



## Mobility in Urban Economics

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The term mobility has different meanings in various scientific disciplines. In economics, mobility is the ability of an individual or a group to improve their economic status in relation to income and wealth within their lifetime or between generations. However, a definition restricted to socio-economic mobility or labour mobility is rather too short-sighted to describe all aspects of mobility in economics, because mobility can of course also be used in relation to capital mobility or factor mobility. For example, the free movement of goods, services, capital and persons within the European Union (the so-called “four freedoms”) is another important issue of mobility in economics. Capital mobility and tax competition are pressing matters for tax authorities as well as politicians in modern economies, especially under conditions where there are a huge number of supporters and adversaries of tax competition in economic literature.

Urban economics refers to the economic analysis of cities, and touches on a broad range of topics, such as housing, transportation, land use, the cost and benefit of cities and urbanization, or the provision of local public goods like education, health or safety.

The diversity of mobility aspects in the field of urban economics is highlighted by the first contribution, entitled “Sustainable Parcel Delivery in Urban Areas with Micro Depots“ by Klaus Stodick and Carsten Deckert. This article discusses the fact that the German CEP industry (courier, express and parcel) plays a major role in supplying cities with necessary goods. However, it also has negative impacts on the quality of living in urban areas such as exhaust and greenhouse gas emissions and blocked roads. To dampen these negative effects, the CEP service provider UPS (United Parcel Service) uses micro depots as a more sustainable alternative for parcel delivery. A micro depot is an interim storage in the city and divides the last mile of transport into a second-last mile (from the depot of the CEP service provider to the micro depot) and a very last mile (from the micro depot to the final recipients). It combines the bundling of transports (full truckload delivery to micro depot) with the use of environment-friendly means of transport (electric cargo bikes on the very last mile) to simultaneously relieve urban infrastructure and reduce emissions. The

con-cept has already been realized by UPS to deliver parcels amongst others in the inner cities of Hamburg and Munich.

The second contribution, by Jan Werner, entitled "Options to support urban infrastructure delivery in Pakistan - a survey for the province of Punjab", focuses on the fact that one of the richest part of Pakistan is the province of Punjab and in 2018 the minister of local bodies, Mr. Abdul Aleem Khan has announced that government of Punjab is going to introduce new local bodies system. Local body system of Punjab consists of 182 municipal committees, 10 metropolitans and 35 district councils and it is based on the Local Bodies' Act of 2001 and 2013. This paper provides an general overview of the different options of local public finance around the world as well review the draft Punjab local government act 2019 from February 2019.

These two contributions discuss important and very different aspects of mobility within urban economics.

### References

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