## Rowan University CENTER FOR RESEARCH & EDUCATION IN ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING SYSTEMS

# Feasibility Study of Shared Mobility Programs as a First/Last-Mile Solution in Underserved Communities: A Case Study in Camden City, NJ Ruqaya Emad Alfaris, and Mohammad Jalayer (Ph.D.)

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#### Introduction

- Shared Mobility services have the potential to improve access to public transportation by providing shared-used modes on an as-needed basis
- > However, the standing operational characteristics of this service deprive disadvantaged groups (e.g., low-income population, disabled population, and seniors) of its benefits
- > The study area, Camden City, is an underserved community where people face logistical barriers to use shared mobility programs. Specially to complete the first/last mile trip
- First/last mile trip is known as the distance to and from transit stops

### **Objectives**

- > Identify the major factors that influence the feasibility of shared mobility programs
- ➤ Utilize a multi-criteria analysis method to investigate the feasibility of car-sharing, ride-sharing, and bike-sharing programs in Camden City

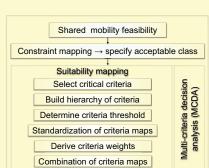
#### Methodology

 Data Collection: Determination of the Influencing Factors

major factors affect the implementation of car-sharing, ridesharing, and bike-sharing programs were defined by reviewing former studies discussed shared mobility programs

#### > Data Collection: Study Area

Open data sources were used to collect demographic, income, population density, and other information pertaining to Camden City. Collected data was geospatially represented



> Feasibility Analysis

Shared mobility feasibility map

Figure 1. Flowchart of the feasibility analysis methodology

GIS-based Weighted Overlay tool

#### Results

#### Car-sharing

Table 1. Factors affect the feasibility of car-sharing

| Less<br>feasible | Factor                 | Most<br>feasible | Category                  |
|------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
|                  | Population Density     |                  | High                      |
|                  | Age                    |                  | > 25 & < 40<br>years age  |
|                  | Household Income Level |                  | > 30K/year                |
|                  | Household Type         |                  | Live alone                |
|                  | Vehicle Ownership      |                  | Zero vehicle<br>ownership |
|                  | Level of Education     |                  | Bachelor's or<br>higher   |
|                  | Transit Station        |                  | Yes                       |
| Low              | Density level          | High             |                           |

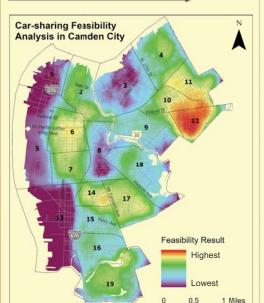


Figure 2. Car-sharing feasibility analysis in Camden City

#### **Subsidized Ride-sharing**

Table 2. Factors affect the feasibility of subsidized ride-sharing

| Less<br>feasible | Factor                 | Most<br>feasible | Category                  |
|------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
|                  | Population Density     |                  | High                      |
|                  | Age                    |                  | < 40 years age            |
|                  | Household Income Level |                  | < 30K/year                |
|                  | Vehicle Ownership      |                  | Zero vehicle<br>ownership |
|                  | Level of Education     |                  | No high school            |
|                  | Transit Station        |                  | Yes                       |
| Low              | Density level          | High             |                           |

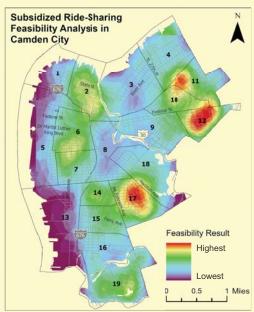
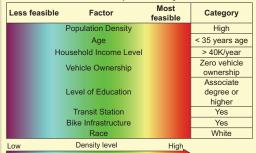


Figure 3. Subsidized ride-sharing feasibility analysis in Camden City

#### Bike-sharing

Table 3. Factors affect the feasibility of bike-sharing



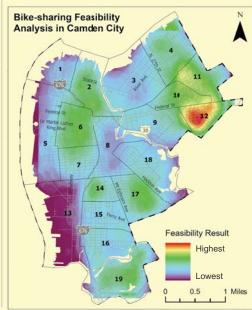


Figure 4. Bike-sharing feasibility analysis in Camden City

#### **Key Findings**

- > The factors of populations density, level of income, age, vehicle ownership, and level of education are major factors that affect the feasibility of shared mobility programs (car-sharing, ride-sharing, and bike-sharing). However, the threshold/category of each of the factors differs between the programs
- Bike-sharing programs were found to be the least feasible in Camden City compared with car-sharing and subsidized ride-sharing
- > Shared mobility programs highly rely on technology, which make them not feasible for specific people such as underserved groups
- > Overall, shared mobility programs need adjustments in their common operational models and logistics to be accessible and feasible in underserved communities, such as offering unbanked payment methods and phone call booking options

#### **Acknowledgment**

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