Measuring accessibility with open source tools

Santiago Fernández Reyes
ITDP México
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Measuring accessibility with open source tools

- Why measure access?
- How to translate access principles to policy?
- Measuring access
- Tools and data
- Applications for policy makers
- Overview of open source tools
- Next steps and challenges
Why measure accessibility?

Align multidimensional policy goals

ACCESSIBILITY

Mobility
Transport policy

Connectivity
Inclusive transport

Spatial planning
Physical proximity

Social Policy
Inclusive housing

Social inclusion

Environmental sustainability

Adapted from Rode et al. (2019)
How to translate access principles into policy?

Some cities are setting accessibility goals.

Singapore, Paris, Sydney, Melbourne, ...

How to keep track of progress?

How to align incentives?
Measuring access

Cumulative opportunity indicators

Number of things you can reach in a given time threshold, under specific travel conditions.

“Rings of opportunity” (Levinson, 2017)
Open data and open-source software:

- **Transit system data**: GTFS
- **Street network data**: OpenStreetMap
- **Traffic data**: Waze CCP
- **Spatial data**: Open, high-resolution global population maps (Worldpop)
- **Open-source software**: Python, R, OpenTripPlanner, URMO (DLR),
- **Software add-ons**: QGIS, Network Analyst (ArcMap), Urban Network Analytics Toolbox (Rhino)

https://josm.openstreetmap.de/
Evaluating transport impacts:

Did new BRT corridors increase or decrease access to lower-income people in Rio?

Infrastructure investments related to the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games, combined with cuts in service levels could have reduced average accessibility levels in Rio. (Pereira, 2018)
Communicate impacts in transport policy to the public

Visualizing changes in service.

Busconnect, Irish National Transport Agency (2018)

https://busconnects.ie/initiatives/dublin-area-bus-network-redesign/
Accessibility standards for social housing

INFONAVIT, Mexico’s largest housing lender and introduced accessibility and mobility considerations for new housing developments.

Lack of accessibility had brought problems. In some areas, up to 70% of INFONAVIT financed housing was abandoned

These new rules, which will come into effect in May 2022, set criteria for credit lending for homes. To be eligible for credit, a house needs to be at least 30 minutes from:

- schools,
- clinics,
- grocery stores,
- recreation, and
- employment.
Open-source accessibility calculator
ITDP Mexico (2017)

Data sources:
- OpenStreetMap
- GTFS
- Location data

Open software tools:
- OpenTripPlanner
- Python app
- R

Jobs reachable walking 30 minutes: 248,592
Access visualization for Brazilian cities

Acesso a Oportunidades

IPEA & ITDP Brasil (2019)

ITDP Mexico (2022, upcoming)

- Visualization tool for 20 largest cities in Mexico
- Open source data and software.
Open-source tools

- Multimodal: walking, cycling, transit, car (congested)
- Different time thresholds
- Different destinations (jobs, clinics, schools, …)
Open-source tools

- Visualizing reachable areas, and opportunities within it.
Open-source tools

- Comparison of different scenarios
Car acces no congestion
Car access morning peak congestion
Car access evening peak congestion
Developing indicators for babies and toddlers

Data availability:

- GTFS is still lacking in many cities
- Quality of OSM is uncertain, but it can be evaluated and improved
- Data sources need to be parsed with official sources and audited by authorities to be useful in policy

Technical capabilities of authorities

- Ecosystem of NGOs, international organizations, startups and companies, consultants and academics.
Thank you!

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Ecosystem

Open source tools

GTFS source editors

Startups and companies

NGOs and international organizations

Static GTFS Manager. WRI India
https://github.com/WRI-Cities/static-GTFS-manager

Paid subscription with technical support for GTFS feeds
https://trilliumtransit.com/

Digital Transport for Africa