Equity and social impacts in Transport Policy

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Ensure more sustainable and equitable development

Inclusive access
Enabling all people to participate in society through access to social and economic opportunities, such as work, education, and healthcare.

Economic prosperity
Supporting economic activity via local, regional, and international connections, with efficient movements of people and products.

Healthy and safe people
Protecting people from transport-related injuries and harmful pollution, and making active travel an attractive option.

Environmental sustainability
Transitioning to net zero carbon emissions, and maintaining or improving biodiversity, water quality, and air quality.

Resilience and security
Minimising and managing the risks from natural and human-made hazards, anticipating and adapting to emerging threats, and recovering effectively from disruptive events.
Social Impact Assessment in Transport

- Traditional transport appraisal methods have prioritised mobility over accessibility
- Broader social impacts are not well accounted for
- Environmental and economic impacts have been better integrated
- Omitting social impacts draws into question investment decisions predicated on social outcomes (Searle & Legacy, 2019; Mottee & Howitt, 2018)
- Social impacts are positive too!

Proactive approach to better outcomes
“Awareness of the differential distribution of impacts among different groups in society, and particularly the impact burden experienced by vulnerable groups in the community should always be of prime concern” (Vanclay, 2003): p7).

- Who benefits, and who loses?
- At its simplest a disaggregation of costs and benefits
Equity

- What is fair?
- How can we redistribute transport resources to ensure fairer outcomes for everyone?
**SIA and the policy lifecycle**

**Adaptive**

- **Problem identification**
  - Is the problem explicitly related to inequality/inequity issues?
  - What are the current circumstances of different social groups?

- **Policy Evaluation:**
  - Who has been affected by the policy – positive and negative outcomes.

- **Development of policy options:***
  - Are there options to address inequalities through policy options?

**Reflexive, evaluative and continually developing**

- **Prospective AND retrospective**

**Detailed assessment:**
- Detailed distributional impacts assessment

**Initial assessment:**
- Initial review of social impacts