

AITPM, ITE, EA/TAS

Travel Post COVID-19 - Alternative views from leading academics
Thursday 8th October 2020

# Long Term Travel Impacts of Covid-19 in Melbourne

Phase 1 and 2 Results - Overview of Key Findings

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Agenda

# Introduction

**Approach** 

**Evidence from past disruptions** 

**Qualitative interview findings** 

Panel survey findings

**Transit ridership futures** 

**Next steps** 



# 1. Project scope

# • Objective:

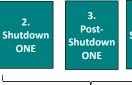
 Understand how C-19 has impacted travel including long term effects.

### Focus:

- Melbourne, Australia

# Stages of Covid-19<sup>1</sup>

1. Pre-Covid-19 Travel



4. Shutdown TWO

5. Post-Pandemic Long Term

Pandemic Is Occurring Long Term focus is when the virus is no longer contagious





# It is structured as follows;

Approach Evidence from past disruptions Qualitative Interview Findings Panel Survey Findings Ridership Futures Next Steps







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The research program reviews secondary evidence and undertakes two phases of primary research in the community focussing on self reported changes in travel

#### Research Plan - phases and tasks

#### Phase 1 – Research Context

- 1.Project Inception
- 2.Literature Review
- 3. Secondary Travel Data Impact Analysis
- 4. Future Travel Impact Forecasting Approach

#### Phase 2 - Shutdown Field Surveys

- 5. Qualitative Survey
- 6. Quantitative Online Panel Survey
- 7. Phase 2 Analysis and Reporting

#### Phase 3 – Late Shutdown/Post Pandemic Field Surveys

- 8. Qualitative Survey
- 9. Quantitative Online Panel Survey
- 10. Phase 3 Analysis and Reporting

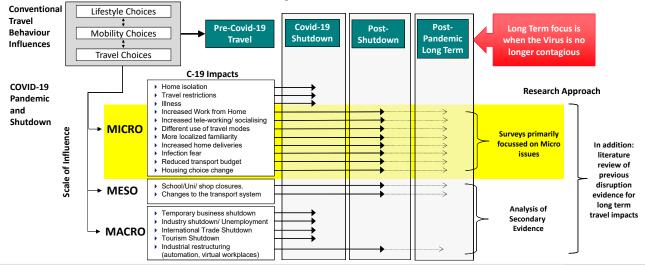
Completed





#### 2. Framework

The 'Monash' Framework - An Integrated Framework of Factors Influencing Travel Behavior Before, During and After the Covid-19 Crisis.



Note: This framework is developed by the research team from a review of previous research literature and also from a workshop with staff from the Victorian Department of Transport

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University







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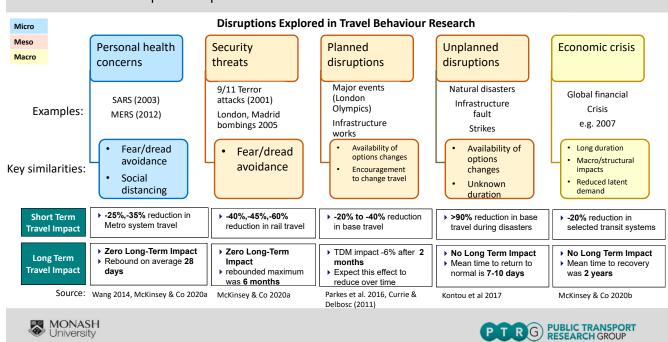
Panel survey findings

**Transit ridership futures** 

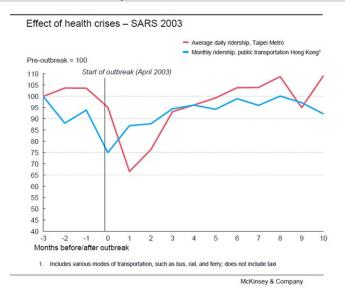
**Next steps** 



# 3. Evidence from past disruptions



# The most relevant is SARS in Asia; immediate impact was a 25%/35% decline in transit ridership; Post Pandemic, ridership returned to normal within 6 months



rebound on average took 28 days Wang (2014)

Source: Wang, K-Y 2014, 'How Change of Public Transportation Usage Reveals Fear of the SARS Virus in a City: e89405', *PLoS ONE*, vol. 9, no. 3.







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Online interviews explored personal experiences of Covid-19 on travel/activity and self reported expectations of long term impacts - for a sample frame designed to assure diversity/coverage

C-19 Travel Impacts – 1. Online Interview Survey – Shutdown Phase

#### Objective:

provide qualitative detailed <u>narratives</u> of how <u>C-19</u> <u>shutdown</u> has <u>impacted the lives</u> of respondents and to provide <u>inputs to long term forecasting</u> of impacts.

#### Aims:

- a. Understand <u>personal experiences of C-19 Shutdown</u> on life, work and travel notably differences between pre-shutdown and shutdown (in their words)
- b. Ask for respondents <u>personal views</u> on how life, work and travel might change in a <u>post-C-19 shutdown</u> will anything have changed? (in their words)
- c. Explore specific issues which might affect long term travel with respondents (in their words)

#### Approach

- Targetted 18 interviews - 40 mins - online/by phone

Table 1 - Sample Frame - Online Interviews

		Regions of Melbourne										
Personal		Inner			Middle		Outer					
Income												
		Age			Age		Age					
	Low*	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High			
Low	12	-	1	1 <sup>2</sup>		1	1 <sup>2</sup>		1			
Medium	1	1 <sup>2</sup>		1	1 <sup>2</sup>		1	<b>1</b> <sup>2</sup>				
High		1	1 <sup>2</sup>		1	12		1	1 <sup>2</sup>			

\*No surveys are undertaken of anyone aged under 18 \*Respondents who used Public Transport in Melbourne equal to and also more frequently than 1-2 days a week

Completed in March/April 2020





# 4. Findings from Qualitative Interviews

C. Post - Pandemic

How do you expect what you do and how you get around will change when the virus has gone?

Go back to normal

No get back to normal

Note: Yellow boxes report specific answers from a respondent in their own words

I'll travel by public transport again

Not much change

Will drift back into same as we used to

Go back to normal

Go back to normal

Just go back to normal

It will all be the same; don't expect to change anything

Will soon go back to how it was

(1) Monash – May 2020 Online Interview Survey
(2) Yellow boxes report specific answers from a respondent in their own words

Expect it will go back to normal

Go back to how it was before the virus came about





# 4. Findings from Qualitative Interviews

**D. Exploring Specific Long Term Impact Issues** 

Post Pandemic will you use public transport?

Yes

Yes

Yes no problem with it

Yes will use public transport

Yes I would

Im not scared to use public transport; I use trams even now

Yes

See no reason why not; yes

D. Exploring Specific Long Term **Impact Issues** 

Post Pandemic will you have concerns about infection on public transport?

Majority - No concern some noted concern

No more than usual; we have the annual flu concern but not a problem

As long as risk has gone ill be ok

A little apprehensive but no not real concerns; have to have a bit of confidence when things go back; ill be careful; get a flu shot

Yes I have no choice

(1) Monash – May 2020 Online Interview Survey
(2) Yellow boxes report specific answers from a respondent in their own words







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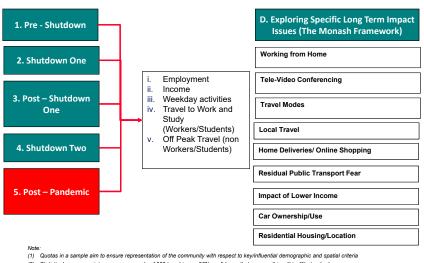
**Next steps** 



The online panel survey covers self reported travel by Covid period & Specific Issues affecting long term travel (from the Monash framework) – a sample frame is so results are representative

Online Panel Survey Questionnaire - Areas Covered

Sample Frame<sup>1</sup>



	Annua	Personal Inc	ome, Before	Tax					
	Nil Income	Less than	Between	More than	Total				
Age Group	Target	Target	Target	Target	<b>Total Target</b>				
18-29	53	96	83	16	248				
30 - 44	12	43	86	79	220				
45 and over	12	89	62	69	232				
Total	77	228	231	164	700				
	MIDDLE MELBOURNE (n=700)								

INNER MELBOURNE (n=700)

18-35	37	73	92	36	238
36-54	17	43	87	90	237
55 and over	18	107	64	37	226
Total	72	223	243	163	701
	OUTE	R MELBOU	RNE (n=70	0)	
	Annual	Poreonal Inc.	omo Roforo	Tav	

	Annual	Tax			
	Nil Income Less than Between More than				Total
Age Group	Target	Target	Target	Target	<b>Total Target</b>
18-35	26	87	97	24	234
36-53	15	64	101	56	236
54 and over	18	122	65	25	230
Total	59	273	263	105	700

		GRAND I	UTAL		
	Annu				
	Nil Income	INCOME 1	INCOME 2	INCOME 3	Total
Age Group	Target	Target	Target	Target	Total Target
AGE GROUP 1	116	256	272	76	720
AGE GROUP 2	44	150	274	225	693
AGE GROUP 3	48	318	191	131	688
Total	208	724	737	432	2101





The sample (n=2,176) has excellent coverage of age/income quota – By region (Inner, Middle, Outer) the sample exceeds the statistical accuracy minimums

Figure A1: Sample Frame Quota and Achieved Targets - 10 August Sample

	INNER MELBOURNE (n=700)														
	Annual Personal Income , Before Tax														
	Nil Income Less than \$45,000 Between \$45,000 and \$98,000 More than \$98,000										Total				
Age Group	Target	Completed	%	Target	Completed	%	Target	Completed	%	Target	Completed	%	Total Target	Completed	%
18-29	53	54	102%	96	101	105%	83	87	105%	16	17	106%	248	259	104%
30 - 44	12	12	100%	43	45	105%	86	90	105%	79	83	105%	220	230	105%
45 and over	12	13	108%	89	82	92%	62	64	103%	69	68	99%	232	227	98%
Total	77	79	103%	228	228	100%	231	241	104%	164	168	102%	700	716	102%

						ITILD	DEF MIL	LBOURNE (r	1-100)								
	Annual Personal Income , Before Tax																
		Nil Income		Les	s than \$37,000	)	Between	\$37,000 and \$	84,000	Mo	re than \$84,000			Total			
Age Group	Target	Completed	%	Target	Completed	%	Target	Completed	%	Target	Completed	%	Total Target	Completed	%		
18-35	37	39	105%	73	77	105%	92	97	105%	36	38	106%	238	251	105%		
36-54	17	17	100%	43	45	105%	87	91	105%	90	94	104%	237	247	104%		
55 and over	18	18	100%	107	111	104%	64	64	100%	37	37	100%	226	230	102%		
Total	72	74	103%	223	233	104%	243	252	104%	163	169	104%	701	728	104%		

Annual Personal Income , Before Tax														
	Nil Income		Les	s than \$37,000	)	Between \$37,000 and \$84,000 More than \$84,000					Total			
Target	Completed	%	Target	Completed	%	Target	Completed	%	Target	Completed	%	Total Target	Completed	%
26	27	104%	87	91	105%	97	102	105%	24	25	104%	234	245	105%
15	15	100%	64	67	105%	101	105	104%	56	59	105%	236	246	104%
18	19	106%	122	128	105%	65	68	105%	25	26	104%	230	241	105%
59	61	103%	273	286	105%	263	275	105%	105	110	105%	700	732	105%
	26 15 18	Target         Completed           26         27           15         15           18         19	Target         Completed         %           26         27         104%           15         15         100%           18         19         106%	Target         Completed         %         Target           26         27         104%         87           15         15         100%         64           18         19         106%         122	Nil Income   Less than \$37,000	Nil Income   Less than \$37,000	Nilincome   Less than \$37,000   Between	Nil Income   Less than \$37,00	Nil Income   Less than \$37,000   Between \$37,000 and \$84,000	Annual Personal Income	Name   Name	Nil Income   Less than \$37,000   Between \$37,000 and \$84,000   More than \$84,000	Nil Income	Nil Income

	GRAND TOTAL														
	Annual Person Income, Before Tax														
	Nil Income INCOME 1				INCOME 2 INCOME 3				OME 2 INCOME 3 Total						
Age Group	Target	Completed	%	Target	Completed	%	Target	Completed	%	Target	Completed	%	Total Target	Completed	%
AGE GROUP 1	116	120	103%	256	269	105%	272	286	105%	76	80	105%	720	755	105%
AGE GROUP 2	44	44	100%	150	157	105%	274	286	104%	225	236	105%	693	723	104%
AGE GROUP 3	48	50	104%	318	321	101%	191	196	103%	131	131	100%	688	698	101%
Total	208	214	103%	724	747	103%	737	768	104%	432	447	103%	2101	2176	104%

(1) Monash - July 2020 Online Panel Survey final sample vs quota targets

(2) Statistical accuracy minimums are a sample of 600 to achieve a 95% confidence that any result is within 4% standard erro





There was also interest in sampling of PT Users, Employed and CBD Workers - the sample also exceeds statistical accuracy minimums for all these non-Quota targets

Figure A2: Sample Non-Quota Targets and Achieved Sample

Q7: LAST YEAR, in 2019, HOW OFTEN did you typically use public transport?	Completed	% of total sample
6-7 days a week	170	8%
5 days a week	355	16%
3-4 days a week	280	13%
1-2 days a week	263	12%
Total	1068	49%

Q8. BEFORE the COVID 19 Outbreak, which of the following best describes what you did?	Completed	% of total sample
Employed full time	905	42%
Employed Part Time	329	15%
Employed casual	199	9%
Total	1433	66%

Q9 Before the COVID-19 outbreak, did you WORK in		% of total
Melbourne CBD?	Completed	sample
Yes	635	29%
Total	635	29%

(1) Monash - July 2020 Online Panel Survey final sample

(2) Statistical accuracy minimums are a sample of 600 to achieve a 95% confidence that any result is within 4% standard error

(3) About half the sample used PT in 2019; this is a very high number and might imply a sample biased towards public transport users; this is good for reliability of results regarding public transport but may imply high estimates of PT mode share in the results

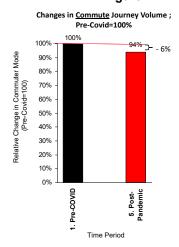


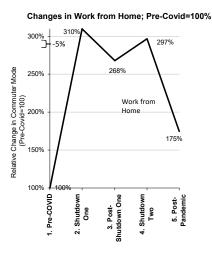


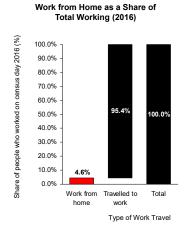
# POST COVID total JTW travel declines by 6% - mainly due to increased WFH

#### Figure D2: Post-Covid Total Travel Reduction and Linked to WFH Growth

**Peak-Related Travel** 







- (1) Monash August 2020 Online Panel final sample Self reported activity participation volume per week
- (2) Weighted sample; representative of total Melbourne travel

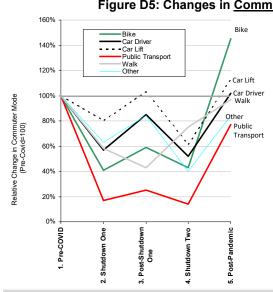
Source:: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census Journey to Work

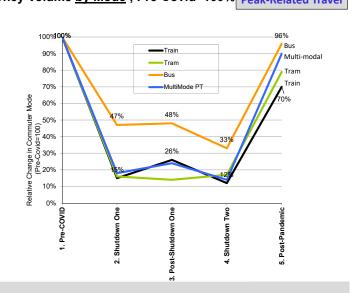




# By Mode Post-Covid; JTW grows for Bike (+45%), Car Lift (+13%), Car Driving (+2%). Walking (-3%) PT ridership returns to 77% of Pre Covid Levels – rail more affected than Bus and Multimodal

Figure D5: Changes in Commute Journey Volume by Mode; Pre-Covid=100% Peak-Related Travel





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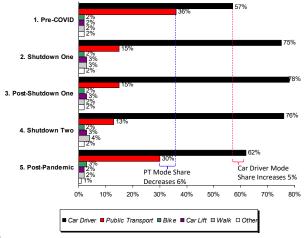
- (1) Monash August 2020 Online Panel final sample Self reported travel to work volume per week
- Weighted sample; representative of total Melbourne travel



# JTW mode share increases for car driving from 57% to 61%. PT mode share declines from 36% to 30%.

Figure D7: Changes in Commute Journey Share by Mode

Peak-Related Travel



- ▶ This is the relative SHARE of travel to work by MODE. It is the weighted sample (representative of all travel in
- Post Pandemic; major shifts are:

   Increased car driving; the share of car driving to work will increase from 57% to 62%.
  - Decreased public transport use; although mode share recovers from a low of 13% (Shutdown Two) it returns to a share of 30% of journey to work, 6% below pre covid levels
- Bike share increases from 2% to 3% post pandemic
   During the Pandemic (period 3, 4 and 5) car driving share of journey to work has consistently increased to represent 75-78% of all work travel.
- ▶ Public Transport travel declines to a share of between 13-15% of travel. Interesting it still represented the second most important means of travel to work after car driving; even during the pandemic.

- (1) Monash August 2020 Online Panel final sample Self reported travel to work volume per week
- (2) Weighted sample; representative of total Melbourne travel





#### **Melbourne CBD**

**CBD Commuting** 



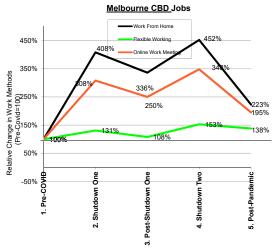


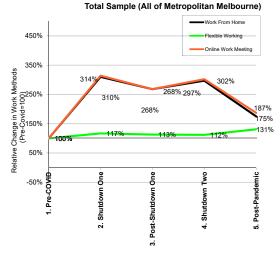


Work from Home is MUCH more common for CBD workers; Post Pandemic WFH is expected to more than double (+117%) compared to pre-covid, much higher than for Melb as a whole (+75%)

Figure F2: Changes in Alternative Work Methods; Pre-Covid=100%

**CBD Commuting** 





Note:

(1) Monash – August 2020 Online Panel Survey – final sample - Self reported activity participation volume per week (2) Weighted sample; representative of total Melbourne travel

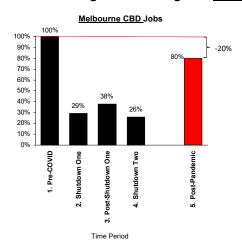


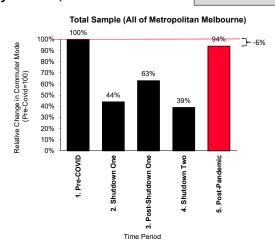


Respondents say CBD COMMUTE will reduce more than the rest of Melbourne; Post Pandemic a 20% decline in CBD COMMUTE is self estimated - much larger than for Melbourne as a whole (6%)

Figure F4: Changes in Commute Journey Volume; Pre-Covid=100%

**CBD Commuting** 





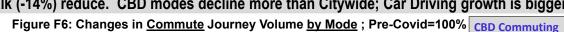
Vote:

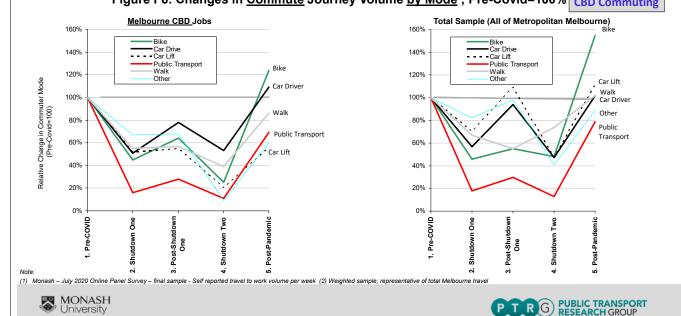
- (1) Monash August 2020 Online Panel final sample Self reported CBD travel to work volume per week
- (2) Weighted sample; representative of total Melbourne travel



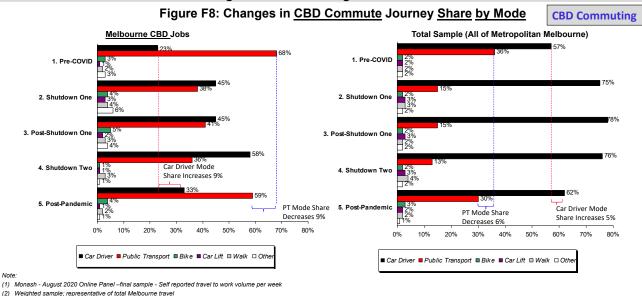


Post-Covid CBD COMMUTE grows for Bike (+24% Pre-Covid) & Car Driver (+9%). Car Lift (-44%) PT (-31%) & Walk (-14%) reduce. CBD modes decline more than Citywide; Car Driving growth is bigger





Post-Covid CBD COMMUTE mode share increases for car driving 23%-33%; PT CBD mode share declines 67%-59%. This CBD swing is similar but larger for the CBD than for Melbourne as a whole



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### **Public Transport Users**



**PT Users** 





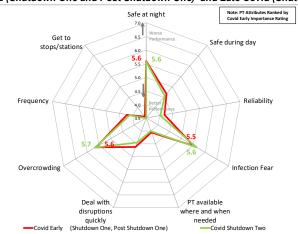
# Overcrowding & Infection Fear are top concerns for PT Users since the pandemic – these concerns increased in shutdown two

#### Figure C2: Pt User Attitudes to PT Issue IMPORTANCE

Early Covid (Shutdown One and Post Shutdown One) and Late Covid (Shutdown Two)

PERFORMANCE Average Raw Stated Score Covid Shutdown Two Attribute (Ranked by Covid Jovid Early Early Importance) Safe at night 5.6 Safe during day 4.7 4.6 Infection Fear 5.6 PT available where and when no Deal with disruptions quickly 4.6 4.5 5.6 4.2 5.7 4.1 Overcrowding Frequency Get to stops/stations 3.6 3.5 min





# **Key Points**

**Attitudes/Perceptions** 

- ▶ Covid Early In terms of performance the biggest concerns are:
  - - Overcrowding
       Safety at Night (from assault/theft)
       Infection fear
- ▶ Covid Late these are still the top issues
- but there are small changes:

   Overcrowding remains biggest
  - concern but its rating is worse Infection Fear becomes the second
  - worst rated issue

     Safety at Night is still a major
- concern but its performance is rated as slightly of a concern ▶ Other slight changes to shutdown two are:
- Concern over the performance of safety during the day, reliability and
  - dealing with disruptions are not as larger as they were in early shutdown
- ▶ Overall shifts between Coveid early and late are minor in scale

- (1) Monash August 2020 Online Panel final sample Self reported IMPORTANCE rating; 1-7; 7 = extremely Important, 1=Extremely unimportant (2) Weighted sample; representative of total Melbourne travel
- (3) Spiral Plot uses approach from Currie G Delbosc A (2015) Variation in Perceptions of Urban Public Transport Performance Between International Cities Using Spiral Plot Analysis' TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH RECORD No. 2538 pages 54-64.

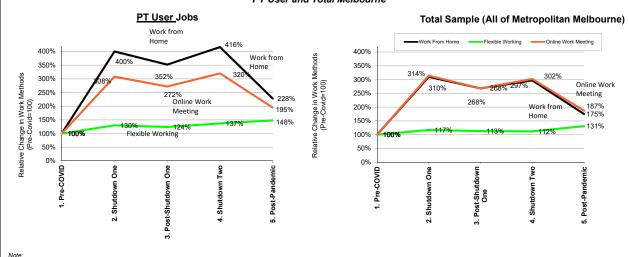




Work from Home is MUCH more common for PT Users; Post-Pandemic WFH is expected to more than double (+128%) compared to Pre-Covid for PT Users, much higher than for Melb (+75%)

Figure G2: Changes in <u>Alternative Work Methods</u>; Pre-Covid=100% PT User and Total Melbourne

**PT Users** 



(1) Monash - August 2020 Online Panel – final sample - Self reported activity participation volume per week (2) Weighted sample; representative of total Melbourne travel



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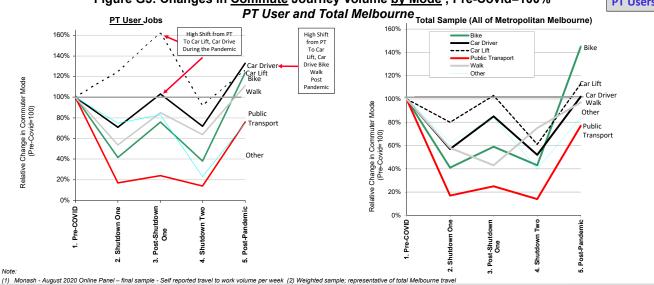


PTRG PUBLIC TRANSPORT RESEARCH GROUP

# Post-Covid PT User COMMUTE increases for Car Driver (+33% pre-covid), Bike (+28%), Car Lift (+26%). PT declines (-22%). The shift to car use is higher for PT Users than Citywide

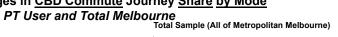
Figure G5: Changes in Commute Journey Volume by Mode; Pre-Covid=100%

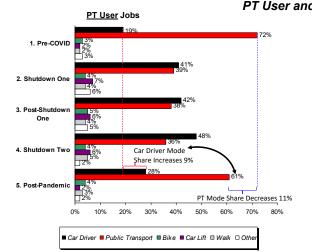
**PT Users** 

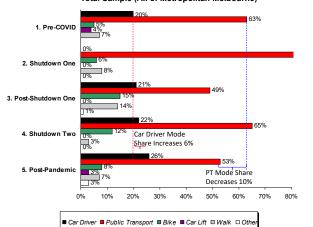


Post-Covid PT User COMMUTE mode share increases for car driving 19%-28%; PT User mode share declines 72%-61%. This swing is similar but larger for PT Users than for Melbourne as a whole

Figure G6: Changes in CBD Commute Journey Share by Mode







- Monash August 2020 Online Panel final sample Self reported travel to work volume per week
   Weighted sample; representative of total Melbourne travel







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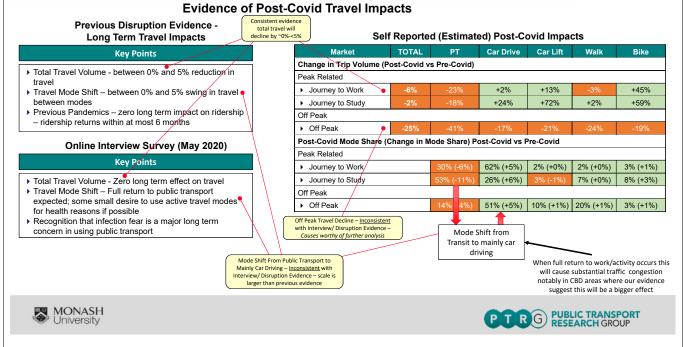
Panel survey findings

**Transit ridership futures** 

**Next steps** 

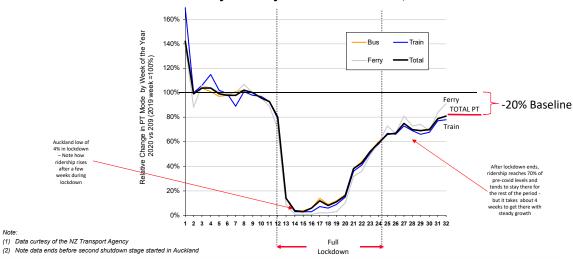


All evidence suggests a Post-Covid 0% to -5% total travel decline. Mode Shift evidence is mixed ranging from 0% to -6% total travel shift from PT to car; a max one-off absolute PT decline of ~20%.



We note that Auckland Transport; when Covid-19 was no longer an issue, demonstrated a 20% net PT ridership decline; consistent with our low-end est. for Post Covid in Melbourne of -20%

#### Changes in AUCKLAND TRANSPORT (NZ) Total Public Transport Travel by Mode by week - 2020 vs 2019; 2019 =100%

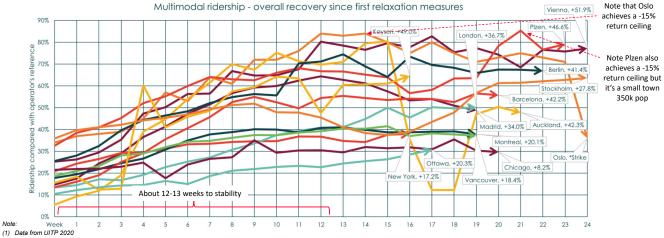






# This trend matches a global city pattern of ridership return after shutdown; with a ~-20% level currently representing a general ceiling for ridership return

Changes in International City (Multi-modal) Public Transport Travel by Mode by week after Recovery (shutdown) - % relative to baseline (update 2-10-2020)



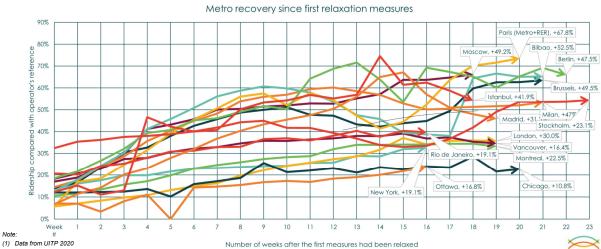
- (2) Note includes Auckland Transport turn down after shutdown two returns
- (3) The text tags with percentages after the city name appear to show the relative change in ridership after shutdowns finish





# Interestingly Metro systems, with underground operations have a lower ceiling and return trajectory

Changes in International City (Metro) Public Transport Travel by Mode by week after Recovery (shutdown) - % relative to baseline (update 2-10-2020)



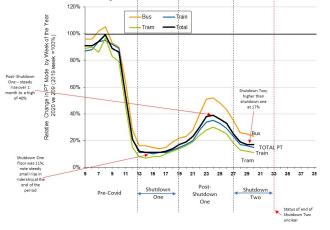
(2) The text tags with percentages after the city name appear to show the relative change in ridership after shutdowns finish



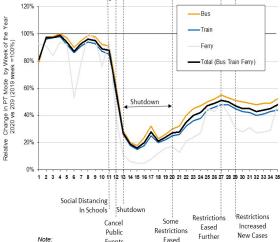


# Melbourne & Sydney have a way to go and display interesting differences which will be explored in future research

Changes in MELBOURNE Total Public Transport Travel by Mode by week - 2020 vs 2019; 2019 = 100%



Changes in Sydney Total Public Transport Travel by Mode by week - 2020 vs 2019; 2019 = 100%



Note: Events Eased Further New Cases

(1) Data curtesy of the Transport for New South Wales
(2) Note: Light Rail and Metro not included as significant new service introduced in 2019 distorting effects prepost Covid 19







Agenda

Introduction

**Approach** 

**Evidence from past disruptions** 

**Qualitative interview findings** 

Panel survey findings

**Transit ridership futures** 

**Next steps** 



# A number of additional analysis of the first Online Panel Survey are planned next; additional suggestions are welcome

#### **Baseline Queries of the First Online Panel Survey**

- ▶ New Analysis Questions/Areas to explore:
  - Isolation of factors resulting in PT use decline
  - Off peak travel decline is suggested - this is unexpected; why does it happen? How robust is this finding?

#### Analysis testing the robustness of user self-reported travel predictions

#### The (London 2012 Olympics) Transtheoretical Model Tests

- ▶ Parkes et al (2016) developed the Transtheoretical Model in research exploring long term travel impacts of the Summer Olympic Games on travel in London
- They found long term travel impacts related to the degree of adjustment to change each person had made.
- The Online Panel Survey included questions exploring this for Journey to Work. This analysis will adopt this approach to test self reported travel changes

#### The Transtheoretical Model

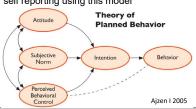
User Adjustment to Change – London 2012 Olympic Games

Pre-contemplation
Contemplation
Preparation
Action
Maintenance

(Parkes et al 2016, Prochaska and DiClemente 1982)

#### The Theory of Planned Behaviour and Working **From Home**

- Increased WFH is a notable impact of Covid-19
- The Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) is the most prolific tool used to understand travel behavior. It says behavior is a function of attitudes, norms, perceived control
- ▶ We are a series of questions on these for WFH users and will check the robustness of self reporting using this model







# In addition we must plan for Phase 3 of the research – a second round of interviews and a second Online Panel Survey scheduled for later as the Pandemic progresses (or ends)

#### Research Plan - phases and tasks - reporting and status

# 1. Project Inception 2. Literature Review Completed

- Phase 1 Research Context
  - 3. Secondary Travel Data Impact Analysis Future Travel Impact Forecasting Approach

#### Phase 2 - Shutdown Field Surveys

- 5. Qualitative Survey Shutdown One.
- 6. Quantitative Online Panel Survey
- 7. Analysis and Reporting

#### Phase 3 - Late Shutdown/Post Pandemic Field Surveys



- 8. Qualitative Survey
- 9. Quantitative Online Panel Survey
- 10. Phase 3 Analysis and Reporting

Scheduled for Late 2020/ Early 2021

#### **Possible ADDITION topics to explore**

- ▶ Explore reasons behind the large self reported post pandemic changes in off peak travel factor/PCA causes
- Cross check/ calibrate self reported changes in travel against known changes - if necessary consider a sample adjustment to get a more accurate forecast
- Disaggregate analysis:
  - Inner, Middle, Outer, Age and Income
- Analyse results by health related impact measures (Factor/PCA analysis of differences)
- Factor analysis of factors influencing long term travel changes
- Focus on impacts on the disadvantaged

#### Do the project in other cities





# Please reach out for more information

















