

# Public Transportation: More Than Moving People



**Nuvika Razak**

*Dosen Teknik Sipil Universitas Tarakanita*

When people hear the word public transportation, they usually picture buses, trains, or stations that move people from one location to another. In real life, public transportation does much more than just help people get from one place to another. It plays a key role in a country's progress, affecting how the economy grows, how fairly people are treated, how the environment is protected, and the general standard of living (United Nations, 2015).

Indonesia has made significant progress in developing modern public transportation systems. The implementation of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Mass Rapid Transit (MRT), and Light Rail Transit (LRT) in several major cities has improved urban mobility. A recent study by Razak and Susilo (2025) found that passengers' perceptions of the revitalized Bundaran HI BRT Station are strongly influenced by station facilities, service quality, and customer satisfaction. The study highlights that modern public transportation infrastructure should prioritize not only operational efficiency but also passenger comfort, accessibility, and service quality to encourage greater public transport usage.



Figure 1 Snapshot While Riding the BRT  
Source: Personal Documentation (2026)

A good public transportation system helps people get to school, hospitals, jobs, and other important services more easily. Students can go to school safely, workers can get to work on time, and families can have affordable ways to move around without needing their own cars. In many cities, public transportation helps connect people to better opportunities that can improve their quality of life, according to the World Bank in 2021

One of the best things about using public transportation is that it helps to ease traffic jams. As cities become more populated, the amount of private cars on the road also goes up. This causes trips to take more time, use more fuel, and create more air pollution. Encouraging people to use buses, trains, and other types of public transportation can help reduce the number of cars on the road, making it easier to move around in cities and helping to create better places to live (Litman, 2023).

Public transportation helps protect the environment a lot. When compared to private cars, public transportation usually creates less carbon pollution for each person traveling. So, many countries are putting money into electric buses, newer rail systems, and better-connected transportation networks as part of their plans to fight climate change. These efforts show that transportation is more than just getting people from one place to another—it also helps protect the Earth for future generations (United Nations, 2015).

Besides helping the environment, public transportation also helps people from different backgrounds come together and feel part of the community. Not everyone has a car or can buy one. Older people, students, people with disabilities, and those who earn less money rely a lot on public transportation that is easy to use and doesn't cost too much. A good transportation system helps everyone, no matter their money or physical abilities, to get to schools, jobs, and public services easily (World Bank, 2021).

Technological advancements have also transformed public transportation. Digital payment systems, real-time vehicle tracking, mobile travel apps, and smart traffic management have made public transportation easier and more efficient. Smart transportation systems help passengers plan their trips better, get correct information about when vehicles will arrive, and move easily from one type of transport to another. These new improvements help make the travel experience better for passengers and also make more people want to use public transport (Ministry of Transportation of the Republic of Indonesia, 2023).

Indonesia has done a lot to create up-to-date public transport systems. The use of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Mass Rapid Transit (MRT), and Light Rail Transit (LRT) in many big cities has made it easier for people to move around in urban areas. The connection of these systems with walking paths and online services shows the country's effort to create a greener transportation system. Even so, there are still some problems to solve, like making services available in more areas, making it easier for people to use them, and getting more people to switch from using their own cars to using public transport (Ministry of Transportation of the Republic of Indonesia, 2023).

The future of public transportation relies on both government support and the people's involvement. Choosing to use public transportation is an easy but important step that helps cut down traffic, decrease harmful gas emissions, and promote better and more sustainable growth in cities (Litman, 2023). At the same time, governments, scholars, engineers, city planners, and local communities need to keep working together to make transportation systems better and more reliable.

Public transportation is much more than just a way to get from one place to another. It brings people together, helps the economy grow, keeps the environment safe, and makes life better for everyone. By keeping on investing in and helping public transportation, we are creating a better way to move around and also helping to build a more equal, eco-friendly, and successful future for Indonesia (United Nations, 2015). /GN

### Reference:

Litman, T. (2023). *Evaluating Public Transportation Benefits and Costs: Best Practices Guidebook*. Victoria Transport Policy Institute. <https://www.vtpi.org/tranben.pdf>

Kementerian Perhubungan Republik Indonesia. (2023). *Statistik Perhubungan Tahun 2023*. Jakarta: Kementerian Perhubungan RI. <https://dephub.go.id>

Razak, N., & Susilo, B. H. (2025). *Study of DKI Jakarta Public Perceptions on the Revitalization of the Transjakarta BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) Bus Stop at Bundaran Hotel Indonesia*. *Jurnal Teknik Sipil*, 21(2), 203–219. <https://doi.org/10.28932/jts.v21i2.9842>

United Nations. (2015). *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. United Nations. <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

World Bank. (2021). *Connecting Cities for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth*. World Bank. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/transport>