A Billion Trips a Day

Transportation Research, Economics and Policy

VOLUME 1

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Tradition and Transition in European Travel Patterns

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Dedicated to

Prof. Shalom Reichman (1935-1992)

for whom NECTAR was the sweet essence
of European mobility research

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Preface

As the long list of contributors indicates, this book is a joint effort of transportation professionals from fifteen European countries. International cooperation of this type must be initiated and supported by an appropriate agency. Ours was the European Science Foundation (ESF).

The ESF has supported between 1987-1992 the Network for European Communications and Transport Activities Research (NECTAR) to serve as a vehicle for research in these areas. NECTAR activities facilitated the collaboration of scientists from different member countries, working mainly in small groups on very particular topics. One of the groups, which focused on demand and supply behaviour, identified the void in knowledge regarding mobility patterns and related policies in various European countries.

In a series of group discussions, a number of hypotheses regarding the differences and similarities in mobility in Europe were raised. The transportation issues identified in various countries seemed to be similar and yet the responses of both travellers and policy-makers differed. Thus, the conception of the book was based on the assumption that a better understanding of behaviour - policy relationships can be accomplished through a comparative perspective. In addition, the comparative data can be a useful source of information to students of transportation in a changing Europe.

Consequently, the Group has decided to undertake the effort of producing a book that will address mobility issues in various countries. To that end, the group employed a network-based mechanism for generating information. National chapters provided the initial basis, which in turn were used, again by the group acting as a network, to analyze the information along several key dimensions.

A network-based mechanism means that the book is not merely a collection of independent contributions. It was developed in a coordinated manner, using a similar framework. Each of the 24 chapters is an original essay, developed for the purpose of allowing a comparative analysis.

The geographical scope of the book includes Europe, as represented in the ESF activities. Although it was not possible to obtain contributions from all member countries, fourteen national reports are included, representing Northern Europe, Central Western Europe and some countries from the Mediterranean region. Israel, though not formally part of Europe, is included because in many respects it constitutes an extension of the continent into Middle East. Eastern Europe is not included in the analysis, in part because it is, as will be shown, a very different case than that of its Western counterparts.

xx Preface

Timing the production of this book was an issue in itself. Western Europe is undergoing a very elaborate, but planned, change into a 'Single Europe'. Increasingly, the events taking place in one member country will be affected by European-level policies. Hence, it was thought that an understanding of the situation prior to the formal establishment of a unified Europe is in place. In the course of our work, very dynamic (and unplanned) changes have taken place in Eastern Europe, bearing on the transportation systems of some of the countries included in our analysis. The extreme case is that of Germany. Rather than excluding the new Germany, as its mobility is now changing so rapidly, we chose to deal with the Federal Republic, with only brief references to the implications of the unification. It may take years before the dust settles down so that the mobility patterns of the new Germany can be identified, but the book can at least provide the benchmark for understanding the forthcoming developments.

The success of this joint effort will be evaluated by the utility of this book to the readers. On the one hand, it should serve as a reference book to students of transportation interested in one or more of the individual countries. But a broader audience, including public and private sector policy-makers, planners and other professionals can also use the analytic parts of the book to gain some insights into the developments and prospects of travel behaviour in Europe. Travel behaviour, as will be explained in the next chapter, is the underlying domain for understanding transportation and the variety of social, economic and environmental implications it has.

The twenty-four chapters of this book represent an effort to display the best available data and to discuss its significance. However, as is discussed in Chapter 4, data qualities vary widely among countries, and hence it was not possible to bring all information to a truly comparative state. In particular, it was difficult to use comparable currency data. To overcome this problem, we have included a conversion table as an appendix. Errors due to inconsistencies or misinterpretation may still be present and we apologise for any such mistakes.

It is our hope that the information provided by this volume will serve to increase the awareness of decision-makers, professionals and to the complexity of Europeans' mobility, and as such, will make our environment a better place to live in. Reducing congestion, air pollution and noise, providing greater equality and access to all population groups and providing safer mobility, are all valuable objectives which require the understanding of travel behaviour.

Ilan Salomon, Piet Bovy and Jean-Pierre Orfeuil Editors

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Abbreviations:

AU : Austria

B : Belgium

CH : Switzerland

DK : Denmark

EC : European Community

ECMT : European Council of Ministres of Transport

EFILWC : European Foundation for the Improvement of Working and Living Conditions

(Dublin)

EFTA: European Free Trade Association
ESF: European Science Foundation
ETDC: European Travel Data Centre
ETM: European Travel Monitor

F: France

fGDR: former German Democratic Republic

FRG: Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany)

GR : Greece
I : Italy

IATB : International Association of Travel Behaviour

INRETS : Institut National de Recherche sur les Transports et Leur Securite

IRF : International Road Federation

IRL : Ireland

IUTP : International Union of Public Transport

LPG : Liquified Petroleum Gas

N : Norway

NECTAR: Network for European Communications and Transport Activities Research

NL: Netherlands

OECD : Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

P : Portugal
S : Sweden
SF : Finland
SP : Spain

sqkm : square kilometre

TRB : Transportation Research Board (US)
 TRRL : Transport Road Research Laboratory
 TSU : Transport Studies Unit, Oxford University

UK : United Kingdom

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