# ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

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| Primary author – for all correspondence | | | | |
| **First name** | Tim | | **Surname** | Cuthbert |
| **Organisation** | WSP | | | |
| **Postal address** | Level 9, Zurich House, 21 Queen Street, Auckland 1010 | | | |
| **Email address** | Tim.Cuthbert@wsp.com | | | |
| **Phone number** | +64 9 918 5186 | **Mobile** | | +64 226 236 104 |
| 2nd co-author | | | | |
| **First name** |  | | **Surname** |  |
| **Organisation** |  | | | |
| 3rd co-author | | | | |
| **First name** |  | | **Surname** |  |
| **Organisation** |  | | | |
| Paper details | Oral Papers | | | |
| **Paper title**  **(limited to 6 words)** | Pathways to Future Mass Transit | | | |
| **Overview of presentation** (300-word maximum)  How do we plan for mass transit in an uncertain future? This paper examines the issues faced by those considering mass transit alternatives to serve growing cities and outlines a pathways based approach to assist decision making. It offers some lessons learnt from around the world based on experience in North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.  With technology rapidly changing and the emergence of Mobility as a Service there are potentially a number of pathways that public transport could take over the typical planning horizon. These pathways vary considerably from one location to another and are heavily influenced by land use and urban form, passenger demand forecasting, transport system integration and real or perceived wider economic benefits.  The paper emphasises the importance of agreeing clear investment objectives with stakeholders and partners from the outset against which the broadest range of alternatives and associated pathways can be assesssd. It also recognises that among some stakeholder groups the perspective may be shifting towards desired outcomes rather than specific solutions. A state of the art review of mass transit solutions is summarised in the paper covering BRT, LRT and very light rail together with a look ahead to the next logical step of using an autonomous fleet for passenger services, once the technology is proven and legislated.  Other themes examined in the paper include the level of convergence between bus and light rail based systems, the feasibility and trade-offs of upgrading from one mode to another within defined public transport corridors, potential trigger points from a demand perspective and the importance of a system wide approach to mass transit planning. | | | | |