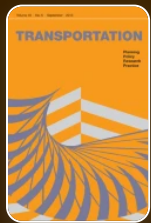


[Home](#) > [Transportation](#) > Article

# Privatization of urban transit: The Los Angeles jitney experience

Published: March 1986

Volume 13, pages 5–22, (1986) [Cite this article](#)



## [Transportation](#)

[Aims and scope](#) →[Submit manuscript](#) →[Roger F. Teal](#)<sup>1</sup> & [Terry Nemer](#)<sup>1</sup> **206** Accesses  **9** Citations  **4** Altmetric [Explore all metrics](#) →

## Abstract

This paper reports on a recent attempt to provide private transit in the form of jitney service in downtown Los Angeles. It describes the process undertaken to initiate jitney service and the resultant organization's structure and operation. A survey of jitney passengers provided information on the users and their tripmaking characteristics. A group of loyal jitney riders emerged who patronized the service because of its lower travel times and more personalized atmosphere. This group formed the core of frequent users. The Los Angeles experience is analyzed in terms of the economic feasibility of jitney service and the impact on the financial status of public transit. The public transit agency experienced a slight negative financial impact as a result of the jitney service. Ridership during peak hours declined somewhat but the jitney service was not frequent enough to carry sufficient passengers to allow the transit agency to cut costly peak hour service. This analysis shows that the jitney service ultimately was not an economically

successful operation. The factors which would have increased the likelihood of success were increased frequency of service and higher fares, which would have been sustainable if not for unexpected developments in public transit financing. A labor pool willing to work for low wages, high transit use in the central city, relatively high transit fares and the availability of inexpensive vehicles appear to be prerequisites to a successful urban jitney operation.

 This is a preview of subscription content, [log in via an institution](#)  to check access.

### Access this article

[Log in via an institution](#) →

[Buy article PDF 39,95 €](#)

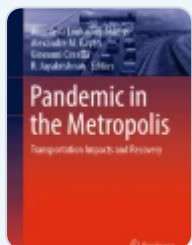
Price includes VAT (Poland)

Instant access to the full article PDF.

Rent this article via [DeepDyve](#) 

[Institutional subscriptions](#) →

### Similar content being viewed by others



**[Pandemic Transit: A National Look at the Shock, Adaptation, and Prospects for Recovery.](#)**

Chapter | © 2023



**[Pandemic transit: examining transit use changes and equity implications in Boston, Houston, and Los Angeles](#)**

Article | Open access

28 October 2022



**[Los Angeles: A Transit Metropolis in the Making?](#)**

Chapter | © 2013

# References

---

Andrle, S. J. (1977). "The organization and economics of jitney operations in San Juan, Puerto Rico", paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board, Washington, D.C.

Belcher, J. (1983). "Jitney bus firm probed for possible investment fraud", *Los Angeles Times*, April 3.

Belknap, R. A. (1973). "The San Francisco jitneys", unpublished manuscript, University of California, Berkeley, March.

[Google Scholar](#)

Blue Ribbon Panel (1983). "Making better use of private transportation resources", for the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, December.

Bonilla, C. R. (1981). "Jitneys: A complement to public transportation", Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee, August.

[Google Scholar](#)

Brooke, T. (1976). "An analysis of the urban jitney system in Chattanooga, Tennessee", (Tech. Rep. TC76-628). Knoxville, TN: Transportation Center, September.

[Google Scholar](#)

Daley, S. (1984). "More commuters using New York van services", *The New York Times*, September 24: B1, B5.

[Google Scholar](#)

Eckert, R. D. and Hilton, G. W. (1972). "The jitneys", *The Journal of Law and Economics*, 15(2): 293-325.

[Google Scholar](#)

Heramb, C., Sen, A. and Soot, S. (1979). "Jitney paratransit services: An appraisal of present and future operations", *Transportation Research Review* 724: 1-8.

[Google Scholar](#)

Kirby, R. F., Bhatt, K. U., Kemp, M. A., McGillivray, R. G. and Wohl, M. (1974). *Paratransit- Neglected options for urban mobility*", Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute.

[Google Scholar](#)

Stokes, R. W. (1973). "The jitney: A service whose time has come again", *ITE Journal*, May, 1973: 30-34.

Walder, J. (1984). "Private commuter vans in New York", In C. Lave (Editor), *Urban Transit: Public Failure and Private Renaissance*, Ballinger, in press.

## Author information

---

### Authors and Affiliations

**Department of Civil Engineering; Institute of Transportation Studies,  
University of California, Irvine, Calif., USA**

Roger F. Teal & Terry Nemer

### Rights and permissions

---

## About this article

---

### Cite this article

Teal, R.F., Nemer, T. Privatization of urban transit: The Los Angeles jitney experience. *Transportation* **13**, 5–22 (1986). <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00167735>

Issue Date

March 1986

DOI

<https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00167735>

### Keywords

[Travel Time](#)

[Economic Geography.](#)

[Frequent User](#)

[Economic Feasibility.](#)

[Public Transit](#)

## Search

Search by keyword or author



## Navigation

Find a journal

Publish with us

---

