

Challenges to Equitable Urban Mobility Management in Brazil

As a sensitive issue in a country with a long history of social and racial segregation, the implementation of mobility management strategies needs to consider the national context in its full complexity so that policies may make cities truly more equitable.

1 Distribution of people and opportunities in the territory

Investment concentration in certain areas means that suburbs have less infrastructure, and peripheral populations have to make longer trips to urban centers.

CONSEQUENCES:

- Reduced traveling capacity
- Restricted access to non-work-related activities
- More barriers to obtaining formal jobs

2 Privileges and Exclusions

Neighborhoods with higher-incomes and mostly White populations offer more opportunities, while Black and/or peripheral populations only have access to limited and low-quality public transportation, unsafe traveling conditions, and strenuous commutes.

CONSEQUENCES:

- Maintenance of social structure
- Limited access to certain areas of the city by Black citizens
- Reduced quality of life
- High number of road crashes involving motorcyclists, pedestrians, and cyclists

3 Governance Issues

Mobility policies in Brazil are treated as government policies, and tend to last only one term, with no guarantee of maintenance. Political aspects, observed both at the national and the municipal levels, may hamper the adoption of redistributive policies in a range of areas, contributing to the persistence of existing social hierarchies.

CONSEQUENCES:

- Fewer public transit routes
- Emergence of informal transportation services
- Lack of pricing strategies
- Exclusion of Black, poor, and peripheral groups

4 Costs

In most Brazilian cities, fares are the main or only source of revenue for public transportation systems. The most frequent public transportation users (classes C, D, and E) are subjected to long journeys and waiting times.

CONSEQUENCES:

- Expensive or prohibitive fares
- Impoverishment and indebtedness of the population
- Reduced availability of public transportation in the periphery
- Compromised non-work-related activities, such as leisure, culture, recreation etc.

5 Car Culture and Lack of Public Transportation Options

The car culture can mask other potential reasons why people use private vehicles, which include the need for a feeling of belonging and inclusion provided by private cars. In addition, limited services, routes, destinations, and safety in collective public transportation may also influence people's decisions.

CONSEQUENCES:

- Modal shift towards cars and motorcycles
- Perpetuation of the idea that having a private vehicle is more comfortable and convenient



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