

TEACHING MATERIAL GUIDANCE

1. Title of the material

The impact of the car restrictions implemented in the city centre on the public space quality

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352146517309158>

2. Which section of the SUMP it is relevant to?

The material presents the impact of selected actions regarding restrictions on car traffic on the change of transport behaviours of transport system users. The material is preceded by an analysis of the problem and the possibilities of solving it, which is in line with section 3 of the SUMP. The nature of the material is also appropriate for section 12, which describes the evaluation and conclusions of the actions taken.

3. Problem approached and content overview

Implementation of the car traffic and parking restrictions is one of the most controversial aspects of the urban transport policy. Such initiatives frequently meet with the opposition of the local groups of users. These changes affect not only the users of private cars, but also shopkeepers and restaurant owners, who are afraid to lose income. On the other hand, these solutions, typically introduced in the city centre, improve the flow of the public transport vehicles, enhancing its competitiveness, and increase the public space attractiveness. Nevertheless, the public awareness of the positive effects of the restrictions is low and it is important to show that their introduction brings benefits for the inhabitants and visitors and does not cause negative changes in the income of the owners of facilities.

This material presents the results of the first Polish studies assessing the results of the implementation of restrictions on traffic and parking of cars, introduced over the last decade in several locations in the city centre of Cracow. The information obtained and author's observations show that the transformation of car parks into city squares attracted new entrepreneurs who wanted to invest in these areas, and a greater number of facilities and the presence of other attractions resulted in an increase in the number of visitors to these areas, who stayed there longer. Based on the results of research on the changes in the size of income of the owners of the facilities, it can be concluded that the application of restrictions generally did not cause significant changes in the size of income or the changes in income are not identified with the restrictions. And even if the implementation of the restrictions did not produce a significant increase in the income of the owners, it generally did not cause negative impact on the revenue and this is what the owners are always most concerned about. This conclusion is confirmed by the data obtained from the Tax Office in Cracow. Moreover, in this case a few-percentage point



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increase in the income can be observed for the period of the highest people activity in the city centre.

What is extremely important is that a very high percentage of owners - 75% for all locations in total, would not want to restore the previous state. A very high degree of satisfaction with the quality of analysed areas (on average 83%) is also observed among the customers of the facilities located in these areas. They are primarily satisfied with the absence of cars in these areas, while enjoying the presence of structural landscaping and historic buildings, as well as a unique atmosphere of the place. Moreover, only a negligible share of respondents see problems in accessing these facilities. Currently, respondents get to these facilities mainly on foot or by public transport, visiting facilities less frequently than once a week, or occasionally, when carrying out other activities in this area of the city.

4. Who could be interested in this material?

Students who are looking for:

- information on the problem of managing parking policy in cities. Especially in central city areas,
- a case study for an area with traffic restrictions,
- research on the effectiveness of the introduced actions increasing the restrictions for users traveling by car
- social reactions related to the plans and implemented measures related to limiting the accessibility of the city center for cars.

5. What is worth mentioning as an innovative factor for the reader?

The material is not distinguished by innovative solutions. Its strength is the presentation of hard research results related to the implementation of restrictions on car traffic. The research is not limited only to examining changes in traffic intensity, but also related to changes in, for example, the revenues of some service premises, related to its limited availability.

6. Limitations

The material doesn't present the effects of activities in the form of an impact on the parking situation in the area adjacent to the area where restrictions were introduced. Further exploration should focus on the characteristics of changes in the way of traveling users who have not opted out of the car.

