

Andrew Curtis
Po Box 37027
Winnellie NT 0821

Ph: 08 89831961
Mob: 0408831961

Email: andrewoutbush@westnet.com.au

15/04/2017

Dear sir or madam,

I read the article called "The Whole Journey" with great interest and in this letter I will explain the reasons why public transport may not be used. Then on a separate section a suggestion of public transport if implemented makes travel much easier. Please note my job is shift work and most public holidays I work.

Why public transport may not be used.

1. Not available at the times the user would require transport. A person who works, needs to be able to get to work and home again regardless what times their boss requires them. Late for work or not turning up for work usually can lead to no longer having a job. So transport must be available 24 hours a day 7 days a week including public holidays.
2. Nearest pick up point for public transport such as a bus stop is too far away. The ideal distance would be 500 metres.
3. The weather on the day of travel. It might make the walk to a bus stop outside a person's comfort zone, not a nice feeling when you are too hot or too cold or soaking from monsoon rains. Waiting at a bus stop on a typical wet season day that is 35 degrees and 95 percent humidity is not very comfortable.
4. Nearest drop off point for public transport such as a bus stop is too far away from their place of work or destination. The ideal distance would be 500 metres.
5. Waiting for the bus may be too long.
 - a) 5 minutes ideal
 - b) 10 minutes (*Thinking* where is that bus?)
 - c) 15 minutes (*Thinking* I will be late now for my appointment or work)
6. Cost. The cost of taking public transport from home to work and return should be no more than one hour's net pay on the minimum wage. Any more than that a person who works casual part time at 3 hours a time will most probably not consider taking public transport or not going to work if they have no other means to get to work.
7. Sitting next to, or being near a person who has bad body odour or is drunk, swearing or yelling is not a nice experience and that would make a bus ride uncomfortable and would deter someone from using that service again if they can.
8. Users must feel safe especially in areas where there is graffiti and high crime. In crowded situations the possibility of someone picking your pocket or being violent is much higher.

9. Lack of amenities that are open and fully functioning at the time required. If all stalls are full at the time required can cause serious embarrassment for those that cannot use the toilet. A simple test to determine if there are enough toilets on the trip is what I refer to as the 20/20 test. That means 20 minutes between toilets and 20 seconds to get on the toilet seat. Every 20 minutes there should be a toilet within 100 metres. Please be aware for those that have bowel or bladder problems this may even be too few. That is why they stay home until they feel their tummy's have settled enough to go away from a rest room.
10. Being approached by someone begging. **Begging** or **panhandling** is the practice of imploring others to grant a favour, often a gift of money, with little or no expectation of reciprocation. Beggars may be found in public places such as transport routes, urban parks, and near busy markets. Besides money, they may also ask for food, drink, cigarettes or other small items.
11. A small person or child or someone in a wheelchair may find it difficult to read signs because something or someone bigger than them is blocking the view to see the sign. Especially in crowded situations.
12. A person may have low literacy and numeracy skills making it very hard for them to read and understand signs and timetables.
13. A person may want to carry stuff with them such as shopping and have no safe place to put it while using public transport. The shopping may need to be kept cool. When using a private car an esky in the car serves this purpose.
14. If a person uses their private transport to get to a public transport pickup point such as a train station they need a safe and secure place to leave their private transport until they return. Their private transport could be anything that they used such as a car, motorbike, pushbike or horse.

Public Transport comments

1. Running public transport such as trains, buses and other vehicles that are nearly empty is not very efficient and therefore is expensive to run.
2. In low population areas running public transport vehicles every 15 minutes or more often for 24 hours a day and 7 days a week may result in the public transport vehicles being empty with no passengers or having very few passengers especially in off peak usage times.
3. In order for public transport to be an alternative for private transport the public transport must mimic the service of private transport such as a car.
4. A person's car is available 24 hours a day 7 days week and they can use it whenever the owner wishes. Provided the car is not being serviced or repaired making it unusable at the time.

Public transport suggestion

Two types of vehicles are used. Both vehicles could be designed to have the capacity to hitch a ride on other forms of transport such as a flat train carriage or large truck. The locking mechanism to hold the vehicle on the train carriage could be similar to how they hold shipping containers.

Type 1 is like any small car or driverless car that can carry a person that does not require any devices such as wheel chairs or electric scooters.

Type 2 is bigger to allow people who use electric scooters to drive their scooter with them still in the scooter inside the vehicle. When a person uses this vehicle they stay in their scooter and drive their scooter inside the vehicle and of the vehicle to leave the vehicle.

A person who uses this form of transport does the following:

- a) Calls the vehicle using a device such as an app on their mobile phone
- b) Specify the type of vehicle they need, where they are, and where they are going.
- c) Vehicle collects them at their location wait time roughly 5 minutes.
- d) When the passenger leaves the vehicle at the destination the vehicle leaves to collect it's next passenger

This is very similar to a taxi. Exempt taxis cannot take electric scooters and at most times are far too expensive for those on low net incomes to use.

Each vehicle should have a digital map display to show where it is and where it is going with an estimated time of arrival for the destination. This avoids the passenger from panicking. A person who is not sure may panic if they do not know what is happening.

For trips up to 20 minutes long these vehicles may do the following.

- a) Pick up passenger
- b) Drive to train station
- c) Drive onto train carriage and lock in place
- d) Train takes vehicle to a required train station
- e) At that station vehicle unlocks and drives off train carriage
- f) Vehicle resumes journey and takes passenger to their destination
- g) When the passenger leaves the vehicle at the destination the vehicle leaves to collect it's next passenger

For trips longer than 20 minutes these vehicles may do the following:

- a) Pick up passenger
- b) Drive to train station
- c) Drop of passenger at passenger carriage on same train to allow passenger to refresh and toilet breaks
- d) Drive onto train carriage and lock in place
- e) Train takes vehicle to a required train station
- f) At that station vehicle unlocks and drives of train carriage
- g) Collects passenger at the passenger carriage that they were dropped off earlier
- h) Vehicle resumes journey and takes passenger to their destination
- i) When the passenger leaves the vehicle at the destination the vehicle leaves to collect it's next passenger

Note: Passenger carriage should have access for electric scooters for those that are using the Type 2 vehicle. Vehicle maybe charged while on train carriage if vehicle is electric.

Regards
Andrew Curtis