

Measuring the economic impacts of transport infrastructure: Reflection & Discussion



Taede Tillema

Professor in Transport Geography
Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen

KiM Netherlands Institute for Transport Policy Analysis
(Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management)

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Outline

1. **Are we measuring things in the right way?** (*transport economic perspective*)

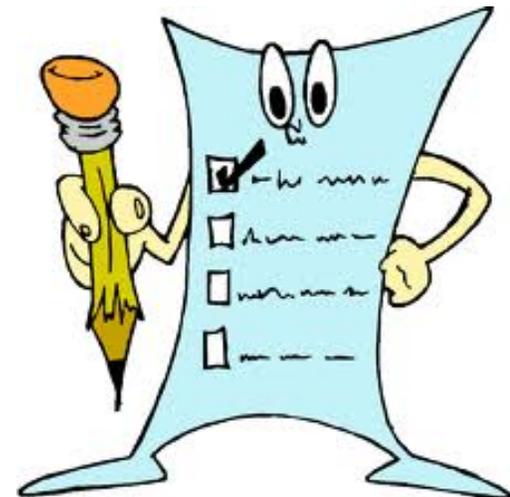
- General insights and reflection
- Rural transport infra: economic impacts

2. **Are we measuring the right things?** (*transport geographical perspective*)

- From infrastructure to (geographical) accessibility
- From measured to perceived accessibility

3. **Discussion**

=> Focus on rural areas



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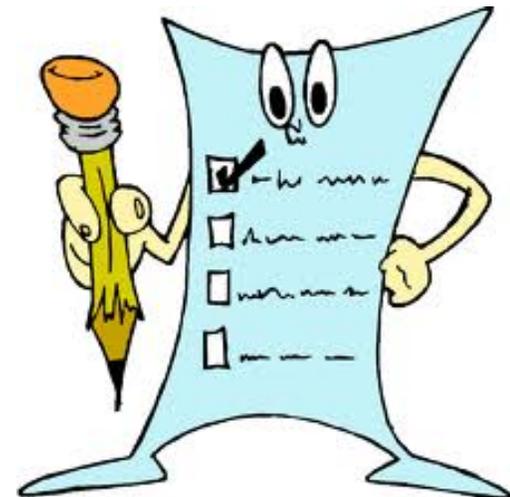
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General insights and reflection



- › Great overview of theory and empirics!
- › Size of effects: transport on its own is likely to achieve very little in terms of improving regional economic development
- › Causality of effects
- › Type of effect/(in)dependent variable
- › Decreasing returns on investment
- › New growth versus reorganization/relocation
- › Emphasis on road infrastructure (limited rail)
- › Underlying mechanisms often unclear
- › The role of governance

Rural transport infra: economic impacts? (Theory)



- > Much (policy) focus on cities
- > Lower transport costs (NEG)
 - ↓
 - Business
 - Industry => move to periphery
 - Services => cluster in city
 - People
 - Attractiveness living in periphery increases
 - Cities more attractive for employees

Rural transport infra: economic impacts? (Empirics)



- › Transport infrastructure => no clear regional GDP growth (slide 18-19)
 - But... no strong effects for other regions either
- › Potential causes?
 - Functional relations (daily urban system)
 - Integrated transport system
 - Diminishing returns on investment

=> Investing in rural/less developed areas: good/bad idea? Sufficient evidence?

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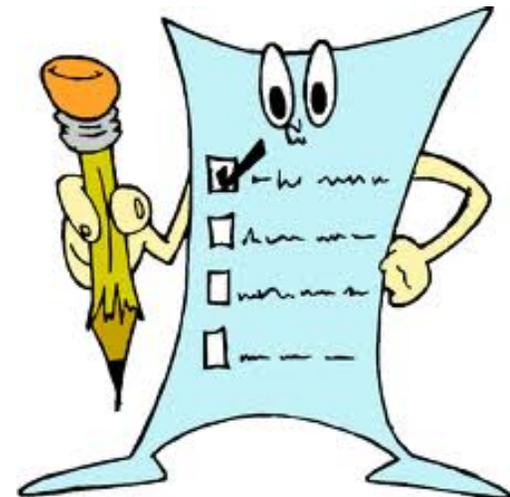
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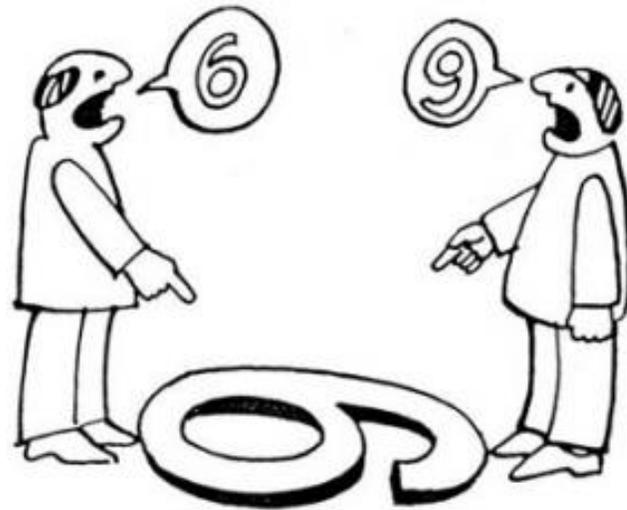


From infrastructure to accessibility



- > Project decisions
 - Focus on travel times/traffic congestion
 - SCBA (consumer welfare perspective)
- > Geographical accessibility
- > Rural areas
 - Larger distances to services
 - Public transport under pressure
 - Car important
- > Spatial inequality, but problematic?
 - Basic level of accessibility: sufficiency threshold (Martens, 2016)

From measured to perceived accessibility (and wellbeing)



Discussion

- › **Are we measuring things in the right way?**
 - What would be important focus points for future analyses? What would such analyses add to the current insights?
 - Spatial differences in impact: sufficient evidence?
 - The role of QoG (governance)?

- › **Are we measuring the right things?**
 - Too much focus on traffic congestion and travel time?
 - Broader accessibility perspective? And how?

THANKS!



Taede Tillema
t.tillema@rug.nl