

Transforming Urban Transport - The Role of Political Leadership

Transforming Urban Transport - The Role of Political Leadership (TUT-POL)* seeks to advance our knowledge of how, when, and where political leadership has been critical to the successful implementation of path-breaking transportation policies through case study research of 8 democratically governed cities around the world.



Los Angeles

Passage of “Measure R,” a ballot measure imposing a half-cent sales tax increase for transportation in November 2008, with approval from more than 2/3 of LA County voters.

Mexico City

Replacement of independent bus and jitney system with Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) network on key roadways between 2005 - 2014.

New York City

Remaking of streets and sidewalks as mixed-use urban public spaces for greater use by pedestrians and cyclists since 2007.

Paris

Urban transport improvements (i.e. metro, urban tramway, Vélib', bikeway network) emanating from the city proper through the region since 2001.

San Francisco

Transformation of regulatory structures to legalize and enable expansion of UBER and other ridesourcing services starting in 2013.

Seoul

A 2003 downtown expressway demolition followed by bus system overhaul, multi-modal transport system integration, and urban regeneration.

Stockholm

Adoption of congestion pricing on results of a voter referendum following a full-scale trial in 2007.

Vienna

Transformational mode share shifts through reinforcement of complementary measures including public transit improvements and parking and traffic management since the 1990's.

Political Strategies for Introducing Change

Identify Appropriate Timing

Assess such factors as the overall political atmosphere, a triggering opportunity, and the availability of viable solutions.

Strategically Frame the Issues

Recast a transport policy in the language of other goals such as environmental aims or economic growth rather than mobility. Focus on what is gained rather than what is lost.

Assess and Enable Stakeholders

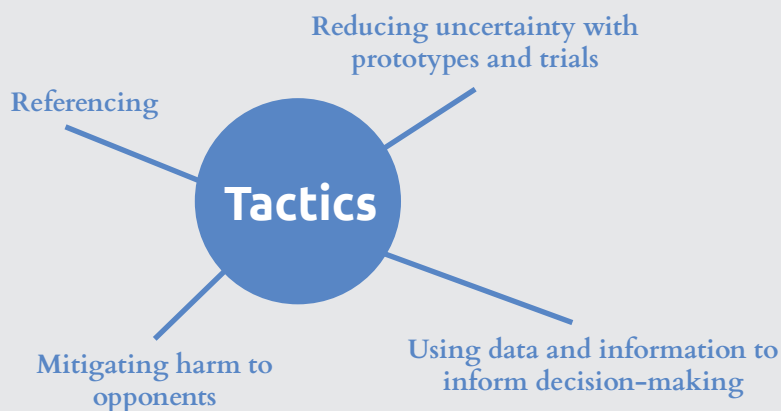
All stakeholders are not equal. Identify who can help most and at which moments in the process, and be as cognizant of opponents as of supporters.

Integrate Technical Expertise

Recruiting technical experts to study feasibility, both financial and legal, and empowering technical experts to assess costs and benefits in a politically savvy manner.

Work Across Multiple Levels of Government

Multi-scalar coordination can broaden the range of allies, redistribute the political costs of decision-making, and expand implementation resources and capacities.



Actionable Lessons

- Initiating objectives are not always about transportation.
- Both “disruptive” and incremental policies can lead to change.
- Both conflict and collaboration can generate forward movement.
- Strategic use of open and closed negotiations can produce results.

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Project Website

Full case studies and other project information are available online:
<http://research.gsd.harvard.edu/tut>

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