# Costing Mobility: Policy and Planning Toolkit

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| In South East Queensland (SEQ) and other major cities in our region, rapid population growth in recent years has contributed to urban sprawl. Together with centralised employment, under-utilised land-use development and low residential density in inner and middle areas, poorer levels of accessibility to services and employment has resulted, contributing to ‘spatial disadvantage’ in the outer areas.  In this regard, transport accessibility and affordability are recognised as key issues to address. Developing methods that complement existing tools to provide an understanding of the “full” cost of mobility can better enable policy-makers and planners in addressing complex problems. A *Cost of Mobility Tool* has been developed, encompassing the financial costs of a trip, capturing “hip pocket” or perceived user costs of a trip, government borne costs of service and infrastructure provision, and broader economic, social and environmental factors that are typically treated as unperceived costs of trip making or externalities borne by society as a whole. This tool allows for a more comprehensive assessment to support policy, planning and investment decision-making processes.  The *Cost of Mobility* tool extracts transport modelling data and assigns cost parameters, sourced from primary data and Australian Transport Assessment and Planning parameter values, and presents the results using spatial analysis. The tool leverages the capabilities of existing transport models and advanced platforms, such as Python and Alteryx, to combine and process large datasets and assign cost attributes. The tool presents results in terms of costs per trip, by mode and time-period, and powerfully presents outputs spatially by a defined geographic area or at the household-level. This tool allows practitioners to ‘test’ policy, service plans and infrastructure investment scenarios, to explore impacts on travel mobility and affordability, supporting the early Problem Identification phases of project development, through to portfolio investment prioritisation. |