

1 **Urban Public Transport Choice Behavior Analysis and Service Improvement**  
2 **Policy-making: A Case Study from the Metropolitan City, Chengdu, China.**

3 Lin Chen, Fei Yang, Yang Cheng, Zhenxing Yao, Xu Zhang

4 Lin Chen.

5 Research Assistant

6 School of Transportation and Logistics

7 Southwest Jiaotong University

8 Chengdu, China 610031

9 Email: *chenlin\_traffic@163.com*

10  
11 Fei Yang, Ph.D.

12 Professor

13 School of Transportation and Logistics

14 Southwest Jiaotong University

15 Chengdu, China 610031

16 Tel: 86-028-87600165

17 Email: *yangfeitraffic@gmail.com*

18  
19 Yang Cheng, Ph.D.

20 Research Associate

21 Civil and Environmental Engineering

22 University of Wisconsin - Madison

23 Madison, WI 53706

24 Tel: 608-262-2524

25 Email: *cheng8@wisc.edu*

26  
27 Zhenxing Yao

28 Research Assistant

29 School of Transportation and Logistics

30 Southwest Jiaotong University

31 Chengdu, China 610031

32 Email: *yaozhengxingtraffic@163.com*

33  
34 Xu Zhang.

35 Research Assistant

36 Department of Transportation Engineering,

37 Kentucky University

38 Email: *xuzhang\_uk@uky.edu*

39  
40  
41 Word account: 4428+4\*figures+8\*tables=7428

## 1 ABSTRACT

2 As the metropolitan city in Western China, Chengdu has been suffered from serious  
3 traffic congestion. The strategy of urban public transport priority was put into agenda to  
4 relieve traffic congestion. But the public transport sharing rate is only 27% in Chengdu  
5 which is much lower than the developed country. Consequently, it is of great importance  
6 to study the measures to improve the service, and provide technical support to the  
7 policy-makers. This paper selected the traffic corridor between Southwest Jiaotong  
8 University district and downtown as the experiment subject. The orthogonal design  
9 method was used to generate stated preference questionnaires. Some variables were used  
10 to define the utility of the three alternatives and construct the Logit model. Then, the  
11 relationships between the cost, time variable and the choice probability of the public  
12 transport were analyzed. According to the results, we found that the workability of  
13 Multinomial Logit (MNL) Model was better than Nest Logit (NL) model. The low bus  
14 ticket price cannot achieve good result except for increasing the stress of the government  
15 finance. We also put forward some effective measures to improve the level of service,  
16 including built Bus Rapid Transit systems, reducing the access time to Metro and bus stop,  
17 limiting parking supply to control the car use.

## 18 INTRODUCTION

19 With the rapid development of urbanization in China, congestion has been an important  
20 issue that has a considerably negative impact on the further development of the society.  
21 Among various congestion reduction measures, public transit is regarded as an effective  
22 and desirable strategy, Therefore, providing transit service has become a priority.  
23 However, the transit service is still far from satisfactory in terms of coverage and service  
24 quality, the transit cannot support the public transport priority policy to relieve the  
25 congestion. We must improve the service of the transit according to the science analysis.

26 As one of the most important international metropolitan cities in Western China,  
27 Chengdu is experiencing rapid urbanization and population growth. The population of the  
28 whole municipality has exceeded 14 million, of which eight million inhabitants are in the  
29 598 square kilometers main urban area with density up to 7,400 inhabitants per square  
30 kilometer. According to Chengdu 2012 census, the average GDP of Chengdu resident has  
31 increased to more than \$9000(*I*). more and more people can afford a private vehicle and  
32 there are more than 1000 new vehicles registration issued every day Currently, vehicle  
33 ownership in Chengdu is as large as 2 million, ranked the third place of metropolitan  
34 cities in China. However, high vehicle ownership deteriorates the traffic congestion  
35 problem in Chengdu. According to the latest survey, the traffic demand on many arterials  
36 in the urban area is approaching the capacity during morning and evening peak periods.  
37 Thus, it is critical to evaluate and prioritize transportation demand management strategies  
38 to mitigate congestion. Two different approaches are to develop public transport (include  
39 metro and surface transit) and to reduce the use of personal vehicles. After first applied in  
40 1960's, the discrete choice model is widely adopted in the transportation policy  
41 evaluation and policy establishment. The in-depth understanding of travel demand is  
42 important to determine the public transit development strategies. As the critical mode in

1 urban transportation system, the public transit plays an essential role in relieving and  
2 alleviating current urban traffic congestion, especially when the transit is the only means  
3 to solve the congestion problem. Accordingly, the modal choice preference of passengers  
4 under the different level of service conditions and the primary attributes that significantly  
5 affect their transit choice decisions are analyzed so that the current bus transit level of  
6 service can be improved with high effectiveness and efficiency.

7 The paper explores the impacts of diverse factors on the traveler choice behavior  
8 utilizing the survey data by SP questionnaire. The questionnaire is designed by the  
9 orthogonal design. Therefore not only the factors that influence the choice behavior can  
10 be identified, but the LOS of transit providing to the travelers can be guaranteed.

## 11 **Literature review**

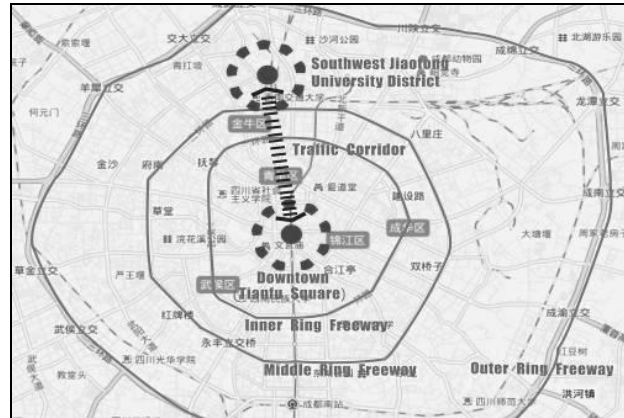
12 The discrete choice model research belonged to the content of micro-econometrics  
13 when it is first introduced in 1950's. The theoretical fundamental of the discrete choice  
14 models is the random utility theory. This model can analyze both individual and  
15 household's behaviors which is sensitive to the traffic policy. Discrete choice model is  
16 widely used in the demand prediction and analysis, evaluation of the effectiveness of the  
17 traffic strategies, such as park-and-ride operation, congestion pricing, and electronic toll  
18 collection, etc. Among the practices of public transit LOS study, many of researches are  
19 from the perspective of management and operation cost(2-4), while the researches that  
20 investigate important factors in the travelers mode choice behavior to support urban  
21 transportation management decisions are not thorough. Eboli examined the level of  
22 service of the public transit, and adapted MNL model to analyze the essential factors that  
23 shape passenger's service satisfaction and compute quality index of transit  
24 service(5). Tirachini obtain the best operating scenario after comparing the different transit  
25 operating cost, profit and welfare conditions and he presented that the minimum waiting  
26 time and cost can be achieved if transit operates under the optimized environment while  
27 rail transit can increase the minimum in-vehicle time value(6). Garrido used discrete  
28 choice model built on the basis of SP survey data to calculate the public transit service  
29 weight, and then applied the ordered results in accordance with the importance of the  
30 attributes by public transit passengers to the general linear planning method to examine  
31 different level of service weights and then the comparison between the outcomes was  
32 made(7). Pina pointed out that the public sector management produced more favorable  
33 performance than private sector based operation from the perspective of urban public  
34 transport efficiency after comparing the transit services provided by private company and  
35 government sponsored company in Catalonia area, Spain(8).

36 The discrete choice model has been applied in various professional researches since it  
37 was introduced. Currently, Many researches on public transit are conducted from the  
38 perspective of management and operation cost, whereas the researches that investigate  
39 important factors on the travel mode choice decision-making behavior to support urban  
40 transportation management decisions are relatively scarce. As a critical mode in urban  
41 transportation system, the public transit plays an essential role in relieving and alleviating  
42 current urban traffic congestion, especially in China where the transit priority  
43 development is considered to be the only feasible option. Therefore, the state-of-art

1 discrete choice model is applied to analyze the preference of passengers under different  
 2 levels of service conditions and determine the attributes that significantly affect their  
 3 travel choice behavior, in order to improve the public transit service efficiency. The study  
 4 does not only provides valid decision support to transit LOS improvement strategy, but  
 5 also promotes the knowledge of discrete choice model application in China

6 **THE STATED CHOICE SURVEY DESIGN**

7 As is illustrated in Figure 1, traveler’s travel mode preference is collected between  
 8 Southwest Jiaotong University (SWJTU) areas and downtown areas (Tianfu Square)  
 9 through Preference Survey under different level of services.



10

11 **Figure 1 Transport corridor between SWJTU district and downtown**

12

13 The alternative sets including in this study bus, metro, and car. It is worth noting that  
 14 Taxi is not included in the alternative set because the primary objective of the study is to  
 15 analyze the impacts of bus LOS on choice behaviors, instead of mode split in corridor.  
 16 Consequently, the attributes of the alternatives are cost, in-vehicle time, waiting time,  
 17 access time and egress time etc. The alternative specified attribute for car is the parking  
 18 time defined as the time to find a spot to park. The attributes are illustrated as Table 1.

18

**Table1. Level of alternative attributes**

Travel Mode	Attributes	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Bus	Cost	1	3	
	Waiting Time	5	10	15
	In-vehicle Time	40	60	
	Access Time	5	10	15
	Egress Time	5	10	15
Metro	Cost	2		
	Waiting Time	5		
	In-vehicle Time	10		
	Access Time	10	20	
Car	Egress Time	10		
	Cost	30		
	In-vehicle Time	25		
	Egress time	5	20	

19

The full factorial design has shown to negatively influences on survey since the

1 number of attribute combination is large. Thus orthogonal design was chosen to achieve  
 2 appropriate attributes combinations. The orthogonal design would ensure the  
 3 independence of each attribute and keep off incorrect results translated from rooted  
 4 multicollinearity problem of the attribute. The accuracy of model results can be improved  
 5 effectively. The paper applies orthogonal design to obtain 16 mutually orthogonal  
 6 attribute combinations .Table2 shows an example of stated choice experiment.

7 **Table 2 Choice task example of the stated choice experiment**

Travel mode	Cost	Waiting time	In-vehicle time	Access time	Egress time	Parking time
A Bus	3	10	60	5	10	0
B Metro	2	5	10	10	10	0
C Car	3	0	25	0	0	5

Your choice :

## 8 DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSES OF THE DATA

9 The main objective of the stated preference survey is to obtain the choice preference  
 10 of respondents towards new metro between SWJTU district and downtown areas. In this  
 11 paper, face-to-face surveys were conducted. The total number of valid samples acquired  
 12 from the survey is 1552. By establishing four age intervals, each questionnaire was able  
 13 to collect the age information from the surveyed sample population. The average age of  
 14 survey samples is 32. Similarly, five income ranges were established to evaluate the  
 15 income levels of the respondents. The corresponding survey sample attributes of each  
 16 questionnaire are shown in Table 3. The monthly average income of survey samples is  
 17 3445(Yuan). The gender rate between male and female is 1.02. All those are consistent  
 18 with the last city wide census, which indicate that the sampling bias is minimal. Besides,  
 19 the trip purpose from SWJTU district to downtown areas is almost shopping and  
 20 entertainment, which is reasonable and predictable because downtown areas is the central  
 21 district of commercial, leisure, and cultural activities. The rate of car ownership is about  
 22 30% and is a result of the fact that the rate of vehicle possession in Chengdu ranks first in  
 23 the whole nation.

24 **Table 3 Statistical results of the surveyed sample population**

Sex	Number	Ratio	Trip purpose	Number	Ratio
Man:1	784	50.5%	Shopping	842	54.2%
Female:0	768	49.5%	Entertainment	542	34.9%
Car ownership			Working	97	6.3%
Yes:1	459	29.57%	Go to school	7	0.5%
No:0	1093	70.43%	Other	64	4.1%
Income			Age		
<2000	399	25.7%	18~24	393	25.3%
2000~4000	681	43.9%	25~50	1027	66.2%
4001~6000	327	21.1%	51~60	78	5.0%
6001~8000	92	5.9%	>60	54	3.5%
>8000	53	3.4%			
Total	1552	100%	Total	1552	100%

As aforementioned, the orthogonal design can guarantee the independence between each alternative attributes. It is worthwhile verifying the independence. The common practice is to calculate the auxiliary linear regression coefficient R for each alternative and compare with the testing threshold value as 1.94. Then, each R value for all alternatives is obtained as shown in Table 4.

**Table 4 the orthogonal test results of the stated preference experiment**

Alternative	R <sub>cost</sub>	R <sub>waiting time</sub>	R <sub>in-vehicle time</sub>	R <sub>access time</sub>	R <sub>regress time</sub>	R <sub>parking time</sub>
Bus	0.845	0.437	0.2	0.497	0.337	0
Metro	0	0	0	0.301	0	0
Car	0	0	0	0	0	0.617

As shown in Table4, the auxiliary regression coefficient of cost in bus alternative is 0.854 which is below the threshold value as 1.94 defined before. Thus, it can conclude that there is a favorable orthogonality between cost attribute of bus and other attributes of bus alternative. Similarly, the orthogonality of attributes in the three alternatives (see Table 3) is also ensured. Therefore the validity and accuracy of the model results can be ensured because the multicollinearity cannot influence the model results.

## MODEL CONSTRUCTION

The utility function that the alternative  $i$  will be chosen by traveler  $n$  can be expressed as following(9).

$$P_n(i) = P(U_{ni} \geq U_{nj}) \quad (1)$$

In random utility theory, utility is considered to be a stochastic variable and the utility function is classified into two categories which are presumed to display a linear relationship, that is, one is deterministic component  $V$  and the other is random error  $\varepsilon$ . So the utility function of alternative  $i$  for the traveler  $n$  is

$$U_{ni} = V_{ni} + \varepsilon_{ni} \quad (2)$$

When random error  $\varepsilon$  are assumed to be independently and follow the Gumbel distribution, the general formula of Multinomial Logit (MNL) model can be written as

$$P(i) = \frac{e^{V_{ni}}}{\sum_{j \in C_n} e^{V_{nj}}} \quad (3)$$

According to alternative attributes analyzed during the questionnaire design process and the basic formulation of Logit model utility function, the alternative attribute utility variable and traveler's utility variables can be presented as Table 5 and 6

Then the utility functions of three alternatives can be formulated as equation (4).

$$V_{(\text{bus})} = ASC_1 + \beta_1 \times X_{11} + \beta_2 \times X_{12} + \beta_3 \times X_{13} + \beta_4 \times X_{14} + \beta_5 \times X_{15} + \beta_7 \times X_{17} + \beta_9 \times X_{19} + \beta_{11} \times X_{111}$$

$$V_{(\text{metro})} = ASC_2 + \beta_1 \times X_{21} + \beta_2 \times X_{22} + \beta_3 \times X_{23} + \beta_4 \times X_{24} + \beta_5 \times X_{25} + \beta_8 \times X_{28} + \beta_{10} \times X_{210} + \beta_{12} \times X_{212}$$

$$V_{(\text{car})} = \beta_1 \times X_{31} + \beta_3 \times X_{33} + \beta_6 \times X_{36} + \beta_{13} \times X_{313} \quad (4)$$

1 Where,  $V$  denotes the utility function  
 2  $ASC_1$  and  $ASC_2$  are the alternative-specific constant variables;  
 3  $X_{ni}$  denotes utility variable,  $i=\{1, 2, \dots, 13\}$ ,  $n=\{1, 2, 3\}$   
 4  $\beta_i$  denotes the unknown parameter of utility function,  $i=\{1, 2, \dots, 13\}$ .

5 **Table 5 Utility definition of constant and alternative specific**

Utility	Constant		Alternative-specific					
			Cost	Waiting time	In-vehicle time	Access time	Egress time	Parking time
Variable	$ASC_1$	$ASC_2$	$X_{n1}$	$X_{n2}$	$X_{n3}$	$X_{n4}$	$X_{n5}$	$X_{n6}$
Bus( $V_{n1}$ )	1	0	$X_{11}$	$X_{12}$	$X_{13}$	$X_{14}$	$X_{15}$	0
Metro( $V_{n2}$ )	0	1	$X_{21}$	$X_{22}$	$X_{23}$	$X_{24}$	$X_{25}$	0
Car( $V_{n3}$ )	0	0	$X_{31}$	0	$X_{33}$	0	0	$X_{36}$
Parameter	$ASC_1$	$ASC_2$	$\beta_1$	$\beta_2$	$\beta_3$	$\beta_4$	$\beta_5$	$\beta_6$

6 **Table 6 Utility definition of decision-maker**

Utility	Decision-Maker						
	Age <sub>1</sub>	Age <sub>2</sub>	Income <sub>1</sub>	Income <sub>2</sub>	Sex <sub>1</sub>	Sex <sub>2</sub>	Car ownership
Variable	$X_{n7}$	$X_{n8}$	$X_{n9}$	$X_{n10}$	$X_{n11}$	$X_{n12}$	$X_{n13}$
Bus( $V_{n1}$ )	$X_{17}$	0	$X_{19}$	0	Male:1 Female:0	0	0
Metro( $V_{n2}$ )	0	$X_{28}$	0	$X_{210}$	0	Male:1 Female:0	0
Car( $V_{n3}$ )	0	0	0	0	0	0	Yes:1 No:0
Parameter	$\beta_7$	$\beta_8$	$\beta_9$	$\beta_{10}$	$\beta_{11}$	$\beta_{12}$	$\beta_{13}$

7  
 8 **MODELING RESULTS**

9 Table 7 shows the MNL and NL model estimation parameter results. The Nlogit  
 10 software is selected to calibrate the parameter which is the premier tool for estimating  
 11 discrete choice models(10).

12 The MNL and NL models are applied in this paper. In the NL model the bus and  
 13 metro alternative are merged into public alternative level while car stays at a single level  
 14 as private alternative. The IV value of the public alternative level is falling into the range  
 15 from 0 to 1 and statistically significantly. The results validate the division of NL model  
 16 level structure is true. As be shown in table6, the value of goodness-of-fit of NL model  
 17 ( $\rho^2=0.208$ ) is slightly exceeding the MNL model (0.208). But the difference between them  
 18 is not big enough to show NL model performs much better than MNL model. So, in this  
 19 paper the hypothesis test is used to test the statistical significance between NL and MNL  
 20 model. The hypothesis test is correlation about the value of IV and 1 which is defined as  
 21 T-test. The hypothesis test can be shown as follow:

- 22  $H_0$ : the NL model can be integrated into MNL model  
 23  $H_1$ : the NL model cannot be integrated into MNL model

1 The T-test value can be computed by the equation 5

$$2 \quad T - \text{test} = \frac{IV - 1}{\text{Stderror}} \quad (5)$$

3 With substituting the *IV* and *Stderror* values with 0.685 and 0.307, respectively, the  
4 T-test value was -1.02. The value is falling in to the rejection region  $(-\infty, -1.96) \cup (1.96, +\infty)$   
5 The results indicated that the null hypothesis cannot be rejected within the 5% confidence  
6 interval, which mean NL model can be integrated into MNL model. Finally, the MNL  
7 model parameter estimation results are determined as the ultimate results.

8 **Table 7 the MNL and NL model estimation results**

Variable	Multinomial Logit	Nested Logit
Bus constant	-5.138 (-2.963)	-8.466 (-1.576)
Metro constant	-4.819 (-2.774)	-8.169 (-1.513)
Cost	-0.381 (-6.452)	-0.387 (-6.461)
Waiting time	-0.007 (-0.511)	-0.008 (-0.614)
In-vehicle time	-0.016 (-2.723)	-0.016 (-2.754)
Access time for metro	-0.096 (-8.674)	-0.103 (-8.576)
Access time for bus	-0.04(-2.800)	-0.041(-2.786)
Egress time	-0.022 (-1.595)	-0.023 (-1.594)
Parking time	-0.063 (-4.431)	-0.065 (-4.533)
Sex-Bus	-0.841 (-3.544)	-1.199 (-1.969)
Sex-metro	-0.783 (-3.476)	-1.136 (-1.892)
Age-bus	0.197 (2.838)	0.245 (2.035)
Age-metro	0.049 (0.724)	0.098 (0.815)
Income-bus	-0.903 (-7.496)	-1.220 (-2.545)
Income-metro	-0.581 (-5.336)	-0.889 (-1.897)
Car	3.016 (9.464)	3.007 (9.463)
Inclusive value parameters(IV)		
Public		0.685 (2.229)
Private		1 (Fixed Parameters)
Log likelihood function	-1137.128	-1136.633
Number of observes	1552	1552
$\rho^2$	0.2085	0.2088

9 Note: t-values are in brackets in columns two and three.

10 The alternative specific constant represents the average impact of some factors that  
11 are not included in the explanatory variables on the traveler's utility. The bus constant and  
12 metro constant obtained from the MNL model are both statistically significant. Because  
13 of some non-quantifiable variables aren't included in the explanatory variables, such as,  
14 safety, comfortable.

15 In-vehicle time is generic variable for three alternatives. The parameter symbol is  
16 correct and statistically significant. Currently, the distance between the corridors is 12  
17 kilometers, but the average travel time for the bus is relatively long. (Approximately 40  
18 minutes).when the new metro will operate the In-vehicle time can reduce to 10 minutes  
19 the choice probability of metro will be improved significantly.

20 The cost is also generic variable. In addition, the cost of private car is the total of fuel



1 cost and parking fee while the cost of bus and metro is the ticket price. The cost  
 2 parameter is valid and statistically significant, which mean the higher the cost of certain  
 3 alternative, the less possibility of alternative is chosen.

4 The Access time is specific variable for bus and metro separately. According to the  
 5 results, the variable of Access time is all significantly which mean the bus alternative and  
 6 metro alternative is not good at conveniences. Because of the subway system has not been  
 7 formed into a network, so there remain significant limitations associated with riding the  
 8 metro, and the distribution of the bus lines is not even in the SWJTU district.

9 The Egress time and Waiting time are generic variables for bus and metro. These  
 10 variables are not significantly, which mean accessibility and schedule adherence of the  
 11 bus and metro is good

12 Parking time is specific variable for car alternative. The parameter is negative and  
 13 also statistically significant indicating that the longer parking time used by travelers, the  
 14 less possibility that they plan trips with cars.

15 Besides, age, income, gender, and private vehicle ownership are considered to be  
 16 explanatory variables in the study. The median and low-income groups tend to choose bus  
 17 to make their trip. Male travelers don't show a preference to the transit mode, while the  
 18 older people prefer bus. The dummy parameter "if owning the private car" is significantly  
 19 which indicates car would be the predominant mode by travelers who own cars.

20 According to the analysis in this part above, cost, in-vehicle time, access time and  
 21 individual characteristics have considerable effects on traveler's transit choice behavior,  
 22 while owning automobile is a significant factor that contributes to the possibility of  
 23 choosing automobile as favorable mode.

## 24 POLICY ANALYSIS

25 The model results demonstrates that in-vehicle time, cost, access time are playing a  
 26 significant role in traveler's choice behavior. We should evaluate quantifiably the effects  
 27 of these variables on the traveler choice behavior so that the transportation policy can be  
 28 better supported by the results. To assess and quantify such impacts of these variables, the  
 29 elasticity method has been adopted. The direct point elasticity in the discrete choice  
 30 model is(9):

$$31 \quad E_{X_{ikq}}^{P_{iq}} = \frac{\partial P_{iq}}{\partial X_{ikq}} \cdot \frac{X_{ikq}}{P_{iq}} \quad (6)$$

32 Equation (6) can be applied appropriately in this case to measure the changes to the  
 33 choice possibility ( $P_{iq}$ ) of alternative  $i$  with respect to the marginal change of attribute  $K$ .  
 34 If the utility formal is defined as linear, the equation (6) can then convert to a simpler  
 35 equation as equation (7)

$$36 \quad E_{X_{ikq}}^{P_{iq}} = -\beta_{ik} X_{ikq} (1 - P_{iq}) \quad (7)$$

37 Where  $\beta_{ik}$  is the coefficient of variable  $X_{ikq}$ .

38 In economics, the demand is considered to be elastic if the absolute value of the  
 39 elasticity is greater than one. Inelastic if the value is less than one, and unit-elastic if the  
 40 value equals to one. Accordingly, the estimation results of the elasticity regarding to

1 significant attributes are shown in Table 8.

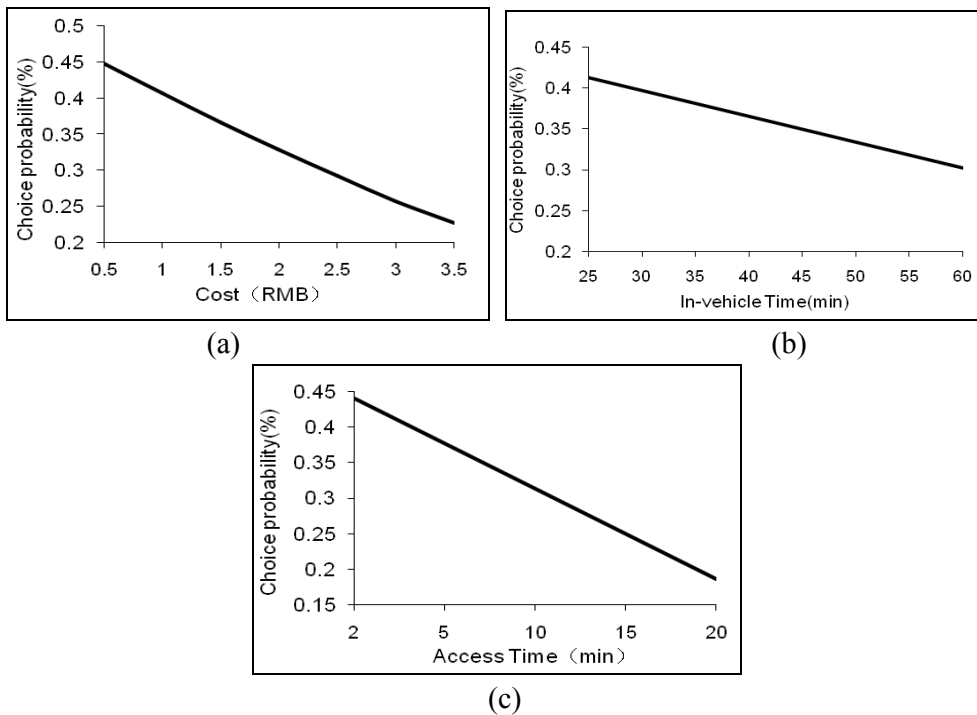
2 Table 8 Direct point elasticity of choice probability

Variable	Value	Elasticity
Cost for bus	-0.413	inelastic
Cost for car	-6.55	elastic
In-vehicle time for bus	-0.454	inelastic
Access time for bus	-0.362	inelastic
Access time for metro	-0.440	inelastic
Parking time	-0.392	inelastic

3 From Table 8, we can conclude that the choice possibility of bus is inelastic to these  
 4 significant attributes, since the absolute elasticity value each variable is less than one.  
 5 This is also true for parking time in car alternative. The effect of shortening In-vehicle  
 6 time is better than reducing the cost, while the effect of reducing cost is superior to  
 7 shorten access time for bus.

8 However, the elasticity value of bus in terms of cost is -0.413 which means that the  
 9 increase of one percentage of cost will reduce 0.413 percentage of the choice possibility.  
 10 Thus we can draw the conclusion that the benefit from the increase of cost can offset the  
 11 loss resulted from the reduction of ridership of bus, we can improve the bus ticket price.  
 12 The Figure 2(a) illustrates the choice possibility change with the cost. It is apparent from  
 13 the diagram that the price of bus ticket should not exceed 3(Yuan) in order to maintain the  
 14 choice possibility larger than 30 percent ceteris paribus. (This is thought to be a critical  
 15 line to guarantee the dominant status of transit in the transportation market in China). The  
 16 bus cost can be reduced to 1 (Yuan) and free transfer if applying smart transit ID card in  
 17 Chengdu, then the choice possibility of bus could be 40.7%. But the government financial  
 18 subsidy for the public transit is as high as billion Yuan which accounting for more than  
 19 0.13% of Chengdu's GDP. If we raise the bus fee to 2.5 Yuan, its choice possibility is  
 20 30.1%. The bus still keeps the dominant status of transit in the transportation market.  
 21 According to these results, we should raise the ticket properly. It is not only decrease the  
 22 stress of the government finance but also improve the service level by the increased  
 23 benefit.

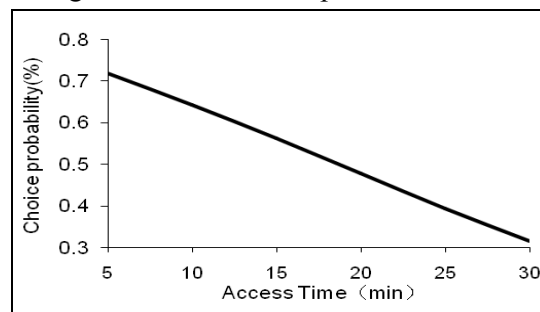
24 According to model results, more travelers would switch to bus if shortening the  
 25 in-vehicle time. The length of Bus transit lane is only 270km and the bus lane is  
 26 concentrated in the central area in Chengdu. That cannot support the entire bus transit  
 27 system. Now the in-vehicle time could be 40min by bus in this corridor, the choice  
 28 possibility is about 20%. The government is planning to build the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit)  
 29 and increase the bus transit line which can shorten the in-vehicle time. So, if the BRT can  
 30 be operated the in-vehicle time can reduce to 25min, the choice possibility will increase  
 31 to 41.2%, from Figure 2(b). The bus transit will become the primary travel mode in this  
 32 corridor.



**Figure 2 the relationship between variables and the choice probability of bus.**  
**(a) Cost, (b) In-vehicle time (c) Access time**

The reduction of access time would significantly increase the choice possibility of bus as illustrated by Figure 2(c). For this reason, optimizing the layout of urban transit routes and the bus stop can decrease the access time to 10 minutes. As a result the bus patronage percentage will increase to 31.2% which guarantees bus transit to be the dominant mode. Transit routes arrangement optimization and transit stop coverage rate increment would be particularly effective to enhance the ridership of bus transit in Chengdu considering the low coverage rate of transit stops along the minor routes.

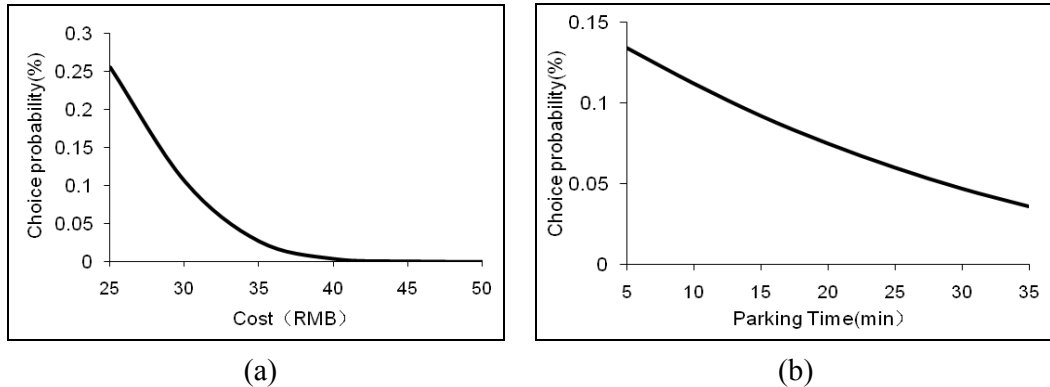
According to the planning, the access time to the metro station from SWJTU to downtown area is about 20 minutes by walking as illustrated by Figure 3. The choice probability of metro alternative is 47.8 %. In comparison, if we enhance the connection with the ground buses to form the feeding of the passengers to the metro. The access time will reduce to 10 minutes and the metro sharing percentage will increase 16.5%. These operation strategies can not only utilize the public transportation facilities more efficiently, but also attract more passengers to switch to the public transit.



**Figure 3 the relationship between access time and choice probability of metro**

Besides, the relationship among the cost, parking time and metro choice possibility

1 is observed from Figure 4. As shown in figure 4(a), 10.6 % of passengers would select  
 2 private car as their favorite transport mode when it costs 30(Yuan), but when they have to  
 3 spend 45(Yuan) on their personal vehicle travel, the percentage decrease remarkably to  
 4 0.074%. The cost in the study is assumed to be the sum of parking fee and fuel cost. If the  
 5 cost keeps increasing, the possibility would further decrease and approach to 0. The  
 6 increase of the trip cost of cars would considerably decrease the choice possibility of  
 7 private car. Thus, high cost can restrict the private car use and make more passengers  
 8 transfer to public transport mode.



9  
10  
11 **Figure 4 the relationship between variables and choice probability of car**  
12 **(a)Cost, (b) parking time**

13 Similarly, the Figure 4(b) indicates the influence of the parking time to the use of  
 14 private car. Now some streets in Chengdu downtown area allow on-street parking which  
 15 make drivers can find parking spots easily within 5 minutes, 13.4% travelers will choose  
 16 private car. Conversely, on-street parking and parking spots limitation in downtown in  
 17 order to increase the parking time. If the parking time exceeds 20 minutes less than 7.49%  
 18 of travelers would drive cars. Therefore, appropriate adjustment of the parking supply can  
 19 restrict the use of personal vehicles. Finally, the effect of increasing the cost is better than  
 20 increasing parking time on controlling the private car, which is consistence with the  
 21 elasticity.

## 22 CONCLUSIONS

23 This paper analyzed the traveler's choice behavior through discrete choices model in  
 24 Chengdu. The cost, in-vehicle time, access time and income were the essential factors that  
 25 have a significant impact on the choice behavior. Some suggestions were provided after  
 26 quantifying the influence of these factors on the choice possibility of bus alternative. Such  
 27 as, building bus transit lanes and operating BRT to shorten bus in-vehicle time, optimizing  
 28 transit network and enlarging transit stop coverage area. Especially, the low bus ticket  
 29 price policy in Chengdu cannot achieve a good result. The government should improve  
 30 the ticket price and use the profit to develop the infrastructures of the transportation, for  
 31 example, set up the bus transit lane or BRT in order to improve the service level of bus to  
 32 realize the public transport priority. The bus ticket price cannot be set too high. Because  
 33 of the median and low-income travelers tend to choice bus to make their trip.

34 The metro is new travel mode in this corridor. We want to make the metro attract  
 35 more travelers. It is important to enhance the connection with the ground buses to form

1 the feeding of the passengers. Meanwhile, some other effective strategies like controlling  
2 parking supply and increasing trip cost need to be taken to limit private car using. If these  
3 strategies can be carried out together, we can lead the private car users to choice public  
4 transit and improve the choice probability of public transit.

5 In this paper, it is also confirmed that a more complicated model doesn't necessarily  
6 provide better results in the practical application scenarios, by the comparison between  
7 MNL and NL models. The Bus and metro constant displayed noticeable distinct in terms  
8 of the statistical significance derived from MNL model. The main reason is that some  
9 non-quantifiable variables aren't included in the explanatory variables, such as, safety,  
10 comfortable.

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