



KiM Netherlands Institute for Transport Policy Analysis

INNOVATIONS IN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The KiM Netherlands Institute for Transport Policy Analysis has mapped innovations in public transportation. The aim of these innovations is to improve product quality, lower the product costs, or a combination thereof.

What do innovations impact?

The traveller

- travel time
- comfort
- convenience
- costs

Transport operator

- costs
- revenues

External factors

- the environment
- safety
- use of public space

What are our findings?

At present, innovations primarily involve minor improvements and the roll-out of that which is already underway.

The focus in literature pertaining to public transport innovations is on vehicle technology, payment and information systems, and demand-responsive transportation.

The traveller benefits most from innovations that substantially improve door-to-door travel times. 'Travel time' pertains to both the actual clock time and the perceived travel time.

Innovation is a process that includes obstacles. Hence, many innovations fail to secure a large-scale place in the market.

It is often uncertain whether an innovation will also be profitable over the longer term. Consequently, it is seemingly difficult to find an operator.

Innovations that require new, expensive infrastructure and large amounts of space are still deemed to be unrealistic.

What can authorities do?

Authorities can stimulate innovation by means of:

- Knowledge development and knowledge sharing
- Subsidies
- Fiscal regulations
- Ensuring Open Data

Innovation within the current concession system
 Authorities can better utilise the opportunities afforded by the current concession system through:

- providing more space for experimentation
- relinquishing the exclusivity pertaining to public transportation supply
- incorporating better financial incentives in contracts with public transport companies.

Innovation over the long term
 Over the long term, market initiatives and deregulation offer more opportunities for innovation than government planning and tender concessions. Consequently, more possibilities emerge for entrepreneurship and marketing that is directly focused on the traveller.

