

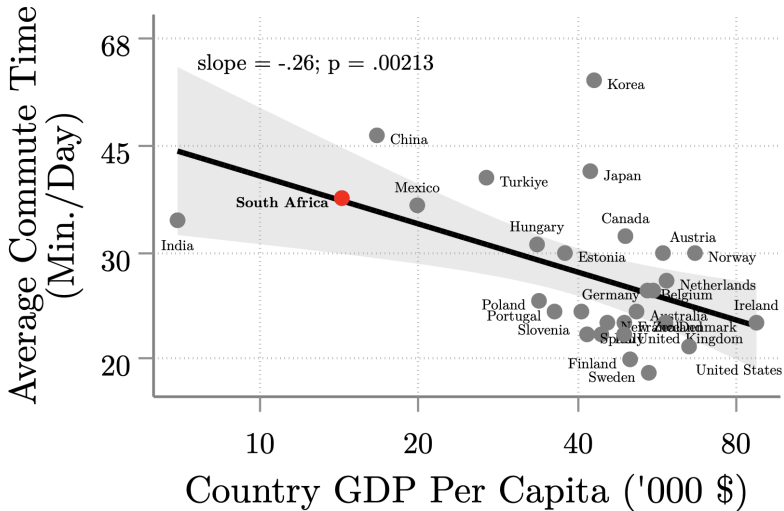
Are There Too Many Minibuses in Cape Town?

Privatized Provision of Public Transit

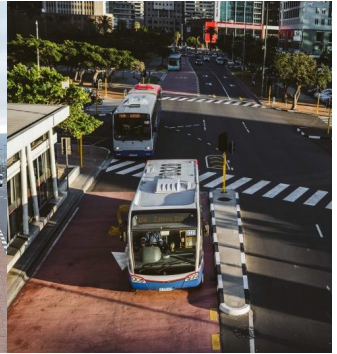
Lucas Conwell

April 2023

Long Commutes in Lower-Income Countries

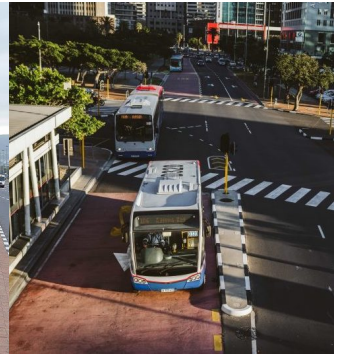


Typical Recommendation: Formal “Bus Rapid Transit”



Sources: ODA Ltd.; Creamer Media's Engineering News

Typical Recommendation: Formal “Bus Rapid Transit”



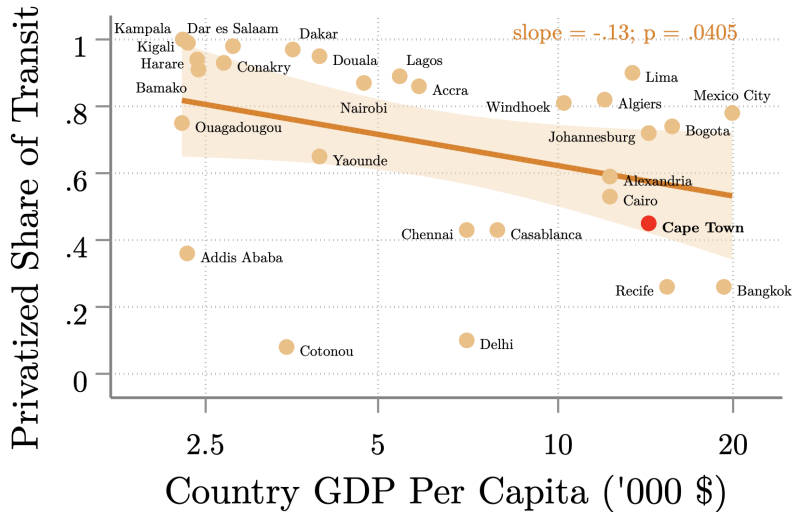
Sources: ODA Ltd.; Creamer Media's Engineering News

The Limits of Bus Rapid Transit: A Cape Town Case Study

Why BRT isn't right for every city.

- Bloomberg

Alternative: Privatized Shared Transit



This Paper: Efficiency of Privatized Shared Transit

- **Model** of privatized shared transit
 - ① **Minibuses** enter + **match** with passengers \Rightarrow wait times
 - ② **Commuter** home + work + mode choice [time + quality]

This Paper: Efficiency of Privatized Shared Transit

- **Model** of privatized shared transit
 - 1 **Minibuses** enter + **match** with passengers \Rightarrow wait times
 - 2 **Commuter** home + work + mode choice [time + quality]
- **Data**, newly-collected
 - 1 $\frac{\text{buses}}{\text{passenger}} \Rightarrow$ **wait times** [ID: demand shocks w/i 44 routes]
 - 2 **Stated preferences** of commuters [ID: randomized time, quality]

This Paper: Efficiency of Privatized Shared Transit

- **Model** of privatized shared transit
 - 1 **Minibuses** enter + **match** with passengers \Rightarrow wait times
 - 2 **Commuter** home + work + mode choice [time + quality]
- **Data**, newly-collected
 - 1 $\frac{\text{buses}}{\text{passenger}} \Rightarrow$ **wait times** [ID: demand shocks w/i 44 routes]
 - 2 **Stated preferences** of commuters [ID: randomized time, quality]
- **Policies** to optimize, vs. “typical” formal transit investments
 - 1 **Social Planner**: optimally **increase fares** on longer routes
 - 2 **Station Security**: greatest *net* gains

This Paper: Efficiency of Privatized Shared Transit

- **Model** of privatized shared transit
 - 1 **Minibuses** enter + **match** with passengers \Rightarrow wait times
 - 2 **Commuter** home + work + mode choice [time + quality]
- **Data**, newly-collected
 - 1 $\frac{\text{buses}}{\text{passenger}} \Rightarrow$ **wait times** [ID: demand shocks w/i 44 routes]
 - 2 **Stated preferences** of commuters [ID: randomized time, quality]
- **Policies** to optimize, vs. “typical” formal transit investments
 - 1 **Social Planner**: optimally **increase fares** on longer routes
 - 2 **Station Security**: greatest *net* gains
 - \downarrow
 - commute time/quality + relocation + environmental

- **Public** transit and (**developing**-country) city structure

Glaeser, Kahn, Rappaport '08; Ahlfeldt, Redding, Sturm, Wolf '15
Heblich, Redding, Sturm '20; Balboni, Bryan, Mörtén, Siddiqi '20
Tsivanidis '22; Warnes '21, Zarate '21

⇒ **Privatized transit.**

- **Public** transit and (**developing**-country) city structure

Glaeser, Kahn, Rappaport '08; Ahlfeldt, Redding, Sturm, Wolf '15
Heblich, Redding, Sturm '20; Balboni, Bryan, Mörtén, Siddiqi '20
Tsivanidis '22; Warnes '21, Zarate '21

⇒ **Privatized transit.**

- **Road** congestion

Allen and Arkolakis '21; Almagro, Barbieri, Castillo, Hickok, Salz '22
Barwick, Li, Waxman, Wu, Xia '22; Fajgelbaum and Schaal '20
Akbar, Couture, Durantón, Storeygard '23

⇒ **Wait times and fares ⇒ privatized transit policies.**

- **Public** transit and (**developing**-country) city structure

Glaeser, Kahn, Rappaport '08; Ahlfeldt, Redding, Sturm, Wolf '15
Heblich, Redding, Sturm '20; Balboni, Bryan, Mörtén, Siddiqi '20
Tsivanidis '22; Warnes '21, Zarate '21

⇒ **Privatized transit.**

- **Road** congestion

Allen and Arkolakis '21; Almagro, Barbieri, Castillo, Hickok, Salz '22
Barwick, Li, Waxman, Wu, Xia '22; Fajgelbaum and Schaal '20
Akbar, Couture, Durantón, Storeygard '23

⇒ **Wait times and fares ⇒ privatized transit policies.**

- **Decentralized** transport markets

Brancaccio, Kalouptsi, Papageorgiou '20
Brancaccio, Kalouptsi, Papageorgiou, Rosaia '22

⇒ **Urban transport.**

Today's Talk

Context and Facts

Model

Data and Estimation

Model Fit

Transport Policies

Today's Talk

Context and Facts

Model

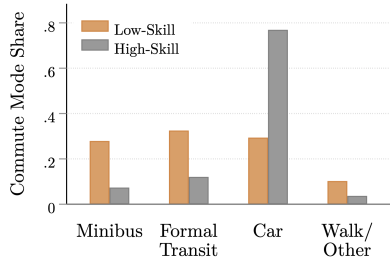
Data and Estimation

Model Fit

Transport Policies

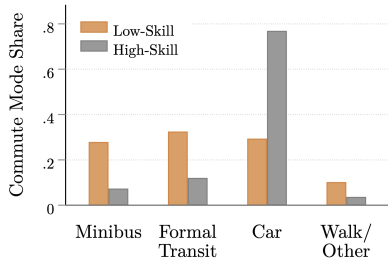
Minibuses in Cape Town

- Large market share
 $\frac{1}{3}$ of low-skill commuters



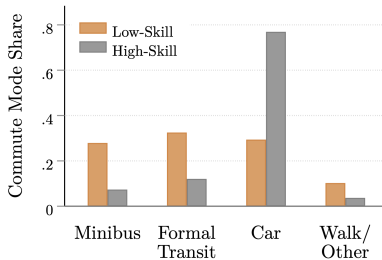
Minibuses in Cape Town

- **Large market share**
 $\frac{1}{3}$ of low-skill commuters
- **Small firms** avg. < 2 buses
 $\frac{1}{2}$ informal



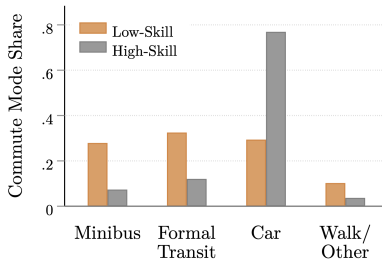
Minibuses in Cape Town

- **Large market share**
 $\frac{1}{3}$ of low-skill commuters
- **Small firms** avg. < 2 buses
 $\frac{1}{2}$ informal
- Enter specific **route**
= origin \times destination



Minibuses in Cape Town

- **Large market share**
 $\frac{1}{3}$ of low-skill commuters
- **Small firms** avg. < 2 buses
 $\frac{1}{2}$ informal
- Enter specific **route**
= origin \times destination
- **Fares:** distance-based
set by gov't + route “association.”



① Wait Times Large; Bus Entry: Ambiguous Effect

① Off-bus wait

avg. ≈ 9 min.



1 Wait Times Large; Bus Entry: Ambiguous Effect

1 Off-bus wait

avg. ≈ 9 min.

*Queues, especially
during certain times
of the day are
impossibl[y long].*

-“Pros Cons of
Minibus Taxis” on
Medium

1 Wait Times Large; Bus Entry: Ambiguous Effect

1 Off-bus wait

avg. ≈ 9 min.



2 On-bus wait

avg. ≈ 3 min.



① Wait Times Large; Bus Entry: Ambiguous Effect

① Off-bus wait

avg. ≈ 9 min.



② On-bus wait

avg. ≈ 3 min.

One...inefficient practice...is that minibus taxis generally only leave when they are full. -World Bank (2018)

1 Wait Times Large; Bus Entry: Ambiguous Effect

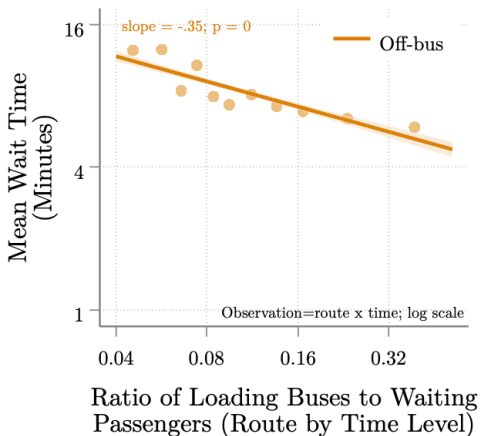
1 Off-bus wait

avg. ≈ 9 min.



2 On-bus wait

avg. ≈ 3 min.



1 Wait Times Large; Bus Entry: Ambiguous Effect

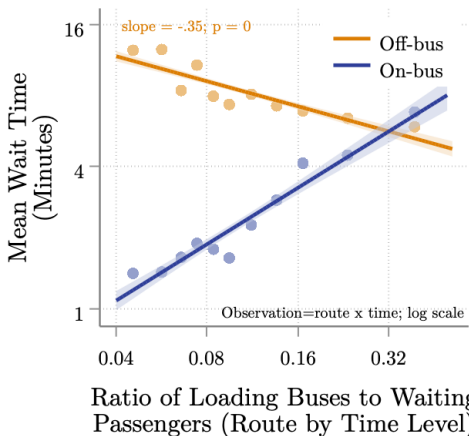
1 Off-bus wait

avg. ≈ 9 min.



2 On-bus wait

avg. ≈ 3 min.



① Wait Times Large; Bus Entry: Ambiguous Effect

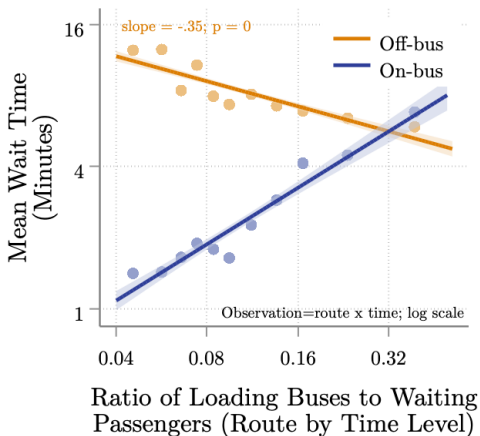
① Off-bus wait

avg. ≈ 9 min.



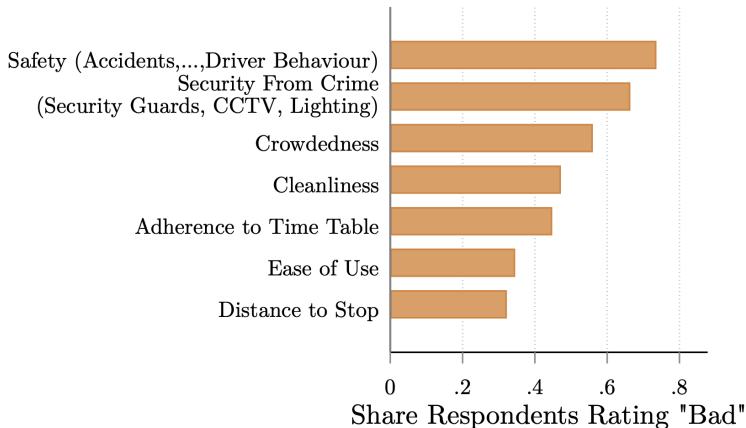
② On-bus wait

avg. ≈ 3 min.

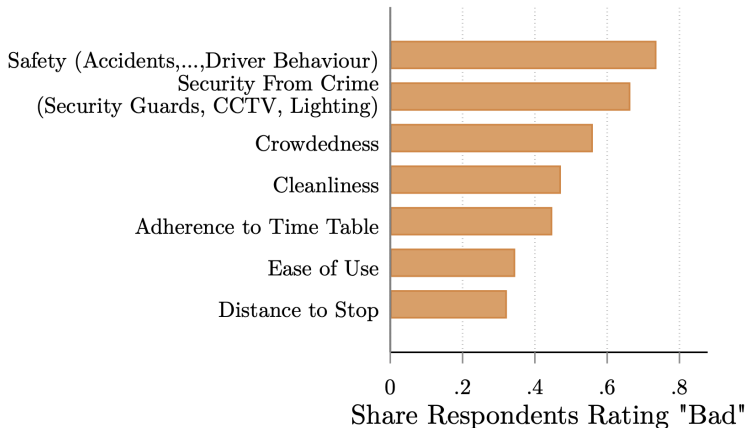


⇒ Counterfactual: optimal fares.

② Security = #2 Rider Complaint



② Security = #2 Rider Complaint



⇒ Counterfactual: station security guards.

Today's Talk

Context and Facts

Model

Data and Estimation

Model Fit

Transport Policies

Model Overview



Environment

Time: continuous

Geography: / locations

Emissions costs

external, mode-specific

Model Overview



Environment

Time: continuous

Geography: / locations

Emissions costs
external, mode-specific



Minibuses

Entry: free [firm = bus]
 \forall origin-destination

Fares: exogenous

Matching: frictional
with passengers

Trips: multiple

Model Overview



Environment

Time: continuous

Geography: I locations

Emissions costs
external, mode-specific



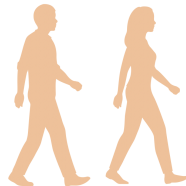
Minibuses

Entry: free [firm = bus]
 \forall origin-destination

Fares: exogenous

Matching: frictional
with passengers

Trips: multiple



Commuters

Skill: heterogeneous
 $g \in \{\text{low, high}\}$

Choice:

- ① Home i [amenity θ_i^g]
- ② Work j [wage ω_j^g]
- ③ Mode $m \in$
 - minibuses
 - formal transit
 - car

A Minibus Trip

- 1 **Load** passengers s.t. frictional **matching** process ► Why matching?

A Minibus Trip

- 1 **Load** passengers s.t. frictional **matching** process ► Why matching?
- 2 **Depart** when reach capacity $\bar{\eta}$ [exogenous] ► Evidence

A Minibus Trip

- 1 **Load** passengers s.t. frictional **matching** process ▶ Why matching?
- 2 **Depart** when reach capacity $\bar{\eta}$ [exogenous] ▶ Evidence
- 3 **Collect** fares τ_{ijM} [calibrated to data] ▶ Data

A Minibus Trip

- 1 **Load** passengers s.t. frictional **matching** process ▶ Why matching?
- 2 **Depart** when reach capacity $\bar{\eta}$ [exogenous] ▶ Evidence
- 3 **Collect** fares τ_{ijM} [calibrated to data] ▶ Data
- 4 **Travel** to j , operating cost χ per distance Δ_{ij}

A Minibus Trip

- 1 **Load** passengers s.t. frictional **matching** process ► Why matching?
- 2 **Depart** when reach capacity $\bar{\eta}$ [exogenous] ► Evidence
- 3 **Collect** fares τ_{ijM} [calibrated to data] ► Data
- 4 **Travel** to j , operating cost χ per distance Δ_{ij}
- 5 **Arrive** at rate d_{ij} and end work “shift” with $\text{Pr} = g \overbrace{(\text{trip time})}^{(+)}$

► Profits

Minibus-Passenger Matching

- **Matching function** for each route ij :

$$\mathcal{M}_{ij} \equiv \mu_{ij} p_{ij}^{\alpha} b_{ij}^{\beta} \quad \left. \vphantom{\mathcal{M}_{ij}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \mu_{ij} = \text{matching efficiency} \\ p_{ij}, b_{ij} = \text{passengers, buses} \end{array}$$

\Rightarrow Passenger **boarding** (λ_{ij}) and bus **loading** (ι_{ij}) rates

Minibus-Passenger Matching

- **Matching function** for each route ij :

$$\mathcal{M}_{ij} \equiv \mu_{ij} p_{ij}^{\alpha} b_{ij}^{\beta} \quad \left. \vphantom{\mathcal{M}_{ij}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \mu_{ij} = \text{matching efficiency} \\ p_{ij}, b_{ij} = \text{passengers, buses} \end{array}$$

⇒ Passenger **boarding** (λ_{ij}) and bus **loading** (ι_{ij}) rates

- Expected **total passenger wait time** [$\mu_{ij} = 1$ and CRS]:

$$\underbrace{\frac{1}{\lambda_{ij}}}_{\text{off-bus}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \frac{\bar{\eta}}{\iota_{ij}}}_{\text{on-bus}} = \underbrace{\left(\frac{p_{ij}}{b_{ij}} \right)^{\beta}}_{\text{boarding externality}} + \underbrace{\frac{\bar{\eta}}{2} \left(\frac{b_{ij}}{p_{ij}} \right)^{1-\beta}}_{\text{filling externality}}$$

Commuters: Choose Home + Work + Mode

- Example: **minibus** choice utility for home i , work j ► Other Modes

$$\overline{U}_{ijM}^g = \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{amenity}}}{\theta_i^g} + \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{wage}}}{\omega_j^g} - \overset{\substack{\text{rate of time pref.} \\ \downarrow}}{r} \omega_j^g \left(\underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{off-bus} \\ \text{wait}}}{\frac{1}{\lambda_{ij}}} + \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{on-bus} \\ \text{wait}}}{\frac{1}{2} \frac{\overline{\eta}}{\iota_{ij}}} + \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{travel} \\ \text{time}}}{\frac{1}{d_{ij}}} \right) - \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{mode} \\ \text{utility} \\ \text{cost}}}{\kappa_M^g} - \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{fare}}}{\tau_{ijM}}$$

Gumbel shock, shape $\nu \Rightarrow$ choice Pr. $\pi_{ijM}^g \equiv \exp\left(\frac{\overline{U}_{ijM}^g}{\nu}\right) / \sum_{i,j,m} \exp\left(\frac{\overline{U}_{ijm}^g}{\nu}\right)$.

Commuters: Choose Home + Work + Mode

- Example: **minibus** choice utility for home i , work j ► Other Modes

$$\bar{U}_{ijM}^g = \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{amenity}}}{\theta_i^g} + \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{wage}}}{\omega_j^g} - \overset{\substack{\text{rate of time pref.} \\ \downarrow}}{r} \omega_j^g \left(\underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{off-bus} \\ \text{wait}}}{\frac{1}{\lambda_{ij}}} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\bar{\eta}}{\underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{on-bus} \\ \text{wait}}}{\iota_{ij}}} + \frac{1}{\underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{travel} \\ \text{time}}}{d_{ij}}} \right) - \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{mode} \\ \text{utility} \\ \text{cost}}}{\kappa_M^g} - \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{fare}}}{\tau_{ijM}}$$

Gumbel shock, shape $\nu \Rightarrow$ choice Pr. $\pi_{ijM}^g \equiv \exp\left(\frac{\bar{U}_{ijM}^g}{\nu}\right) / \sum_{i,j,m} \exp\left(\frac{\bar{U}_{ijm}^g}{\nu}\right)$.

- Policies:** $\kappa_M^g = f(\text{quality improvements})$ e.g. security ► Equilibrium

Social Planner Optimum Through Minibus Fares + Transfers

Social Planner Problem

$$\max_{b_{ij}, \pi_{ijm}^g, \tau_{ijm}, t_{ijm}} \left\{ \sum_g N^g \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{expected} \\ \text{commute utility}}}{\Omega^g} - \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{operating} \\ \text{costs}}}{C} - \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{emissions} \\ \text{costs}}}{\varsigma E} \right\} \text{ s.t. } \begin{array}{l} \text{commuter choice} \\ \text{probabilities.} \end{array}$$

Social Planner Optimum Through Minibus Fares + Transfers

Social Planner Problem

$$\max_{b_{ij}, \pi_{ijM}^g, \tau_{ijM}, t_{ijM}} \left\{ \sum_g N^g \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{expected} \\ \text{commute utility}}}{\Omega^g} - \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{operating} \\ \text{costs}}}{C} - \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{emissions} \\ \text{costs}}}{\varsigma E} \right\} \text{ s.t. } \begin{array}{l} \text{commuter choice} \\ \text{probabilities.} \end{array}$$

Optimal Minibus Fare

Assume $\alpha + \beta = 1$, $\mu_{ij} = 1$, $\varsigma = 0$, and $\phi = 0$.

$$\tau_{ijM}^* \propto \underbrace{\chi \Delta_{ij}}_{\text{operating costs}} + \underbrace{\bar{\psi} g \left[\bar{\eta}^\beta \left(\frac{2\beta}{1-\beta} \right)^{1-\beta} + \frac{1}{d_{ij}} \right]}_{\text{net boarding - filling externality}}$$

Today's Talk

Context and Facts

Model

Data and Estimation

Model Fit

Transport Policies

Data Collection

1 Minibus Station Counts



- **Loading process** [M-F 6-10:00]
 - bus arrival/departure
 - waiting passengers
- **Sample:** $N = 44$ routes
2-stage, stratified by bus entry







Data Collection

1 Minibus Station Counts



- Loading process [M-F 6-10:00]
 - bus arrival/departure
 - waiting passengers
- Sample: $N = 44$ routes
2-stage, stratified by bus entry

2 Stated Preference Surveys over commute modes

Q1.1	Option 1.1.1	Option 1.1.2
Cost	R18.00	R6.00
Travel Time	50 Minutes	50 Minutes
Security	Security at taxi rank 	No security at taxi rank 
Driver Behaviour	Adheres to speed limit 	Exceeds speed limit 
Bus Loading	Enough seats for all passengers 	Overloaded: more passengers than seats 

- 1 New: minibus options
 - 5 randomized choice sets
 - 2 minibus options/set
 - Sample ($N = 526$) vs. pop.
at mall, minibus stations
- 2 Existing: other modes

Station Counts \Rightarrow Matching Function

- Estimate **bus loading rate** equation in logs ► Histograms
across 44 routes (ij) \times 48 5-min. periods (t)

$$\log \iota_{ijt} = \hat{\alpha} \log p_{ijt} + (\hat{\beta} - 1) \log b_{ijt} + \underbrace{\bar{\mu}_{ij} + \bar{\mu}_{it} + \epsilon_{ijt}}_{\text{matching efficiency}}$$

Station Counts \Rightarrow Matching Function

- Estimate **bus loading rate** equation in logs ► Histograms
across 44 routes (ij) \times 48 5-min. periods (t)

$$\log \nu_{ijt} = \hat{\alpha} \log p_{ijt} + (\hat{\beta} - 1) \log b_{ijt} + \underbrace{\bar{\mu}_{ij} + \bar{\mu}_{it} + \epsilon_{ijt}}_{\text{matching efficiency}}$$

Parameter	OLS
	<i>route+origin-time FE</i>
α	0.645 (0.0264)
β	0.435 (0.043)

Note: Robust standard errors in parentheses, clustered at origin level.

Station Counts \Rightarrow Matching Function

- Estimate **bus loading rate** equation in logs ► Histograms
across 44 routes (ij) \times 48 5-min. periods (t)

$$\log \nu_{ijt} = \hat{\alpha} \log p_{ijt} + (\hat{\beta} - 1) \log b_{ijt} + \underbrace{\bar{\mu}_{ij} + \bar{\mu}_{it} + \epsilon_{ijt}}_{\text{matching efficiency}}$$

Parameter	OLS
	<i>route+origin-time FE</i>
α	0.645 (0.0264)
β	0.435 (0.043)

Note: Robust standard errors in parentheses, clustered at origin level.

- Threat to ID:** matching efficiency shocks over t w/*i* same origin i

Station Counts \Rightarrow Matching Function

- Estimate **bus loading rate** equation in logs ► Histograms
across 44 routes (ij) \times 48 5-min. periods (t)

$$\log \iota_{ijt} = \hat{\alpha} \log (p_{ijt}/b_{ijt}) \quad \underbrace{+ \bar{\mu}_{ij} + \epsilon_{ijt}}_{\text{matching efficiency}}$$

Parameter	OLS	IV
	<i>route+origin-time FE</i>	<i>route FE</i>
α	0.645 (0.0264)	0.841 (0.106)
β	0.435 (0.043)	0.159 (0.106)

Note: Robust standard errors in parentheses, clustered at origin level.

- Threat to ID:** matching efficiency shocks over t w/i same origin i
ID Strategy: assume CRS \Rightarrow IV for $\log \left(\frac{p_{ijt}}{b_{ijt}} \right)$ = commuters in i leaving at t

Station Counts \Rightarrow Matching Function

- Estimate **bus loading rate** equation in logs ► Histograms
across 44 routes (ij) \times 48 5-min. periods (t)

$$\log \iota_{ijt} = \hat{\alpha} \log (p_{ijt}/b_{ijt}) \quad \underbrace{+ \bar{\mu}_{ij} + \epsilon_{ijt}}_{\text{matching efficiency}}$$

Parameter	OLS <i>route+origin-time FE</i>	IV <i>route FE</i>
α	0.645 (0.0264)	0.841 (0.106)
β	0.435 (0.043)	0.159 (0.106)

Note: Robust standard errors in parentheses, clustered at origin level.

- Threat to ID:** matching efficiency shocks over t w/i same origin i
ID Strategy: assume CRS \Rightarrow IV for $\log \underbrace{\left(\frac{p_{ijt}}{b_{ijt}} \right)}_{2022} = \underbrace{\text{commuters in } i \text{ leaving at } t}_{2013}$

Stated Preference Survey $\Rightarrow \kappa_m^g, r, \nu$

- Estimate **multinomial logit** [model-implied]

► Details

ID Strategy: exogenously-varied attributes

Stated Preference Survey $\Rightarrow \kappa_m^g, r, \nu$

- Estimate **multinomial logit** [model-implied]

[► Details](#)

ID Strategy: exogenously-varied attributes

Parameter	Estimate
r	0.001
<i>commuter rate of time pref.</i>	(0.0004)
ν	4.76
<i>Gumbel pref. shock shape</i>	(1.26)

Note: Robust standard
errors in parentheses

[► Predictions](#)[► Heterogeneity](#)[► Sample vs. pop.](#)[► Sample robustness](#)[► All parameters](#)[► Fit](#)

Stated Preference Survey $\Rightarrow \kappa_m^g, r, \nu$

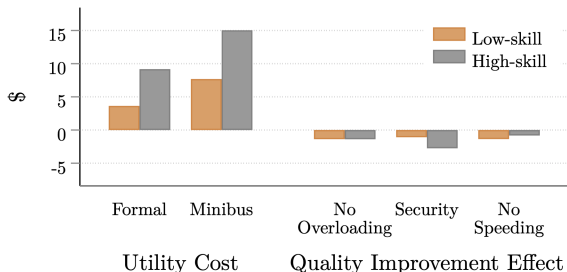
- Estimate **multinomial logit** [model-implied]

[► Details](#)

ID Strategy: exogenously-varied attributes

Parameter	Estimate
r	0.001
<i>commuter rate of time pref.</i>	(0.0004)
ν	4.76
<i>Gumbel pref. shock shape</i>	(1.26)

Note: Robust standard errors in parentheses

[► Predictions](#)[► Heterogeneity](#)[► Sample vs. pop.](#)[► Sample robustness](#)[► All parameters](#)[► Fit](#)

Today's Talk

Context and Facts

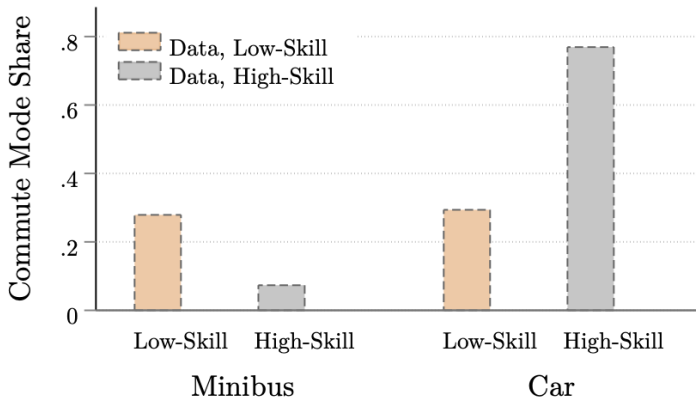
Model

Data and Estimation

Model Fit

Transport Policies

Only Low-Skill Use Minibuses \leftarrow Due to Utility Costs



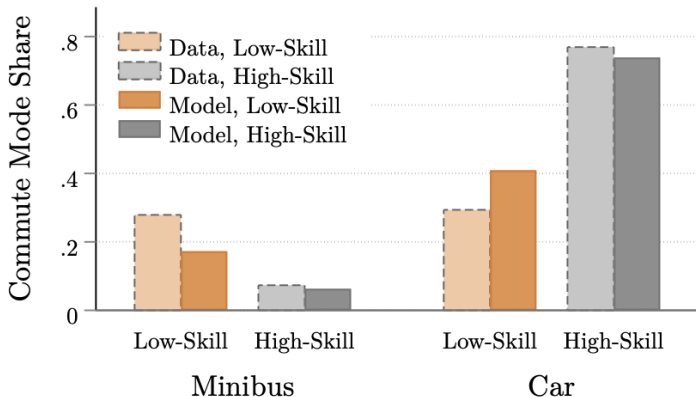
► Decomposition

► O-D mode choice pr.

► Network

► Matching

Only Low-Skill Use Minibuses \leftarrow Due to Utility Costs



► Decomposition

► O-D mode choice pr.

► Network

► Matching

Today's Talk

Context and Facts

Model

Data and Estimation

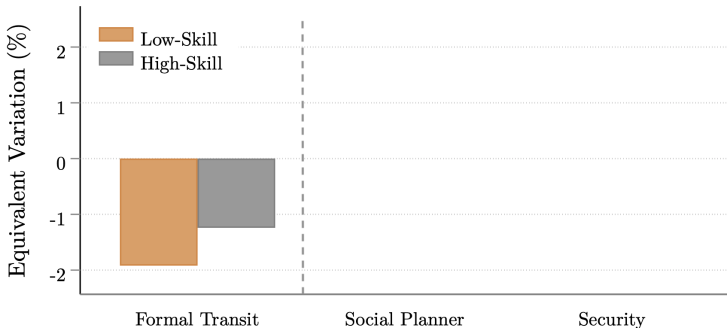
Model Fit

Transport Policies

Comparing Policies [Net Welfare Gains]

1 **MyCiti Formal Bus Rapid Transit** [existing]

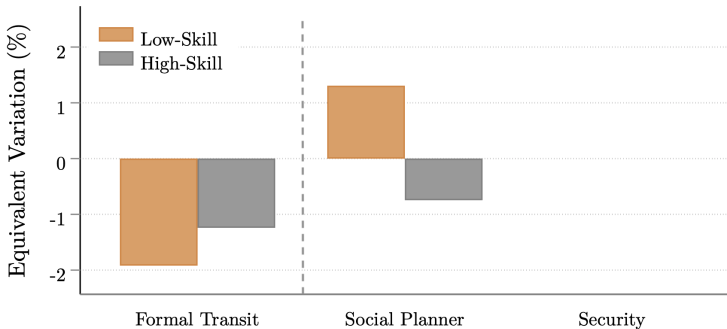
Monetary costs: construction + operations, via lump-sum tax.



Comparing Policies [Net Welfare Gains]

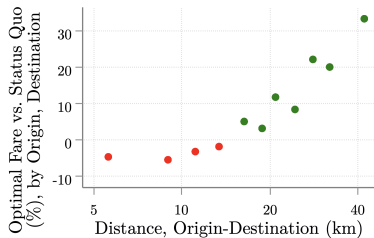
2 Social Planner

Optimal Minibus Fares + Mode-Specific Commuter Transfers

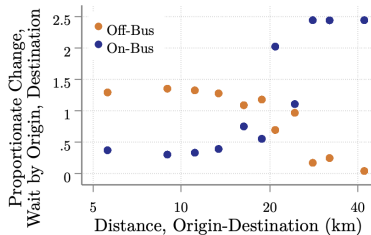


② Social Planner: Optimal Minibus Fares + Transfers

Higher fares on longer routes
[vs. status quo]



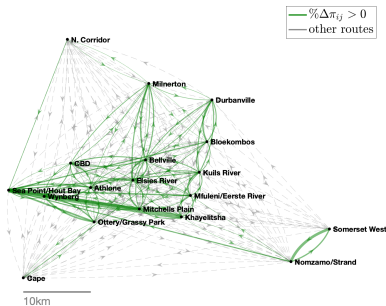
Long route **off-bus** waits \Downarrow



② Social Planner: Workers Reallocate Towards...

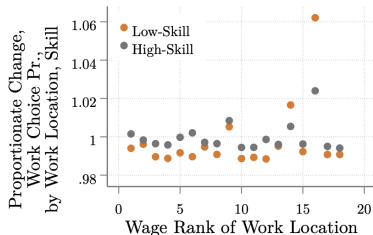
Suburb to Suburb Commutes

[Δ Home-Work Flow > 0]



Higher Wages

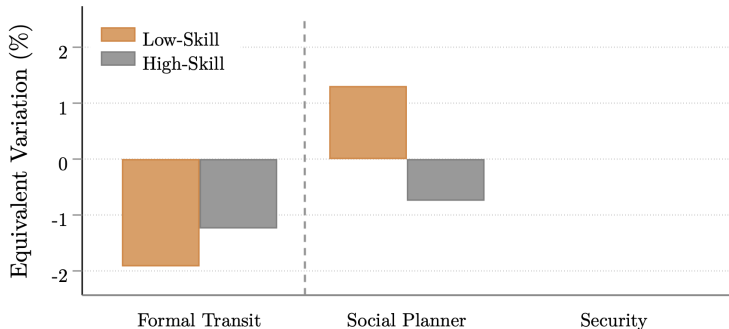
[Δ Work Location Shares]



Comparing Policies [Net Welfare Gains]

2 Social Planner

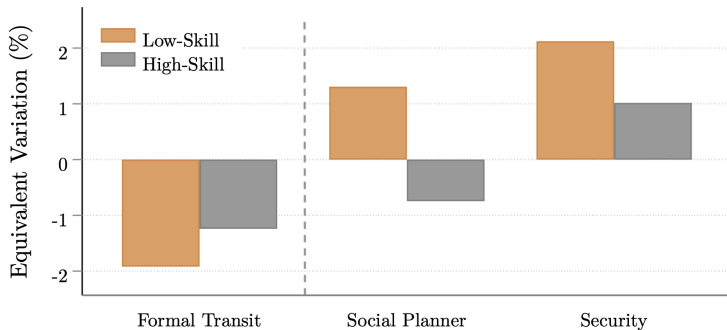
Optimal Minibus Fares + Mode-Specific Commuter Transfers



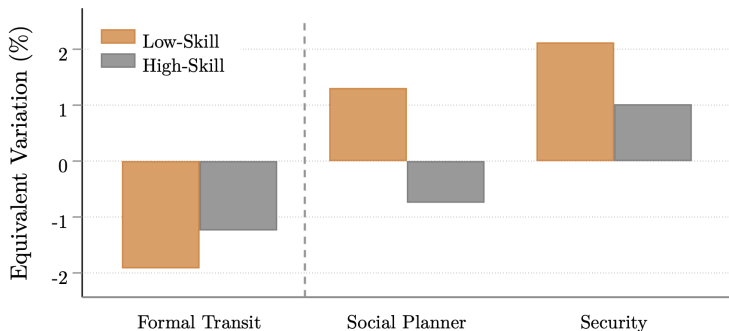
Comparing Policies [Net Welfare Gains]

- ③ **Minibus station security:** \downarrow util. cost κ_M^g by stated pref. effect

Monetary costs: guard wages covered with lump-sum tax.



Comparing Policies [Net Welfare Gains]



Optimized minibuses = low-cost **solution** to long commutes?

Government plans to subsidise taxis in South Africa – but there's a catch

Staff Writer 15 September 2021

02-14-18

This Uber-Like App Wants To Make African Minibus Taxis Better

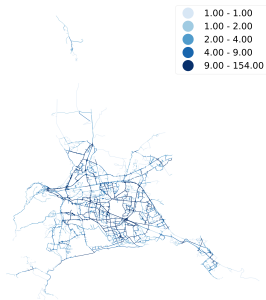
What it's like using taxis in SA: 'Violent, aggressive and unsafe'

Priority infrastructure for minibus-taxis: An analytical model of potential benefits and impacts

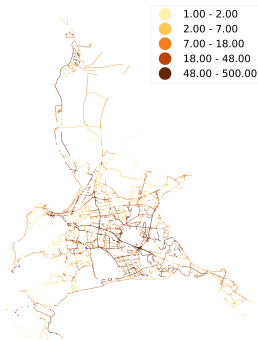
L R De Beer, C Venter

Cape Town Transit Networks: # Routes

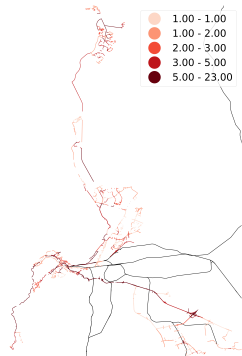
Minibus



Golden Arrow Bus



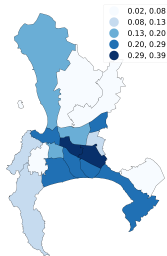
BRT + Metrorail



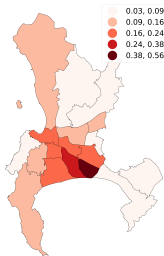
◀ Back

Mode Shares by Home Location

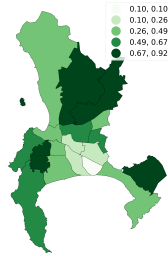
Minibus



Formal Transit

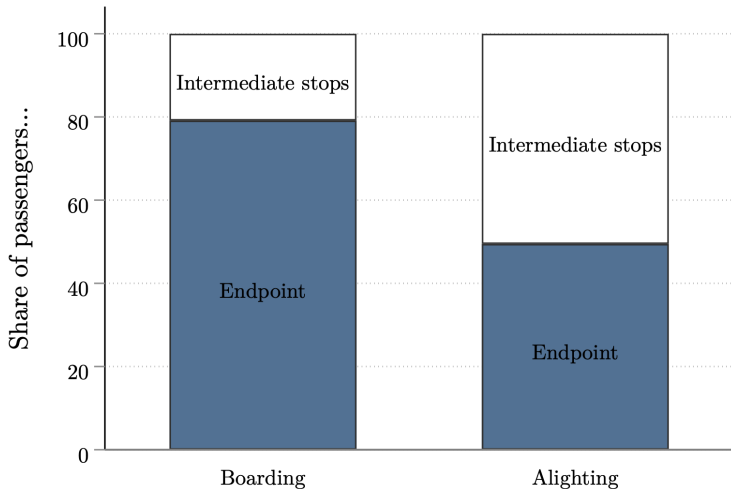


Car



◀ Back to context

Most Boardings/Alightings at Endpoints



Associations Entry Restrictions: No Consensus

Free entry at cost?

*Most associations are still taking on new members and going out on recruitment drives to **encourage new members to join**. These new members pay an exorbitant amount of money to join the association* - City of Cape Town Operating Licence Strategy (2014)

Cartel-like quantity controls?

*Taxi associations prevent entry by other operators through a number of different means, not all of which are used by every association. Firstly, some associations do not take on new members...**Entry deterrence and cartel price setting** make owning a taxi extremely lucrative on many routes.* - World Bank (2018)

Legal Restrictions on Minibus Size

The [National Land Transport Act] specifies the vehicles...to be used for non-contracted PT purposes. - City of Cape Town Comprehensive Integrated Transport Plan (2018)

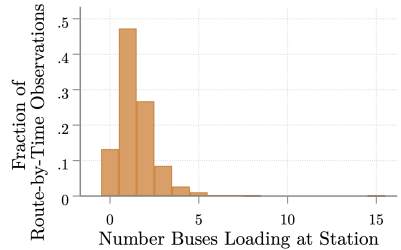
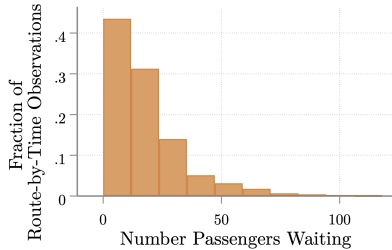
Table 6 2: Approved vehicle types, capacities and number of legal OLs issued

Type of Vehicle	Seating Capacities including the Driver	Current OLs per vehicle group
Sedan	5	205
Avanza (8 +1)	9	400
Minibuses (15+1)	16	9 500 to 10 100
Midi-buses (16<35)	35	negligible
Buses	35 +	n/a

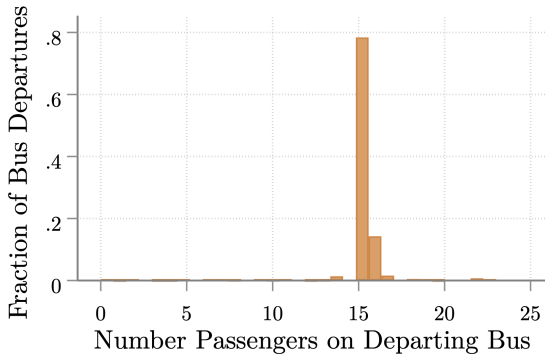
[◀ Back to context](#)

[◀ Back to fact](#)

Long Passenger Lines + Multiple Buses Loading



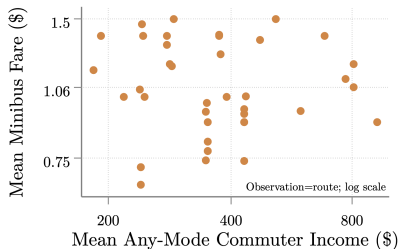
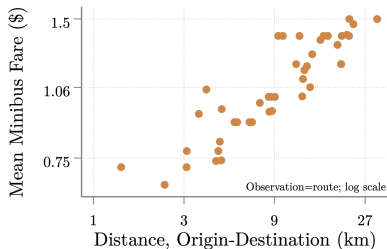
Minibuses: 15-Passenger + Depart When Full



► Restrictions

► Back

③ Fares ↑ with Distance, not Ability to Pay



Why? City considers “cost to the user” in route approvals

► Details

► Fares vs. entry

► Back to context

► Back to trip

► Back to market

City of Cape Town: New Route Approvals

Considerations and recommended procedure for new minibus-taxi routes

⋮

- *The potential for conflict with existing associations and members*
- *Existing travel patterns*
- *Existing public transport network coverage*

⋮

- *Cost to the user (portion of monthly income spent on public transport)*

⋮

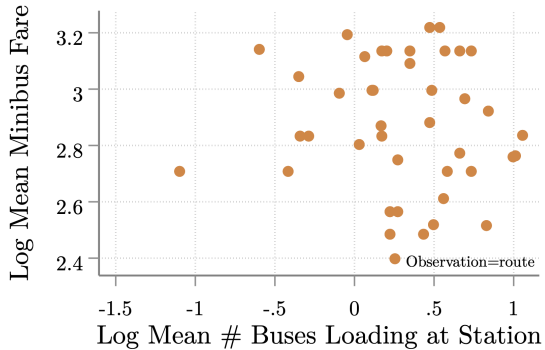
- City of Cape Town Operating Licence Strategy (2014)

◀ Back to context

◀ Back to fact

▶ Back to model

Route-Level Fares Versus Bus Entry



Minibus Market Structure on each route ij

- **Entry cost**, increasing in mass of loading buses b_{ij}

$$\bar{\psi} b_{ij}^{\phi}$$

- **Multiple trips** during effectively finite “work shift”

- **Fares** exogenously calibrated [▶ Evidence](#)

$$\tau_{ijM} \equiv h\left(\overset{\text{distance}}{\downarrow} \bar{\Delta}_{ij}\right)$$

Minibus Profits on route ij

$$\Pi_{ij} \equiv \underbrace{[\bar{\eta}\tau_{ijM} - \chi\Delta_{ij}]}_{\text{per-trip net revenue}} \underbrace{\frac{1 - g\left(\frac{\bar{\eta}}{\iota_{ij}} + \frac{1}{d_{ij}}\right)}{g\left(\frac{\bar{\eta}}{\iota_{ij}} + \frac{1}{d_{ij}}\right)}}_{E[\text{\# trips}]} - \bar{\psi}b_{ij}^{\phi}$$

- Per-trip **net revenue** $\bar{\eta}\tau_{ijM} - \chi\Delta_{ij}$
- Expected total **trip time** $\frac{\bar{\eta}}{\iota_{ij}} + \frac{1}{d_{ij}}$
- Entry **cost** $\bar{\psi}b_{ij}^{\phi}$

Commute Utility: Other Modes

- **Formal transit:** travel \rightarrow arrive at rate d_{ijF}

$$\overline{U}_{ijF}^g = \underbrace{\theta_i^g}_{\uparrow \text{amenity}} + \underbrace{\omega_j^g}_{\uparrow \text{wage}} - r\omega_j^g \left(\underbrace{\frac{1}{d_{ijF}}}_{\uparrow \text{travel time}} \right) - \underbrace{\kappa_F^g}_{\uparrow \text{utility cost}} - \underbrace{\tau_{ijF}}_{\uparrow \text{fare}}$$

- **Car:** travel \rightarrow arrive at rate d_{ij}

$$\overline{U}_{ijA}^g = \underbrace{\theta_i^g}_{\uparrow \text{amenity}} + \underbrace{\omega_j^g}_{\uparrow \text{wage}} - r\omega_j^g \left(\underbrace{\frac{1}{d_{ij}}}_{\uparrow \text{travel time}} \right) - \underbrace{\tau_A}_{\uparrow \text{car cost}}$$

Equilibrium

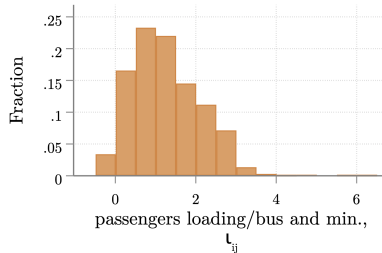
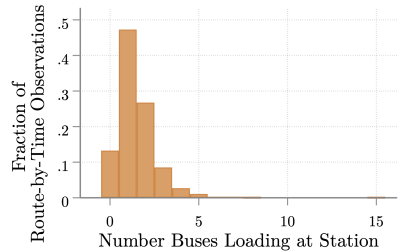
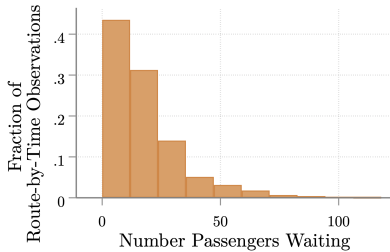
Equilibrium

A vector $\{\mathbf{b}, \boldsymbol{\pi}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \boldsymbol{\iota}\}$ satisfying (i) free entry, (ii) 3 sets of choice probability equations, (iii) boarding as well as (iv) loading rate equations.

Welfare

$$\bar{\Omega} \equiv \sum_g N^g \nu \log \left[\sum_{i,j,m} \exp \left(\bar{U}_{ijm}^g \right)^{1/\nu} \right] + \underbrace{\Pi}_{\substack{\text{rebated} \\ \text{minibus} \\ \text{profits}}} + \underbrace{\Psi}_{\substack{\text{rebated} \\ \text{entry} \\ \text{costs}}} - \underbrace{\varsigma E}_{\substack{\text{emissions}}}$$

Matching Estimation: Distributions of Variables



Estimated Parameters

Parameter	Description	Value	Parameter	Description	Value
<i>Externally Calibrated</i>			<i>Stated Preference</i>		
I	Number Locations	18	r	Commuter Rate of Time Pref.	0.001
N^g	Number commuters		ν	Gumbel Shape	4.76
ω_j^g	Wages		κ_M^l	Low-Skill Minibus Util. Cost	7.7
θ_i^g	Amenities		κ_M^h	High-Skill Minibus Util. Cost	15
d_{ij}	Road-Based Destination Arrival Rate		κ_F^l	Low-Skill Formal Util. Cost	3.6
d_{ijF}	Formal Destination Arrival Rate		κ_F^h	High-Skill Formal Util. Cost	9.2
τ_{ijF}	Formal Fare		<i>Emissions</i>		
τ_A	Car Commute Cost	5.2	χ_M^e	Minibus CO2-equiv. per pass.-km.	0.06
δ_0	Minibus Shift Length	240	χ_F^e	Formal CO2-equiv. per pass.-km.	0.04
δ_1	Minibus Inverse # Trips	0.01	χ_A^e	Car CO2-equiv. per pass.-km.	0.55
χ	Per-km. Operating Cost	0.06	ς	Social cost of carbon	0.0485
Δ_{ij}	Route Driving Distance		<i>Internally Calibrated</i>		
$\bar{\Delta}_{ij}$	Straight-Line Distance		$\bar{\psi}, \bar{\eta}, \mu$		
<i>Minibus Supply</i>			$\bar{\psi}$	Minibus Entry Cost Intercept	49.5
			$\bar{\eta}$	Minibus Capacity	6.2
			μ	Minibus Matching Efficiency	0.2
α	Passenger Match. Elasticity	0.84	► Back		
β	Bus Match. Elasticity	0.16			
ϕ	Entry Cost Elasticity	0.0143			
Γ_0	Fare Intercept	2.23			
Γ_1	Fare Distance Slope	0.29			

Entry Congestion Estimation

- **Station counts:** bus loading time $\bar{\eta}/\iota_{ijt}$ and loading buses b_{ijt} by route ij x time t
- **Estimate ϕ** using free entry: $\frac{\bar{\eta}}{\iota_{ijt}} = \zeta_0 - \frac{\phi}{\delta_1} \log b_{ijt} + \zeta_{ij} + \zeta_t + \varepsilon_{ijt}$

Variable	(1) mean bus loading time	
log loading buses, b_{ijt}	-1.434*** (0.546)	$\Rightarrow \hat{\phi} = .0143$
Constant	7.287*** (0.332)	
Route FE	✓	
Origin-Time FE	✓	
Observations	1,075	
R-Squared	0.654	

Robust standard errors in parentheses, clustered at origin level.

*** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

Fare Function Estimation: Γ_1

- **Onboard tracking data:** average fare $\bar{\tau}_{ijM}$ and straight-line distance $\bar{\Delta}_{ij}$ by route ij
- **Estimate Γ_1** using $\log \bar{\tau}_{ijM} = \tilde{\Gamma}_0 + \Gamma_1 \log \bar{\Delta}_{ij} + \epsilon_{ij}$

Parameter	(1) log mean fare
Γ_1	0.292*** (0.0232)
Constant	2.231*** (0.0591)
Observations	43
R-Squared	0.798
Robust standard errors in parentheses	
*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1	

Internal Calibration

Moment			Parameter		
Description	Data	Model	Description	Value	
Median Loading Buses/ Waiting Passengers	0.09	0.09	$\overline{\psi}$ Entry Cost Intercept	49.5	
Median Bus Loading Time	4	4	$\overline{\eta}$ Minibus Capacity	6.2	
Median Off-Bus Passenger Wait Time	7.18	7.18	μ Matching Efficiency	0.2	

[► Back to overview](#)[► Back to parameter table](#)

Multinomial Logit: Choice Probability

Pr. individual i in group g chooses alternative l in choice set c :

$$\pi_{icl}^g = \frac{\exp \left[\zeta_{m(c,l)}^g + \sum_z \beta_z^g q_{cl}(z) + \beta_{\text{time}} \omega_i (w_{cl} + t_{cl}) + \beta_{\text{fare}} \tau_{cl} + \beta_{\text{resid}} w_{cl} \tau_{cl} \right]}{\sum_{l'} \exp \left(\bar{U}_{icl'}^g / \nu \right)}.$$

- $\zeta_{m(c,l)}^g$ = group-mode fixed effect $\Rightarrow \kappa_m^g$
- $q_{cl}(z)$ = indicator: quality improvement z in set c , alternative l
- ω_i = personal income
- w_{cl} and t_{cl} = wait and travel time
- τ_{cl} = fare

Stated Preference Sample

Variable	Stated Pref. Samples		Data
	Own	City-Run	Cape Town
Share Auto Owners	0.448	0.581	0.561
Share Female	0.458	0.494	0.458
Share College-Educated	0.295	0.228	0.190
Median Monthly Personal Income [bin]	\$182-\$364	\$182-\$364	\$182-\$364
Median Age	35	39	39
<i>Commute Mode Shares of...</i>			
Minibus	59.56	22.56	23.55
Formal Transit	19.61	27.69	22.81
Auto	12.11	40	39.40
Share Using Minibuses > 1x/week	0.951	0.635	
N	413	407	

[▶ Back to data](#)[▶ Back to estimation](#)

Stated Preference Robustness

Parameter	Skill	Baseline	Intermodal Sample Only	Commute Mode- Weighted
r <i>commuter rate of time pref.</i>		0.001 (0.0004)	0.0014 (0.0007)	0.0011 (.0005)
ν <i>Gumbel pref. shock shape</i>		4.76 (1.26)	6.83 (2.73)	5.84 (1.99)
κ_M <i>minibus (baseline) utility cost</i>	Low	7.68 (1.56)	10.61 (3.54)	9.25 (2.55)
	High	15.03 (3.55)	21.16 (7.82)	18.3 (5.67)
κ_F <i>formal utility cost</i>	Low	3.63 (0.51)	4.53 (1.08)	4.14 (0.80)
	High	9.17 (1.89)	12.5 (4.20)	10.96 (3.05)
N Respondents		820	546	820

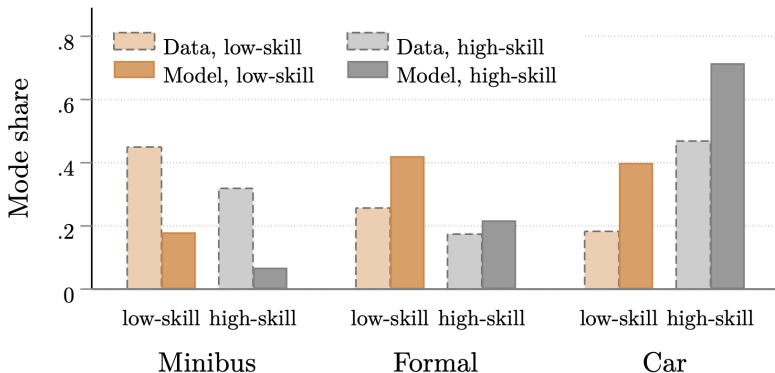
Note: Robust standard errors in parentheses

Stated Preference Robustness

Parameter	Skill	Baseline	Intermodal Sample Only	Commute Mode- Weighted
θ_{security} effect of security on κ_M	Low	-1.09 (0.39)	-2.13 (1.06)	-1.55 (0.69)
	High	-2.75 (0.84)	-4.91 (2.29)	-5.1 (1.86)
$\theta_{\text{no overloading}}$ effect of no overloading on κ_M	Low	-1.38 (0.437)	-2.02 (1.01)	-1.26 (0.596)
	High	-1.39 (0.543)	-1.25 (1.28)	-1.43 (0.83)
$\theta_{\text{no speeding}}$ effect of no speeding on κ_M	Low	-1.36 (0.44)	-3.03 (1.38)	-2.12 (0.85)
	High	-0.825 (0.465)	-1.86 (1.39)	-0.582 (0.73)
N Respondents		820	546	820

Note: Robust standard errors in parentheses

Stated Preference Respondents: Predicted Mode Shares

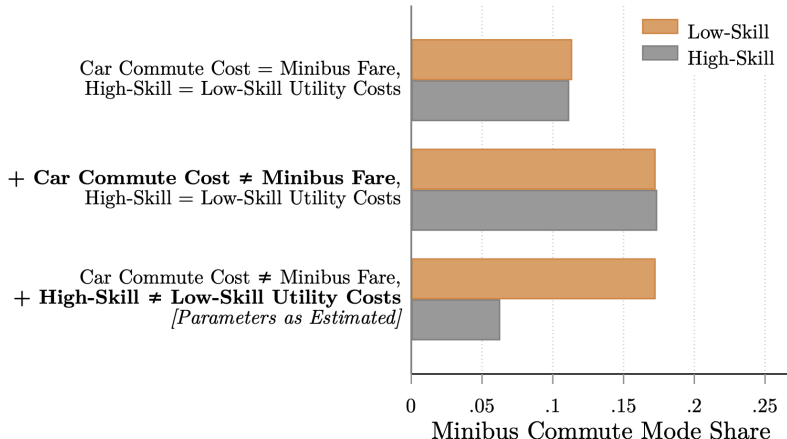


Stated Preference: Effect Heterogeneity

Dimension	r rate of time pref.	Mode Utility Cost		Effects on Minibus Utility Cost		
		κ_M minibus	κ_F formal	$ \theta_{\text{overload}} $ no overload.	$ \theta_{\text{security}} $ security	$ \theta_{\text{speed}} $ no speed.
Female	+	-	-		-	
College	+	+	+		+	
Age>45	+		-		+	+

Note: (+) indicates larger effect magnitude, (-) smaller. Only effects significant at 5% level displayed.

Why Don't the Rich Use Minibuses?



Validation: Mode Choice by Origin-Destination-Skill

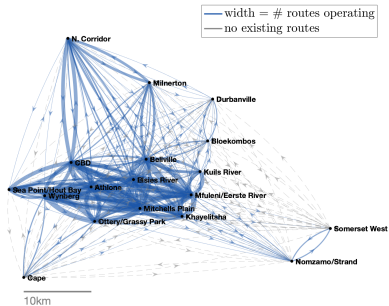
Variables	Minibus	Car
	Mode Share, Data	Mode Share, Data
Mode Share, Model <i>origin</i> × <i>destination</i> × <i>skill</i>	1.000*** (0.153)	1.110*** (0.0660)
Constant	0.0281 (0.0196)	-0.0407 (0.0413)
Observations	507	507
R-squared	0.083	0.307

Robust standard errors in parentheses

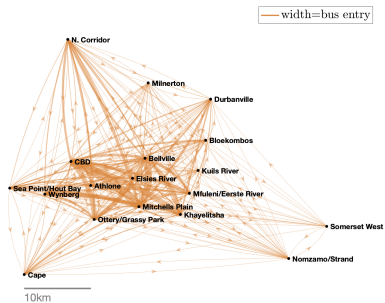
*** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

Minibus Network

Data

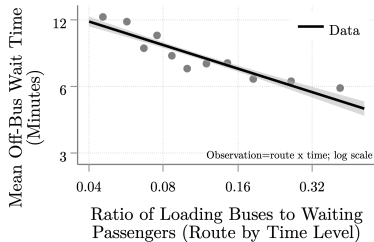


Model

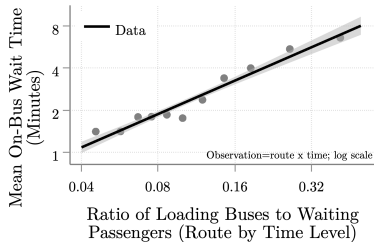


Opposing Matching Externalities

Boarding

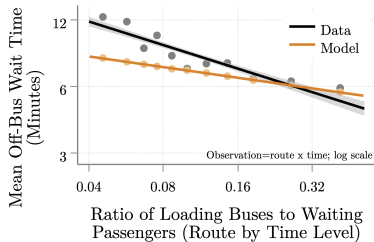


Filling



Oposing Matching Externalities

Boarding



Filling

