



Nature and Scope of Transport Geography: A Review

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Abstract

Transport geography is a sub discipline of geography that is concerned with the mobility of freight, people, and information. It seeks to understand the spatial organization of mobility by considering its attributes and constraints as they relate to the origin, destination, extent, nature, and purpose of movements. This entry reviews the main principles of transport geography, how relevant transportation is at different scales and how transport geography has emerged to address contemporary challenges in the mobility of passengers, freight, and information.

Key words: Transport, geography, information, environment etc.

Introduction

The present-day transport system of any country or area cannot normally be explained by one factor alone. how transport provision is constrained by political structures, inherited transport networks, environmental factors, available technology and finance; what affects transport usage and modal split; how the effects of transport are assessed at different scales and in different dimensions; and what influence transport has on land use, volume of activity, economic development and the environment.

Transportation geography is a very broad subject that looks at many different topics. For example, transportation geography could possibly look at the link between the presence of a railroad in an area and the percentage of commuters using rail to get to work in a developed area. Social and environmental impacts of the creation of transportation modes are other topics within the discipline. Transportation geography also studies the constraints of movement across space. An example of this might be looking at how the shipment of goods varies at different times of the year due to weather conditions.

Nature and Scope of Transport Geography



The unique purpose of transportation is to overcome space, which is shaped by a variety of human and physical constraints such as distance, time, administrative divisions and topography. Jointly, they confer a friction to any movement, commonly known as the friction of distance (or friction of space). In an ideal world, transportation would come at no effort in terms of cost and time and would have unlimited capacity and spatial reach. Under such circumstances, geography would not matter. In the real world, however, geography can be a significant constraint to transport since it trades space for time and money and can only be partially circumscribed. The extent to which this is done has a cost that varies greatly according to factors such as the length of the trip, the capacity of modes and infrastructures and the nature of what is being transported.

Transport geography can be understood from a series of core principles:

- Transportation is the spatial linking of a derived demand.
- Distance is a relative concept involving space, time and effort.
- Space is at the same time the generator, support and a constraint for mobility.
- The relation between space and time can converge or diverge.
- A location can be central, where it generates and attract traffic, or an intermediate element where traffic transits through.
- To overcome geography, transportation must consume space.
- Transportation seeks massification but is constrained by atomization.
- Velocity is a modal, intermodal and managerial effort.
- The Sisyphus Analogy in Transportation
- The Core Principles of Transport Geography
- Operational Differences between Passengers and Freight Transportation
- Transportation as a Derived Demand
- Representations of Distance
- Mobility of Freight
- Space – Time Convergence
- Atomization versus Massification in Transportation Modes



These principles underline that there would be no transportation without geography and there would be no geography without transportation. The goal of transportation is thus to transform the geographical attributes of freight, passengers or information, from an origin to a destination, conferring them an added value in the process. There are substantial operational differences between transportation modes, particularly between passengers and freight, which often operated separately. The convenience at which this can be done varies considerably and is commonly labelled as mobility.

Conclusion

Geography is that branch of science that seeks to explain, predict, and otherwise analyze the location and magnitude of phenomena at or near the earth's surface. These phenomena may be actual surface patterns or they may be phenomena that for a given time may be mapped. Where sufficiently detailed information is available, the geographer can examine the processes that have led to the formation of a given spatial pattern. Transportation is the movement of goods or people from one location to another location. Broadly defined, this includes just about every type of movement possible, so we need to limit the definition somewhat. Thus, transportation is the movement of goods beyond their local production area and the movement of people between different geographical locations.

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