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FUTURE URBAN TRANSPORT: LEARNING FROM SUCCESS AND WEAKNESS (CONTINUATION)

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ABSTRACT

After the international success of “Bus or Light Rail: Making the Right Choice” (2000) with a second edition in 2003, and “Future of Urban Transport – Learning from Success and Weakness: Light Rail” (2002) comes this third volume in the ETP public Transport series: “Economic Impact of Light Rail”. The question tackled is the effect of trams on the economic success of cities.

Detailed lessons are drawn from 15 towns, covering developments since the late 1970s. Results are given for:

- Effect on the value of residential and commercial property
- Pedestrian attraction to the city centre
- Effects on car ownership
- Retail structure and competition with other areas
- Parking requirements
- Changes in building and development patterns

There are strong policy conditions for success – especially three policy instruments must be harmonised: support for market forces; strong use of land use planning and combined public, internal and private funding. If the right conditions and alignments are lacking, economic development will not occur.

