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Implementing Transit Oriented development - TOD in Greater London

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Implementing TOD in Greater London

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Transit Oriented Development (TOD) is an effective strategy for achieving environmental and economic sustainability while reducing social exclusion. Accordingly, several cities and region around the world developed policies and programs along TOD principles. However, persistent governance, financial and knowledge barriers are hampering their application in practice. This paper aims to address these implementation problems in the London context.

The central research question centres on the identification of lessons for successfully developing and applying a TOD strategy in the London metropolitan region.

The underlying idea, supported by international literature is that foreign models cannot just be applied in a different context. Accordingly, this paper reports the main finding of a research, which combined insights from international experiences with 'action oriented' research involving local stakeholders.

The study simultaneously considers three levels of analysis:

- Level 1 (Content): What are the best TOD models to be applied in London (which ones, where and why?)
- Level 2 (Process): What are the best procedures and lines of action to adopt to successfully implement TOD in London (how and why?)
- Level 3 (Personal competencies): What are the essential abilities and skills planners should master to facilitate a large-scale process of TOD implementation in London with success (who, what skills and why?)

The study first reports a systematic, comparative analysis of the effectiveness and feasibility of measures to achieve TOD, primarily based on secondary sources and supplemented with primary fieldwork. Secondly, the conducted research explored in interaction with stakeholder's potential governance models for application in the London metropolitan region. In a number of interviews, stakeholders have been asked to assess the applicability in the UK of policy measures that have worked elsewhere, and reflect on the motivation and implication of their assessment.