

Political Determinants of Good Public Transport: Governance Structures and Effectiveness

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ABSTRACT

Public transport is one of the major challenges in metropolitan areas to sustainable development and the economic prosperity of urban areas.

Besides a good infrastructure, the performance of public transport is crucial when it comes to the question of how to alter the modal-split between private and public transport. Therefore, we compared data on the governance schemes as well as on the costs, the quality and the time effectiveness of public transport systems in 45 Swiss urban areas. We developed a typology of governance schemes which distinguishes between vertical and horizontal coordination as well as between private and public organization forms. We conclude that a governance scheme which includes both vertical and horizontal integration of public and private actors performs significantly better than any other mode of organisation of public transport in urban areas.

Key Words: public transport, metropolitan governance