

Public transport as a component of older people's mobility

Dissertation will be focus on the mobility of older people. Proportion of older people, in many countries of Developed World, is increasing, and prognoses of future development do not expect changes in the next few decades. The growth in the proportion of people in post-productive age can also be seen in transport, where the poorer quality of public transport services might reflect in the mobility of older people. When people lose contact with the services, work and other facilities, which they need to get involved in society at least in part, so-called social exclusion arises.

Population aging is becoming an increasingly popular issue not only in geography and demography. In the Czech Republic, the post-productive component of its peak should reach 2058, when it should account for more than 30% of the total population. Older people are also the largest population group that no longer owns a car and at the same time a group that is most at risk of social exclusion because they may face lower incomes or health restrictions. In addition, we can expect in the future that a generation that has become accustomed to higher mobility during the 20th century will want to be as mobile even at an advanced age. All these pieces of knowledge point to the fact that in the future there will be increased demands on public transport in connection with improving the mobility of people of post-productive age. Even older people need society and social contacts, and their limited mobility may result in increased stress, which can lead to death in the worst cases.

To investigate the space-time behaviour of this population group we can focus on cities from two different size categories. First of them is Nové Město na Moravě, because public transport in smaller towns will be targeted primarily for the needs of older people whose mobility is limited. In this case, it is also possible to see how the mobility of older people has changed after the introduction of public transport (2014). The second one is Brno, which has a long-term urban transport network, and it is possible to study the spatio-temporal patterns of post-productive people through public transport. The analytical part of the dissertation will be determined by the selected research topic. The methods can for example be observation of the strategic bus-stops (near hospitals, shops, etc.) at various hours during the day, interviews with older people or questionnaire surveys.

The aim of the work will be to offer a better view of the issue of mobility of older people and to bring further knowledge about the patterns of travel behaviour of this population group.