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# The first and last mile – the key to sustainable urban mobility

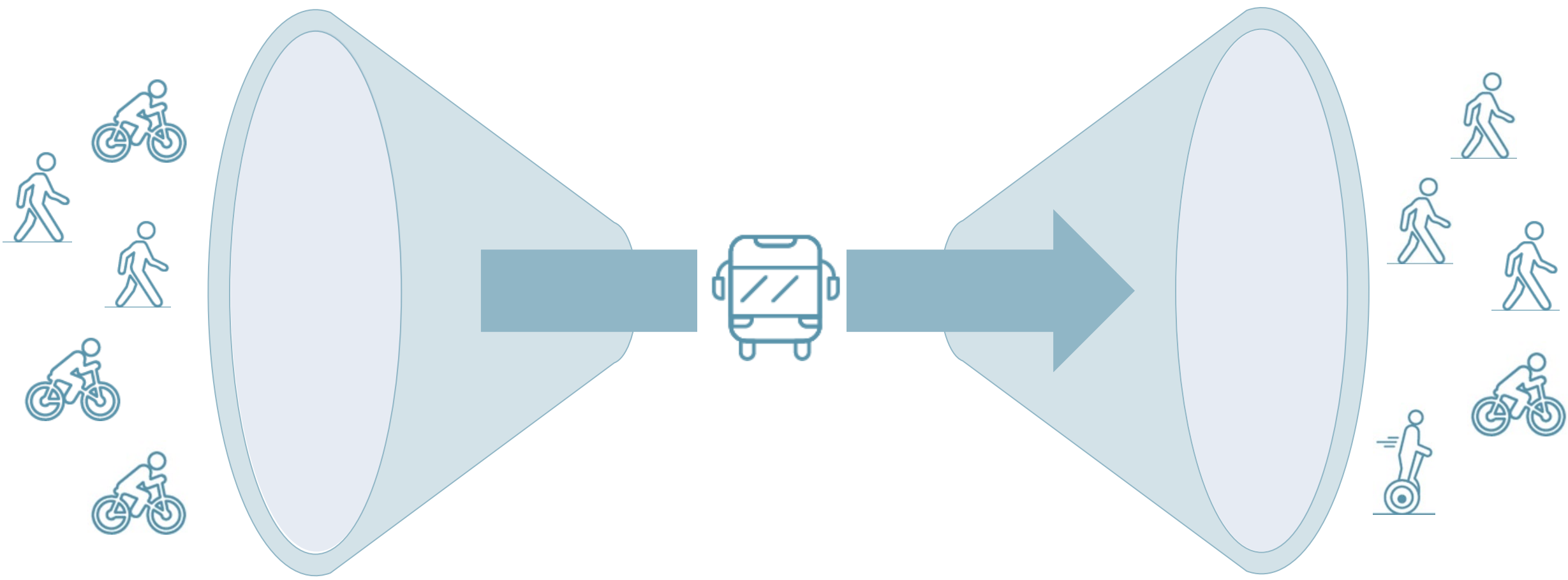
## What role in the wake of the corona crisis?

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The first and last mile — the key to sustainable urban transport  
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### **Pedestrian options**

- Walking
- Special provisions for the elderly, people with a disability
- Public escalators



### **Bike, board, skate options**

- Personal (electric) bicycles
- (Electric) bicycle sharing
- (Electric) skateboards, foot skates
- (Electric) kick scooters
- Segways, monowheels and other devices



### **Vehicular options**

- Light electric vehicles
- Car sharing
- Ride sharing or carpooling
- Ride hailing and traditional taxi
- Autonomous vehicles in sharing system
- Park and ride

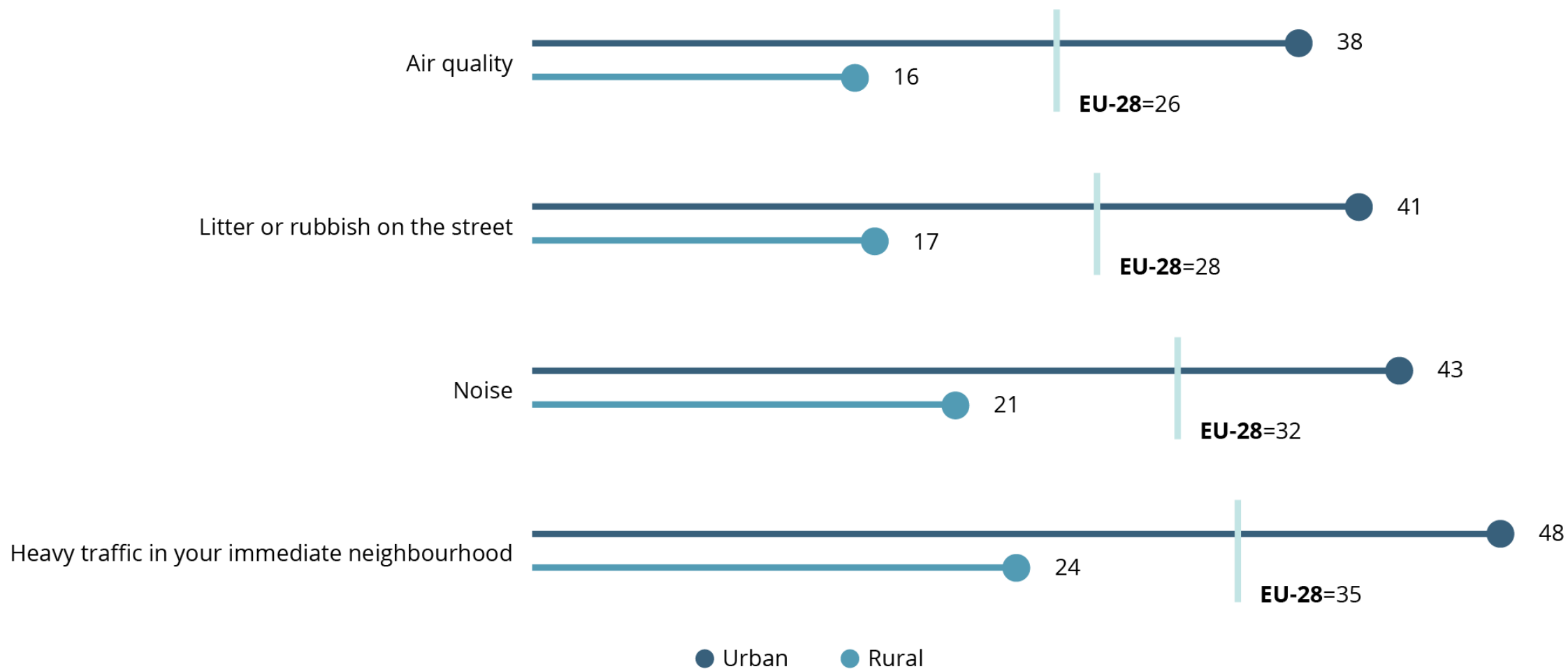


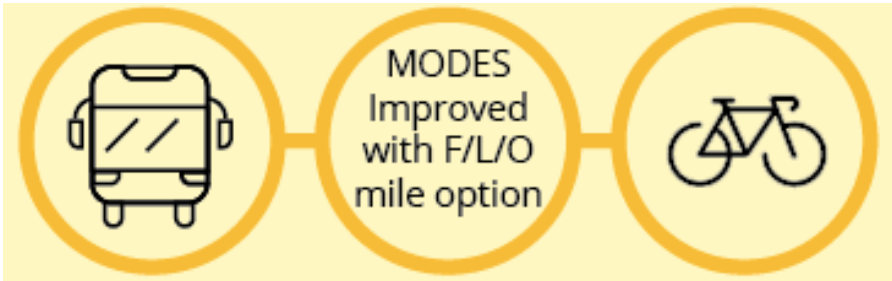
### **Public transport options**

- Conventional public transport
- Micro transit
- Advanced group rapid transit



# Survey of neighbourhood problems





Socio-economic  
characteristics  
Home and work  
location



Motivation and  
values



Framework  
of rules

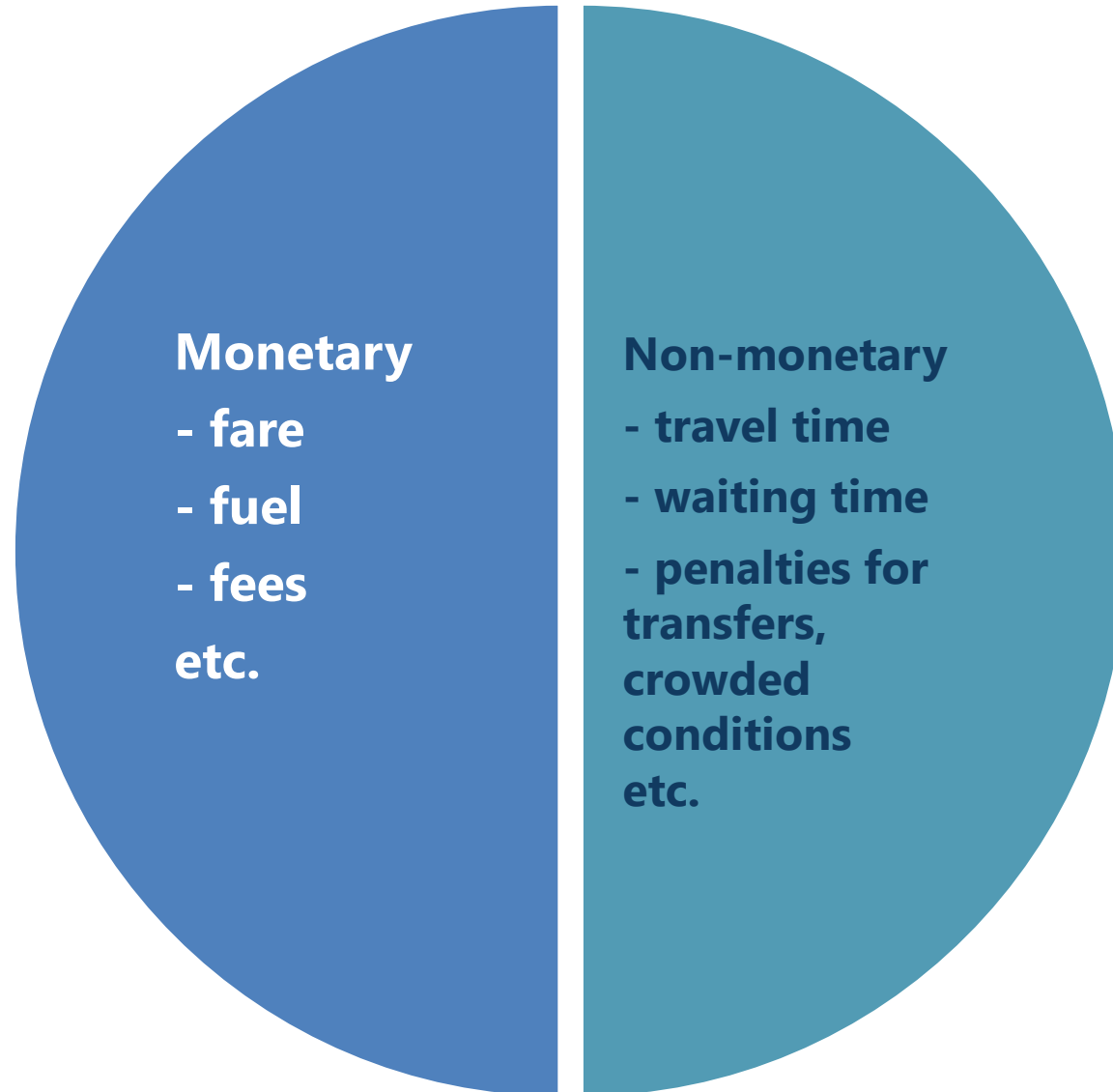


Taxes and  
subsidies

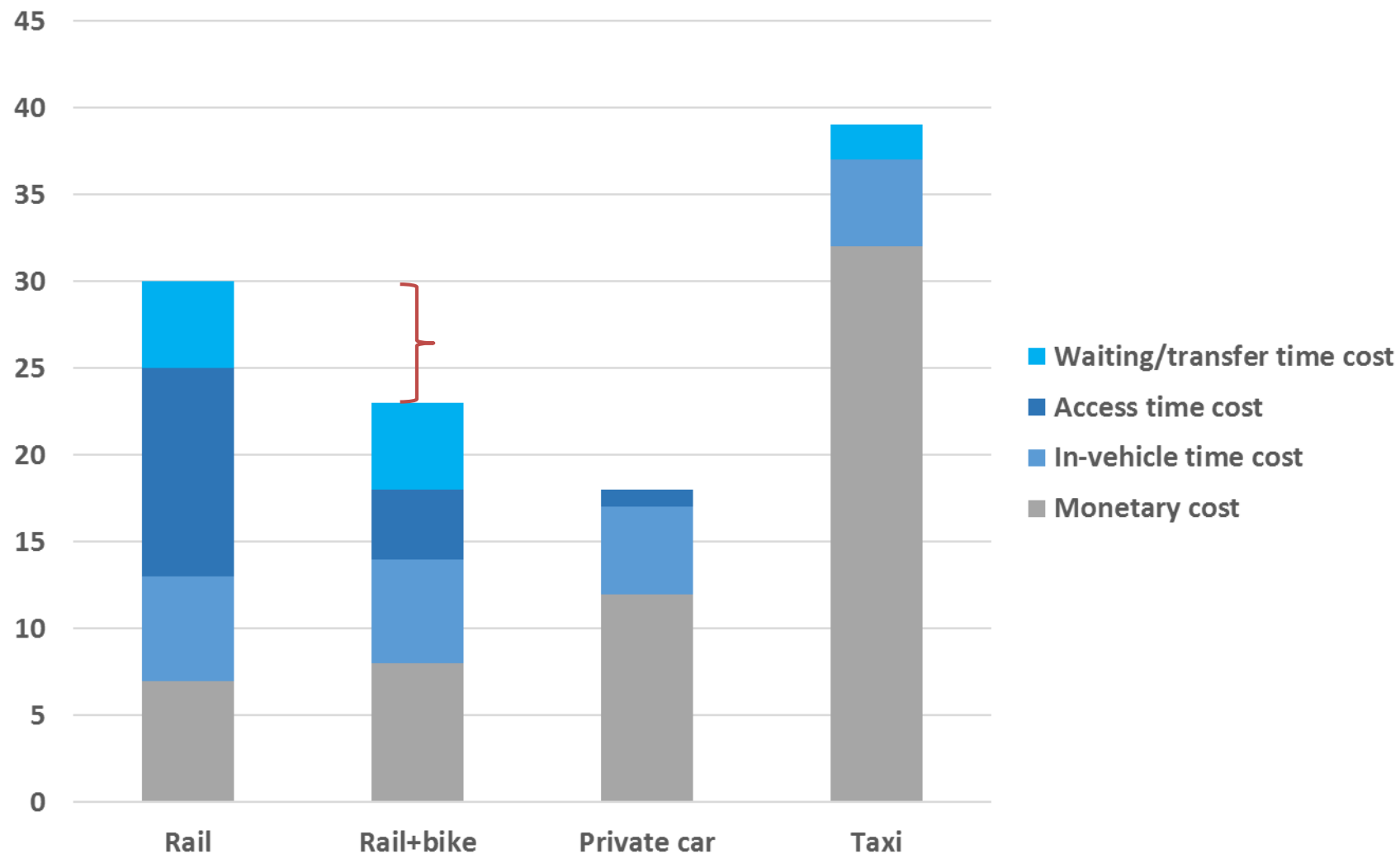


Transport  
infrastructure  
and transport  
supply

# Generalised journey cost – a key concept



# Generalised journey cost example for 20km trip



Note: values are for illustration purpose only

# Findings

- Good first and last mile options are an indispensable part of an efficient transport system.
- Active modes, like walking and cycling, provide the greatest health and environmental benefits.
- Good public transport remains the backbone. There is no technology “hack” or quick fix.
- People switch if they experience sustainable transport as fast, safe and convenient.
- First and last mile options can influence the choice of transport for longer trips and are relevant beyond urban areas.



# Recommendations

- Confront transport users with the costs created by their mobility choices
- Provide sufficient and comfortable alternatives to car use
- Obsess about the user experience – subjective factors can be decisive
- Promote active modes as first/last/only mile options
- Align technology (MaaS, automated vehicles, ride hailing etc) with sustainable mobility goals

# COVID-19

- Pandemic poses a major challenge to multimodal, high-density passenger transport
- There is a tension between efficient urban transport and physical distancing requirements
- But it is also an opportunity to repurpose existing infrastructure (e.g. pedestrianise streets, give more room to cyclists)
- Good walking and cycling infrastructure make the transport system more resilient
- First and last mile options can reduce demand peaks and avoid overcrowding by replacing short public transport trips

[https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/  
the-first-and-last-mile](https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/the-first-and-last-mile)

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