Usefulness of GIS in Mass Transit:

An Analysis of the readership characteristics of Greater London and D.C. Metropolitan Region

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Major Paper submitted to the faculty of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute And State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Of

Masters of Urban and Regional Planning

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05/24/04
Alexandria, VA

Keywords: GIS, Mass Transit, Ridership Characteristics, Spatial Analysis
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Abstract

The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) programs offered a multitude of useful analysis tools for a variety of purposes in the transit industry. One of that significant contribution that GIS offers is the ability to manage and spatially display transit data and then overlay these layers to perform analyses. This paper focuses on how GIS can be used in mass transit planning to understand and analyze basic ridership characteristics. Mass transit is gaining a lot importance in recent years because of the growing concern over the impact of automobiles on our environment and specifically on the quality of life in the urban areas. This paper attempted to use GIS to investigate the ridership characteristics of the transit system in Greater London and the D.C. Metropolitan region.

In this paper, ridership characteristics essentially refer to the mode of transportation of the working population and their socio-economic characteristics. The ridership characteristics help us understand generalized travel patterns and the preferred mode of transportation; whether the people prefer public transportation to private transportation. My analysis supported the concept that there is often a nexus between the choice in the mode of transportation, and the socioeconomic conditions of the working population.
Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Dr. Tom Sanchez for his kind guidance and help to formulate this paper.
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