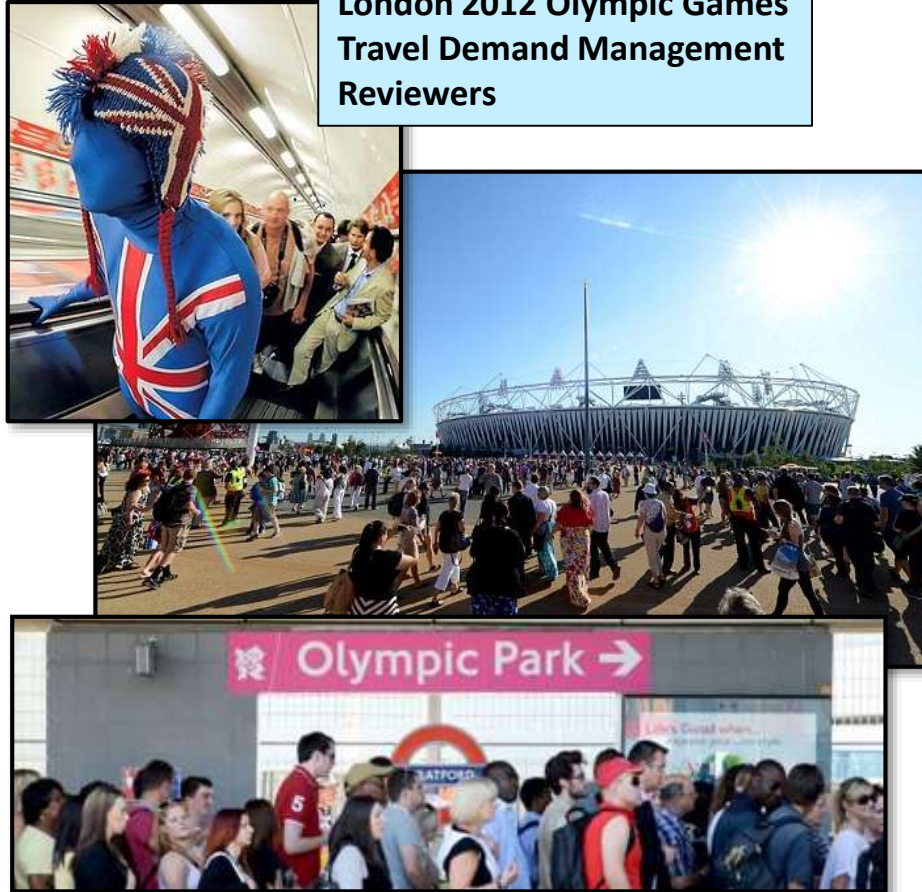


London
Paris
Melbourne
Singapore



PTRG special event planning and research

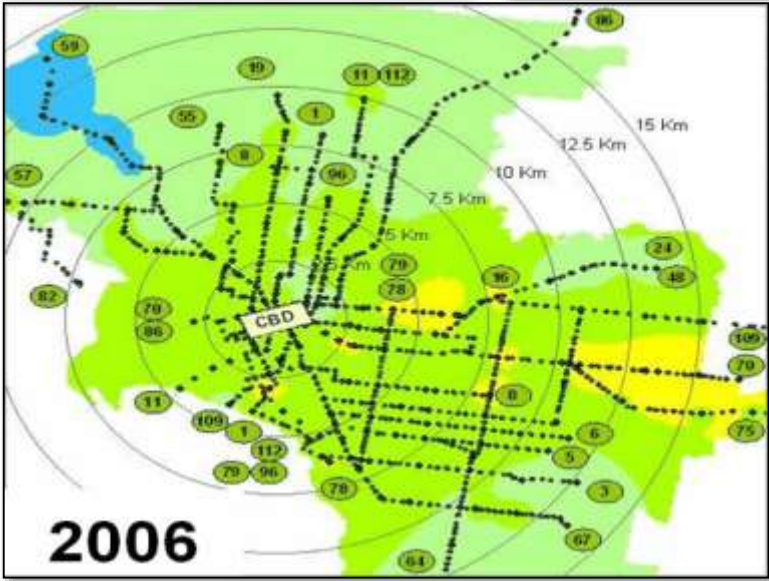
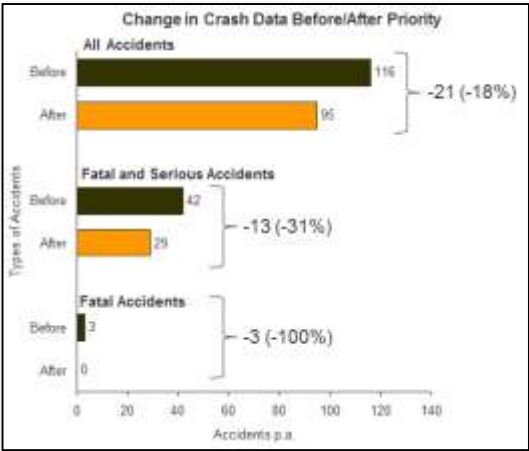
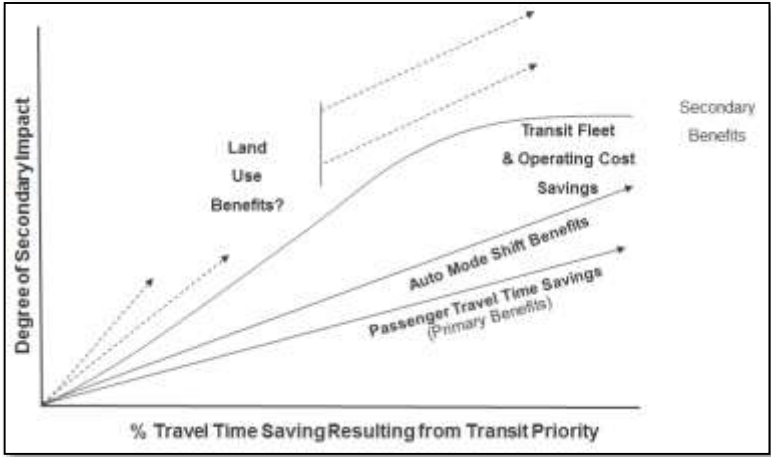
London 2012 Olympic Games
Travel Demand Management
Reviewers



Mecca – Hajj/Umrah Events
Synthesis of Lessons from
Olympic and Hajj Planning



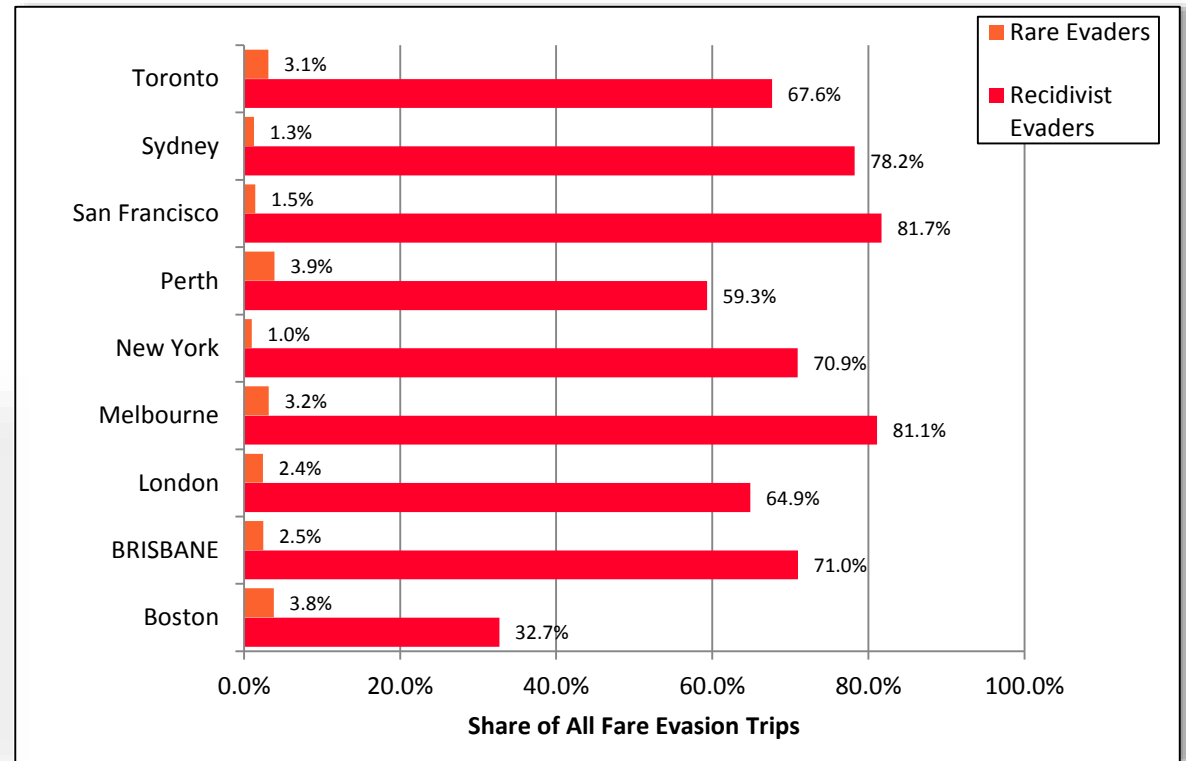
Optimising design for PT Priority



Example Projects: Understanding the Psychology of Fare Evasion Behaviour



IMPACT – Over \$105mp.a. in savings in Australia ; much larger in overseas cities

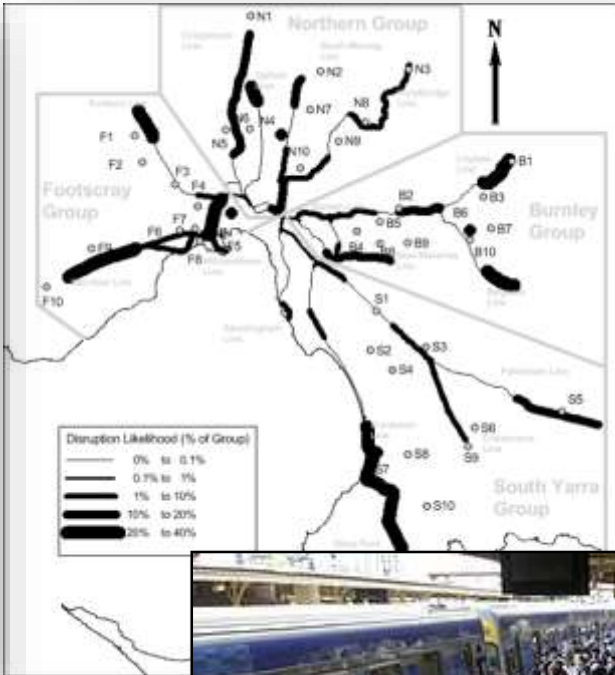
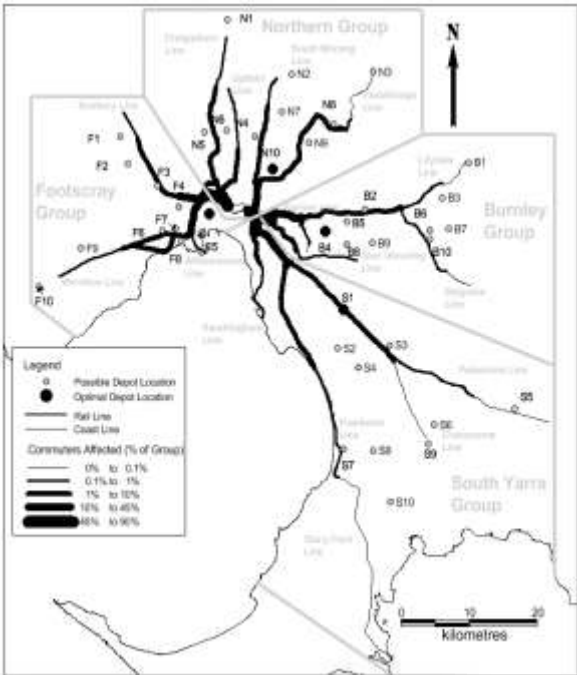


IMPACT - Large improvement in revenue protection ~\$105M savings in Melbourne and Sydney since 2015 EVERY YEAR ; more reductions internationally

Research Awards:

- 2016 - Best Research Paper – World Conference on Transport Research
- 2017 - ARRB Inaugural Research Impact Award
- 2017 - Vice Chancellors Award for Research Impact

International Study of Rail Disruption Management



Current major research program – International Review of Approaches to Valuing Customer Experience Infrastructure in Project Appraisals



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Key aims of the research program:

- Review **evidence** on measured values with regard to public transport customer experience initiatives
- Understand **current practices** in the use and adoption of these methods in Australia and internationally in public transport
- Understand what **can and cannot be measured** in terms of customer experience initiatives
- Explore **methods** used to measure amenity/soft factor values, their pros and cons and what is considered **good practice**

Program Tasks



Current major research program – International Review of Approaches to Valuing Customer Experience Infrastructure in Project Appraisals

See: PTRG.info

Best Practice Approaches to Public Transport Customer Amenity Valuation

Key aims

- To review evidence on measured values with regard to public transport customer experience attributes
- To understand current practices in the use and adoption of these methods in Australia and internationally in public transport
- To understand what can and cannot be measured in terms of customer experience attributes
- To explore methods used to measure amenity/soft factor values, their pros and cons and what is considered best practice

Research components

1. **Research Literature Review:** review of published evidence on values and methodologies
2. **World Travel Industry Pre-Book Review:** survey of public transport agencies in major world cities to assess current practices towards valuation and application of resulting values
3. **International Practitioner Delphi Survey:** survey of 30-50 experts worldwide to understand methods and best practices towards valuation of customer amenities



Fig. 1 Classification of public transport customer amenities

Research context

- The diverse set of factors affecting the quality of public transport are commonly classified into 'hard' or 'soft' factors.
- Hard factors are physical resources that impact on journey times and reliability. They can also include fares and changes in service frequency and operating hours.
- Soft factors, or customer amenities, cover a range of auxiliary improvements which do not directly relate to operations or service quality but can enhance the quality of the customer experience. Examples are shown in Fig. 1.
- Considerable research has been undertaken to understand the value that public transport passengers place on hard factors, yet research into public transport customer amenity valuations is far less common, with limited synthesis of the topic.
- There is also a very limited understanding of current and best practices for valuing public transport customer amenities.



Research outputs

De Gruyter, C., Gurne, G., Naznin, F. (2017) *Best Practice Approaches to Public Transport Amenity/Soft Factor Valuation: Research Literature Review*. Public Transport Research Group, Monash University, Australia.

De Gruyter, C., Gurne, G., Naznin, F. (2017) *Public Transport Customer Amenity Valuation Database*. Public Transport Research Group, Monash University, Australia.

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Public transport customer amenity valuation database

Overview
This database provides over 100 valuations of public transport customer amenities. The valuations were essential from studies undertaken in six countries between 1992 and 2015. While a considerable number of studies have valued public transport customer amenities, only those which reported values in monetary units or in-vehicle time were considered. In addition, values reported by industry yet passengers were excluded from the database which focuses on other public transport values. All values were converted to equivalent units of in-vehicle time (minutes) where not already reported in these units. To convert international monetary values to in-vehicle time, values were first converted to Australian dollars using Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) published by the OECD (2016). Values of time for public transport users published by the Australian Transport Council (2016) were then used to convert the dollar values to equivalent units of in-vehicle time (minutes).

This database includes:

1. In-vehicle public transport customer amenity values
2. Summary of public transport customer amenity values
3. References for available public transport customer amenity values

Disclaimer
This database has been developed by the Public Transport Research Group (PTRG) at Monash University for use by practitioners and academics interested in the valuation of public transport customer amenities. PTRG accepts no responsibility or liability for the use of any reported values or any errors in the values. Please using the values, whether directly or indirectly, should always apply their professional judgement and seek expert advice where needed.

Contact details
Professor Graham Currie - PTRG
Director, Public Transport Research Group
Monash Institute of Transport Studies
Monash University, Australia
T: +61 (0)3 9594 8814
E: graham.currie@monash.edu.au
W: ptrg.info

Recommended citation
De Gruyter, C., Currie, G. & Naznin, F. (2017) *Best Practice Approaches to Public Transport Amenity/Soft Factor Valuation*. Public Transport Research Group, Monash University.

Best Practice Approaches to Public Transport Amenity/Soft Factor Valuation

Research Literature Review [Revised Draft]

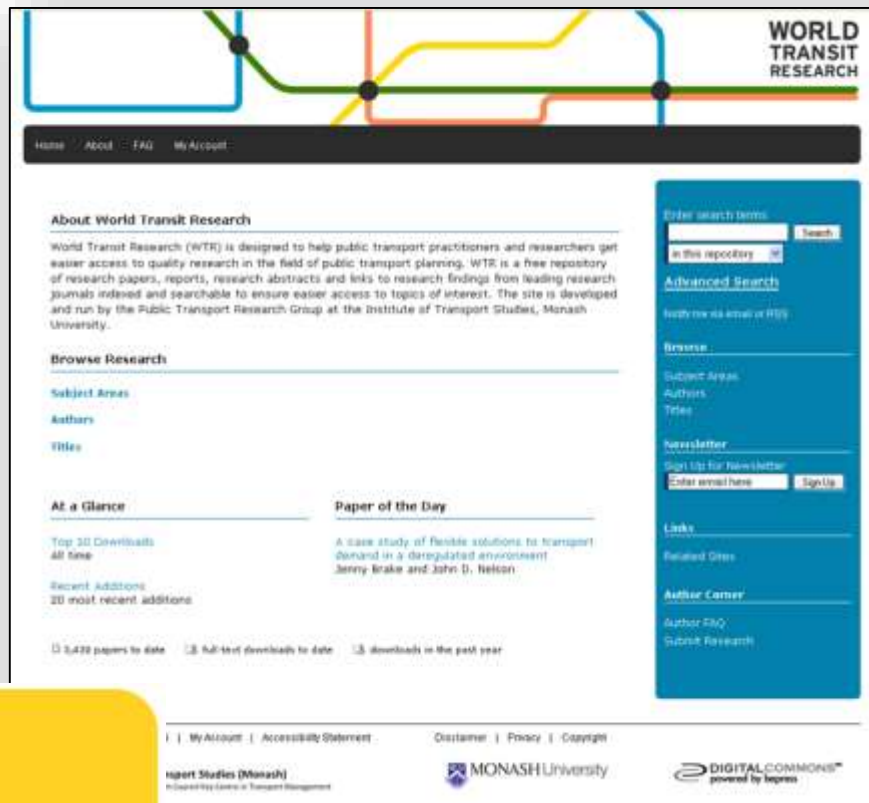
Prepared for Adrian Webb
Transport for Victoria

Dr Chris De Gruyter
Professor Graham Currie
Dr Farhana Naznin



Source: De Gruyter, C, Currie, G, Truong, LT & Naznin, F 2018, 'A meta-analysis and synthesis of public transport customer amenity valuation research', **Transport Reviews**, pp. 1-23

PTRG runs World Transit Research; the global research clearinghouse for public transport research



World Transit Research

- Commenced 2010
- 256,639 site users
- 8,000 towns and cities from 170 countries
- 6,896 journal papers
- World index of authors and topics

2025=PTx2

UITP Showcase Award
Winner

www.worldtransitresearch.info

Industry Training in Public Transportation, Europe, Asia, North America and Australasia



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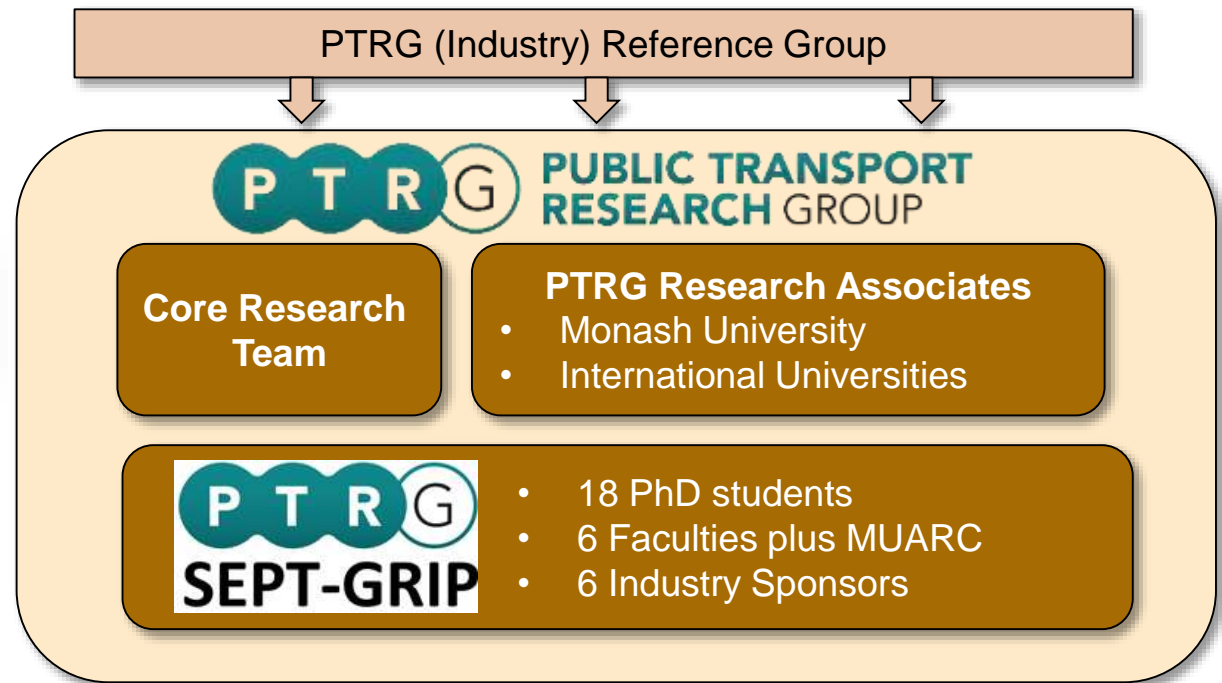
↓ Download brochure



<https://www.monash.edu/engineering/its/public-transport-short-course>



SEPT-GRIP is an initiative of the Public Transport Research Group (PTRG) at Monash and TfV/PTV



It has 18 research topics...

1. TOD & Transit

Laura Aston



2. Big Data & Visualisation

Homayoun Rafati



3. Network Synchronisation

Rejitha Ravindra



4. Shared Mobility

Taru Jain



5. Changing Travel Behaviour

Laura McCarthy



6. Tourism & Public Transport

Victoria Radnell



7. Reliability Engineering Approaches in Best Practice Railways

Maryam Nawaz



8. Improving Gender Diversity in the Public Transport Workforce

Rachel Mence



9. Future Train

Lisa Fu



10. Designing Urban Rail to Reduce Vandalism

Amy Killen



11. Bus & Tram Priority Implementation

James Reynolds



12. Simulating Bus & Tram Priority

Samithree Rajapaksha



13. Placemaking & Street Redesign

Matthew Diemer



14. Passenger Falls in Trams

Luke Valenza



15. Transit Network Design

Nora Estgfäller



16. Future Bus

Sarah Roberts



17. The New Bus Rider

Prudence Blake



18. Road Safety Impacts of Bus Safety Inspections

Jianrong Qiu



...with 6 industry partners...

1. TOD & Transit

Laura Aston



2. Big Data & Visualisation

Homayoun Rafati



3. Network Synchronisation

Rejitha Ravindra



4. Shared Mobility

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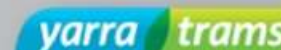
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Prudence Blake



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Jianrong Qiu



...and 4 Research Networks ;

1. TOD & Transit

Laura Aston



2. Big Data & Visualisation

Homayoun Rafati



3. Network Synchronisation

Rejitha Ravindra



4. Shared Mobility

Taru Jain



5. Changing Travel Behaviour

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Prudence Blake



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Jianrong Qiu



Research Network A; Planning Implementation, Land Use and Place

1. TOD & Transit

Laura Aston



2. Big Data & Visualisation

Homayoun Rafati



3. Network Synchronisation

Rejitha Ravindra



4. Shared Mobility

Taru Jain



5. Changing Travel Behaviour

Laura McCarthy



6. Tourism & Public Transport

Victoria Radnell



7. Reliability Engineering Approaches in Best Practice Railways

Maryam Nawaz



8. Improving Gender Diversity in the Public Transport Workforce

Rachel Mence



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Luke Valenza



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Nora Estgfäller



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Sarah Roberts



17. The New Bus Rider

Prudence Blake



18. Road Safety Impacts of Bus Safety Inspections

Jianrong Qiu



Research Network B; People, Behavior and Society

1. TOD & Transit

Laura Aston



2. Big Data & Visualisation

Homayoun Rafati



3. Network Synchronisation

Rejitha Ravindra



4. Shared Mobility

Taru Jain



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Nora Estgfäller



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Sarah Roberts



17. The New Bus Rider

Prudence Blake



18. Road Safety Impacts of Bus Safety Inspections

Jianrong Qiu



Research Network C; Data, Operations, Modelling and Analysis

1. TOD & Transit

Laura Aston



2. Big Data & Visualisation

Homayoun Rafati



3. Network Synchronisation

Rejitha Ravindra



4. Shared Mobility

Taru Jain



5. Changing Travel Behaviour

Laura McCarthy



6. Tourism & Public Transport

Victoria Radnell



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15. Transit Network Design

Nora Estgfäller



16. Future Bus

Sarah Roberts



17. The New Bus Rider

Prudence Blake



18. Road Safety Impacts of Bus Safety Inspections

Jianrong Qiu



Research Network D; Design, User Experience and Safety

1. TOD & Transit

Laura Aston



2. Big Data & Visualisation

Homayoun Rafati



3. Network Synchronisation

Rejitha Ravindra



4. Shared Mobility

Taru Jain



5. Changing Travel Behaviour

Laura McCarthy



6. Tourism & Public Transport

Victoria Radnell



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16. Future Bus

Sarah Roberts



17. The New Bus Rider

Prudence Blake



18. Road Safety Impacts of Bus Safety Inspections

Jianrong Qiu



Example Projects – Homayoun Hamedmoghadam-Rafati – Adopting Percolation Theory with Smartcard data to understand network bottlenecks

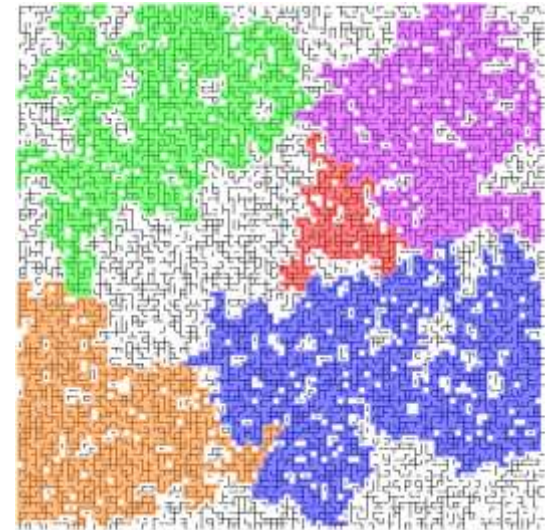
2. Big Data & Visualisation

Homayoun Rafati



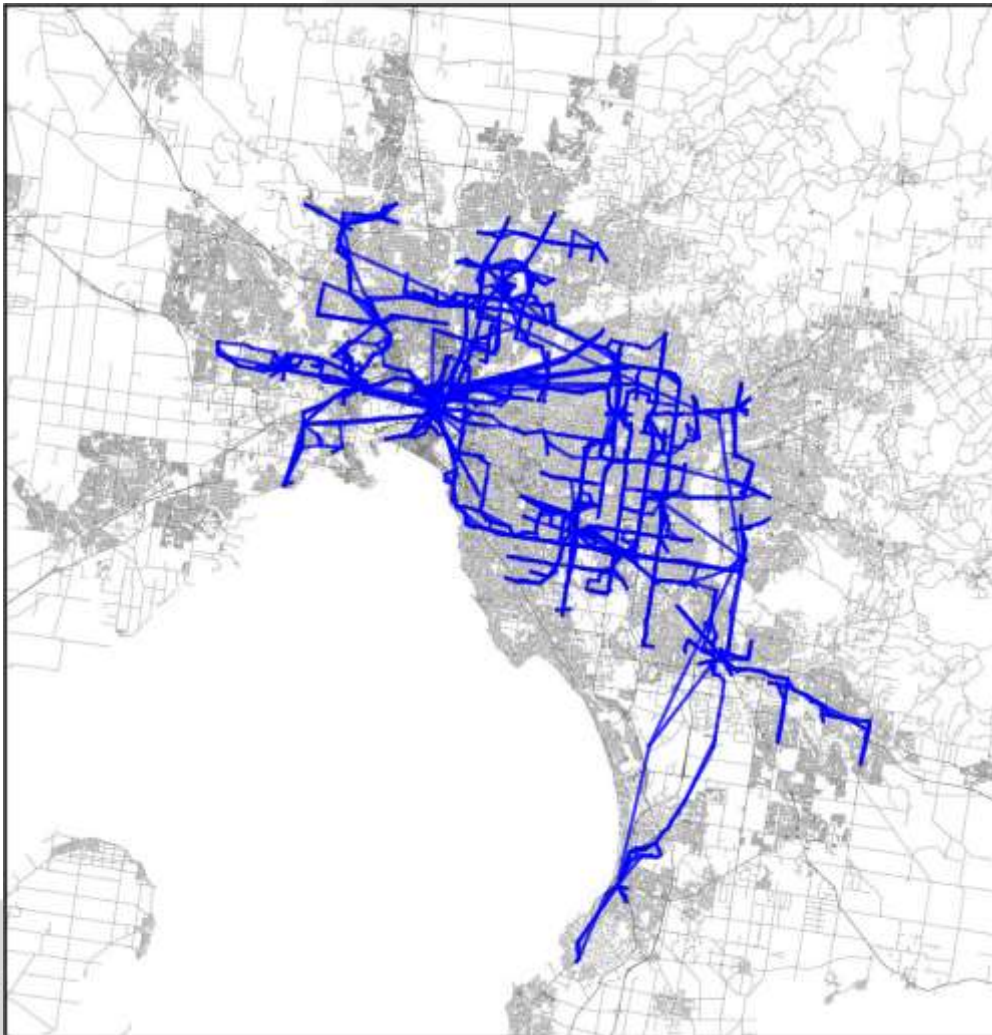
- Percolation Theory:

- A framework to study the movement of fluids in porous material
- Mathematical modeling of porous material with network representation
- Performance of the system is modeled locally as permeability probability of the links



Example Projects – Homayoun Hamedmoghadam-Rafati – Adopting Percolation Theory with Smartcard data to understand network bottlenecks

2. Big Data &
Visualisation
Homayoun Rafati



Percolation Simulation

- An inverse percolation process reveals the low performing links by which the passenger flows become separated from each other and isolated from a global flow circulation.
- We introduce a measure that indicates network reliability in terms of the on-road PT network conflicts with road conditions.
- An efficient network provides more alternative routes <

Example Projects – Homayoun Hamedmoghadam-Rafati – Adopting Percolation Theory with Smartcard data to understand network bottlenecks

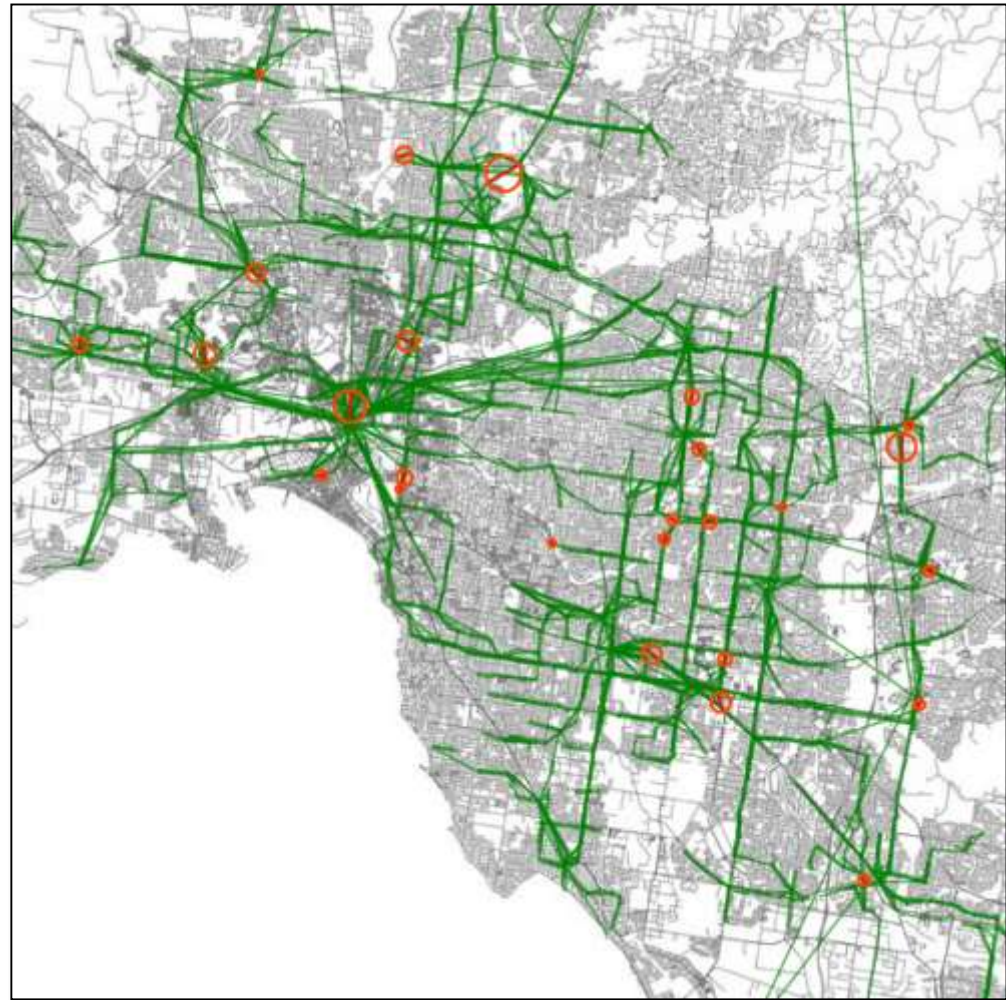
2. Big Data & Visualisation

Homayoun Rafati



Bottleneck Identification

- The links that bridge between the high-performance well-connected clusters of the network, act as network bottlenecks.
- We identify the bottlenecks of the network by taking into account both structure (service supply for spatial movements) and dynamics (conflict of service with road conditions) on the network.
- Global efficiency of the network is highly dependent on the performance of bottlenecks.
- We show that the reliability of the PT network is significantly improved by reducing the conflict on a small number of network bottlenecks. This can be done through different measures such as bus/tram segregation, signal priority strategies, and pedestrian crowd management.<<<



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