Abstract

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Investigating Social, Cultural and Demographic Factors of Commuters’ Mode Choices in Kuwait City and Surrounding Urban Areas: Towards Developing a More Sustainable Transportation System.

This paper reports on the social, cultural, and demographic factors of Kuwaiti commuters. The objectives were to 1) understand Kuwaiti’s awareness of transportation problems and the impact associated with them, 2) examine Kuwaiti’s perceptions of daily traffic congestion and how it affects them emotionally and physically, and 3) study Kuwaiti’s attitude towards using public transit (currently buses). An online survey was used to examine these factors, and a sample of five hundred transportation system users was obtained. The primary findings showed significant associations between the use of the public bus and users’ nationality, gender, age, education and income level. Men are 2.6 times more likely to use buses, and non-Kuwaiti residents are 6.4 times more likely to use it. The results of this study fill a gap in the knowledge of socioeconomic and cultural factors that may influence the success of potential sustainable solutions to the transportation challenges in Kuwait. It is recommended that officials use this new knowledge on cultural factors to develop integrated land use and transportation plans of the urban areas in Kuwait and to develop more effective and sustainable transportation demand management.