Emission Impossible? Measuring transport's GHG impacts

> Amber Carran-Fletcher & Lewis Thorwaldson Transport Group Conference May 2021



BETTER TRANSPORT • BETTER PLACES • BETTER CHOICES

#### Introduction

- Our research approach
- Case study highlights
- Relevance to New Zealand



Evaluating the greenhouse gas emission reduction benefits from land transport mode shift programmes and projects – a research note

March 2021

L Thorwaldson, F Thomas, A Carran-Fletcher MRCagney

Waka Kotahi, NZ Transport Agency, research note 004 Contracted research organisation – MRCagney



#### Approach

# Part 1: Are reductions being measured?





Part 1: Are reductions being measured? YES! (but VKT is the key)

Part 2: What are the results?





#### **16 Case Studies**



#### **Investment Types:**

- Bus Rapid Transit
- Integrated transport and landuse Planning
- Transit Oriented Development
- Congestion Pricing
- Rapid cycle network rollout
- Demand responsive parking
- Parking cash out
- Urban logistics
- Walking and cycling programmes
- Commute Trip Reduction programmes





 Varied measurement methods



 Varied measurement methods



• Many interrelated factors affecting outcomes



 Varied measurement methods



 Many of the case studies come from the United States



 Many interrelated factors affecting outcomes



 Varied measurement methods



 Many of the case studies come from the United States



 Many interrelated factors affecting outcomes



 No New Zealand or Australian case studies



# **Case Studies**

- What was the project?
- How did they measure emissions reductions?
- How can this inform New Zealand's decarbonization efforts?

### Boulder, Colorado

1996: No long-term growth in vehicle travel over 1994 levels

- Public transport (bus)
  - Increased frequencies and services
- Active mode
  - Cycle facilities on 95% of arterial streets
- Parking management



• Reducing drive alone rates Amber Carran-Fletcher & Lewis Thorwaldson (2021-05-10) Decarbonising Transport Conference (Transportation Group NZ), Auckland

# Boulder, Colorado -

#### EcoPass

- Annual transit pass unlimited rides on local and regional services
- Bulk discount only available through
  - employers
  - university
  - neighbourhoods





EcoPass program.

Learn about the





Modal Shift in the Boulder Valley

January 2019

1990 to 2018

#### Measurement Methodolog





#### Boulder, Colorado - outcomes

- Returned VMT to 1994 levels by 2009
- By 2016 GHG emissions estimated to be 30% lower than without interventions
- 19% reduction in annual VMT per capita 1990 2018
- EcoPass holders demonstrated comparatively 40-55% fewer emissions



## **Relevance to New Zealand**

- Bulk public transport passes
  - Universities
  - Employers
  - Neighbourhoods
- Strong target setting and monitoring programmes
  - Measuring VKT
  - "If you don't count it, it doesn't count"







#### **Cargo bikes for urban logistics**

#### Cambridge, UK



#### Nuremburg,



#### Brussels, Belgium





#### Cambridge, UK

#### Saved an estimated 45 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>





#### Nuremburg, Germany



#### Saved an estimated 56 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>







#### Brussels, Belgium

# 24% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions







## **Policy levers**

- Low emissions zones
- Vehicle size and weight restrictions
- Congestion charges
- Parking restrictions



• Time restric

- Coordinated procycling policies
- Cycling infrastructure
- Microconsolidation centres
- Cycle logistics friendly tenders



#### **Relevance to New Zealan**

- E-bike power regulations
- Infrastructure design
- Procurement
- Existing services





# **Case studies continued**

# **California TOD Study**



# Stockholm Congestion Pricing?

#### California TOD Study

- Household Travel Survey of 40,000 households across income groups.
  - Extremely Low-Income (ELI) Households earning 30% or less of MFI
  - Very Low-Income (VLI) Households earning 50% or less of MFI
  - Low-Income (LI) Households earning 80% or less of MFI
  - Moderate Income Households earning between 80% and 120% of MFI
  - Higher Income Households earning more than 120% of MFI



#### **Public Transport accessibility**

- California Department of Housing and Community Development TOD Areas:
  - ¼ mile from frequent rail/ ferry station or frequent bus stop (10min headways)
- High Quality Transit Areas (HQTAs):
  - ½ mile from any rail/ ferry station, or 15-min headway bus stop



#### Measurement methodology



#### VMT FROM ONE-DAY TRAVEL SURVEYS

BETWEEN FEBRUARY 2012 AND JANUARY 2013



#### Outcomes



#### **Relevance to New Zealand**





#### Stockholm





#### What it was



#### Intervals Stockholm city centre as from 1 January 2020

Hours	Off-peak season tax amount in SEK	Peak season tax amount in SEK
6:00-6:29	15	15
6:30-6:59	25	30
7:00-8:29	35	45
8:30-8:59	25	30
9:00-9:29	15	20
9:30-14:59	11	11
15:00-15:29	15	20
15:30-15:59	25	30
16:00-17:29	35	45
17:30-17:59	25	30
18:00-18:29	15	20



#### Measurement methodology





#### Outcomes



LUGNT PÅ KLARASTRANDSLEDEN. Lugnt på Essingeleden. Lugnt i kollektivtrafiken. Ingen visste i går med säkerhet vart stockholmarna tagit vägen.

"Stockholmers, where did you go?"

20% reduction in traffic crossing the cordon



#### **Relevance to New Zealand**



Indicative phases of Auckland congestion pricing scheme – The Congestion Question (2020)



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#### In conclusion...

- Secondary research only
- Direct comparison difficult
- Measured results for such a wide range of interventions
- Tie funding to measurement
- And remember Measuring VKT is the Key!





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