



## **WP3 Workshop: Cost-benefit Analyses in transport: applications and developments**

**Date and Place:** April 9, 14.00-17.00 (Online)

**Organizer:** Linnaeus University

**Link to connect:** <https://lnu-se.zoom.us/j/65356808252>

**Scope:** Cost-benefit analyses (CBA) are used to assess economic efficiency, comparing costs and benefits in monetary terms. CBA are employed to assess environmental, social, regulatory, health, and transport-related costs. Within UBD, different frameworks have relevance. Social CBA focuses on social impacts and welfare changes, including equity and distributional aspects that can be based on both quantitative and qualitative analyses (such as multi-criteria decision analysis) to assess outcomes. Regulatory CBA is primarily used by government agencies to evaluate the costs and benefits of policies on consumers, businesses, and other stakeholders. Health-focused CBA assesses the health outcomes of interventions, often using measures like Quality-Adjusted Life Years (QALYs) or Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs). Transport CBA evaluates changes in transport infrastructure, considering parameters such as time savings, climate change, or air pollution. The workshop initiates discussions at the intersection of the various CBA methodologies. Transport CBA approaches currently seem to cover the greatest number of parameters, even though there are persistent uncertainties regarding unit costs (traffic fatalities and injuries; travel time value) as well as indirect outcomes of transport system change that remain insufficiently understood and incorporated. More far-reaching is the question of whether CBA is still a timely approach to evaluation, as there is limited evidence that it is used in comprehensive ways and that political decisions rarely consider “inconvenient” outcomes.

**Objectives:** The workshop seeks to discuss complexities, and to make recommendations for comprehensive, transdisciplinary CBA – or alternatives – that can guide policymakers. It also seeks to make suggestions for the standardization of approaches to increase comparability and streamline result integration into planning and decision-making at the city level.

## **Agenda:**

- **14.00 – 14:15** Workshop introduction, Stefan Gössling
- **14.15 – 15:15** Cost-benefit analyses developments in transport economics, Professor Dr. Stef Proost, KU Leuven, Belgium
- **15.15 – 15:50** CBA and health. General challenges and cycling as a case, Professor Dr. Bert van Wee, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands
- **15:50 – 16:00** Break
- **16.00 – 17:00** Critical perspectives on CBA: impacts and corrections. Todd Litman, Victoria Transport Policy Institute, Canada
- **17.00** End of the workshop

## **Speakers' profiles:**

Stef Proost is a full professor at the KU Leuven. He teaches environmental economics, energy economics, and transport economics to economists and engineers. He is a co-founder of the Energy Institute of the KU Leuven and co-founder of the spin-off Transport Mobility Leuven (TML).

Bert van Wee is a professor in Transport Policy at the Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands, Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management. His main interests are in long-term developments in transport, in particular in the areas of accessibility, land-use transport interaction, (evaluation of) large infrastructure projects, the environment, safety, policy analyses, and ethics.

Todd Litman is the founder and executive director of the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, an independent research organization dedicated to developing innovative solutions to transport problems. His work helps expand the range of impacts and options considered in transportation decision-making, improve evaluation methods, and make specialized technical concepts accessible to a larger audience. His research is used worldwide in transport planning and policy analysis.