Responsible Transport for Urban Mobility in a post-COVID world

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Overview

- Pandemic has necessitated reconsideration of transport and its role in post-COVID recovery.

- New ways of using and moving through cities.

- **Responsible Transport** proposed to help inform future transport policy and practice.

- The concept incorporates both environmental and individual health and wellbeing.

- It stresses the role of the individual as a responsible autonomous actor in delivering socially desired transport outcomes.

- Sudden and dramatic reduction in motorised mobility.

- Quieter roads + daily outdoor exercise = increased active travel.

- Cleaner and quieter: birdsong and wildlife, LA investment in 'pop up' schemes.

- Localised and less-carbon intensive existence indicated at the scale and scope of the changes that could be sustained post-COVID given public and political will.

Concept of Responsible Transport

'Responsible Transport delivers safe, secure and equitable mobility that embeds social, economic and environmental wellbeing at the heart of post-COVID transport policy, planning and operations and enables individuals to make considered transport choices.'

(Budd and Ison, 2020)

Issues

- Any transition towards Responsible Transport will occur in a rapidly changing policy environment.

- Technological and service innovations will impact individual mobility choices.

- New and disruptive mobility technologies (e-bikes, UAMs) will influence the development of Responsible Transport.

- For individuals, Responsible Transport will be shaped by the provision of suitable modes but, assuming these are in place, will involve:

  – Deciding whether you need to travel for a work-related activity;

  – Deciding if the meeting/conversation/event could be held via virtual means;

  – When physical travel *is* required, selecting the mode with the lowest env. and social impact.

Conclusion

- The start of a discussion.

- RT is a dynamic rather than a static process. It will evolve.

- Need for 'right policy, right place' - there is no single solution and transport policy must be reflective of, and responsive to, the time and mobility needs of the people and places it serves.

Paper built on a concept presented in:

Budd L and Ison S (2020) Towards Responsible Transport: A post-COVID agenda for transport policy and practice *Transportation Interdisciplinary Research Perspectives* Vol 6, July 2020, 100151.

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