Economic aspects of transportation policy
Dr. Yoram Ida

Accessibility is a key factor for quality of life in general, particularly in modern cities. Accessibility is measured by the relative ease of reaching products, services, activities and goals. Effective transportation is essential for accessibility as it facilitates mobility measured in number of trips, distance and speed. Good mobility enables accessibility to work, education, leisure and shopping. This has many consequences for daily quality of life.

The transportation field is characterized by a severe market failure, mainly because of externalities such as pollution, traffic congestion and safety issues that arise mostly due to the high use of private vehicles. Thus, the transportation field, and specifically public transport are characterized with a high level of governmental involvement that is crucial to facilitate equality and economic efficiency.

The purpose of this course is to give students basic tools in the transportation field – market failure analysis, implications on the economy, trends and changes in demand and supply; Public policy in transport: types of government intervention, investment, cooperating with private sector actors in transportation projects.
The course topics include:

- Demand for and use of transport
- Sustainability and accessibility
- Economic and social implications of transport policies
- Analysis of transport market failure and its economic impact
- Coping with market failure: taxes and subsidies in transport, management of demands
- Transport pricing, equality, and cost-benefit analysis
- Judicial transport and competition in public transport sectors around the world and in Israel
- Evaluation of transport projects
- Transport infrastructure investments: public, private, and combined
- The relationship between transport investments and economic and regional development

Methods of instruction:

- Frontal lectures (lecturer)
- Guest lectures (experts in transport)

Student obligations:

- Presentation of current topics in transport (30% of final grade)
- Cultural activities (70% of final grade)

Bibliography:


