COVID-19: Global transport revenue model transition

COVID-19 lockdowns are creating fundamental changes in how people shop, work and socialise. The transport industry can expect material, lasting impacts.

Technology-led disruption and pressure on public funding have already pushed traditional mass transit to the brink. Sustained revenue shortfalls from COVID-19 will render existing approaches obsolete and increase the urgency of designing and transitioning to a new, sustainable revenue model.

The COVID-19 crisis will exacerbate the pressure that transit agencies are currently facing by putting further pressure on the current delivery model, whilst changing the needs of the customer base



Pull Factors: An unsustainable delivery model

Mass transit systems are already unprofitable with recovery ratios below one



Average costs covered by farebox revenue on US transit systems

US DoT

Technology-led disruption has compounded pressure on profits through cheaper competition



Annual observed fall in rail ridership after the introduction of ride share services

University of Kentucky

Continued restrictions and social distancing requirements will place further pressure on revenue models



Maximum bus capacity utilisation to comply with two metre social distancing London Co-ordination Group

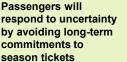
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Push Factors: A changing customer base

Traditional revenue streams will fall as travel becomes more discretionary



Predict making fewer trips by public transport after restrictions are lifted UK survey of 1,500 adults





of global consumers expect COVID-19 to impact their routines and finances for more than 4 months Global consumer survey

Lower incomes and reduced consumption will create continued pressure on ridership and ability to pay



Estimated decline in UK household disposable income between 2020-2025 from a COVID-led recession *Teneo analysis*

After the crisis, transit authorities may only cover 10% of costs through the farebox. Authorities must explore new financial models to maintain financial sustainability

Adapting the traditional sources of income to fund transit in a post COVID-19 world



Changing the user payment model

Example: Subscription fares Low monthly payment, unlimited use



Enhanced public funding

Example: Societal Dividend Base public funding on benefits delivered to cities Low monthly payments for unlimited transit use would reduce the marginal barriers to travel and provide reliable recurring revenue

The revenue impact will depend on the ability to attract new users through a low flat fee so that new revenue exceeds the abstraction risk of losing revenue from existing customers

Link funding to specific initiatives (e.g. back to work schemes for people who cannot work from home) to ensure a transport-led recovery

COVID-19 has highlighted the need to address air quality standards. Develop specific taxes on private vehicles to promote zero emission mass transit

Subscription fares Regular (5-10% pop.) Occasional (10–20% pop.) Non Users (70-85% pop.) Subscription offers discount which will be abstractive Subscription could protect existing revenue base Key generation opportunity to attract new customers

A transport-led recovery



Tax breaks for employers that subsidize staff travel

New air quality tax on commercial



Free transit in city centers to restore footfall and restart the economy

2 Harnessing new sources of revenue to reduce the pressure on fare payers and tax payers



Creating new revenue streams

Example: Monetising Data

Using data on transit users to fund the transport network



Example: Inclusive Pricing

Sharing transit costs with city / business centres & events

Ensuring a constant, data-driven interaction with users while they are using the network will improve targeted, dynamic advertising

More radical partnership and sponsorship models could offer firms exclusive access to transit users and provide substantial revenue streams

Transport provides access to retail, businesses and leisure events. Transit agencies could look to secure funding from event organisers and town centres to reflect this essential service

As business and commercial centres encourage people to return after the COVID-19 crisis, transit agencies could seek contributions to help secure future footfall

Dynamic advertising Dynamic advertis & partnerships Traditional advertising (billboards) Today | Not possible | Not possible | Data collection | Data col



- Teneo offers industry leading expertise, with deep understanding of the strategic, commercial, and operational principles of the global transport sector
- As the global CEO advisory firm, we are uniquely placed to provide a complete view of future implications of the crisis – we offer strategic, communications and public affairs advisory as a one-stop-shop. Our team has deep sector expertise and established relationships with global business leaders at the most senior level



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