

BUS RAPID TRANSIT AT ISOLATED VEHICLE ACTUATED JUNCTION
USING RECALL AND GREEN EXTENSION BUS PRIORITY STRATEGY

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DEDICATION

Specially dedicated to my parents, Hamzani bin Zainudin and Fauziah binti Elias,
who have supported me throughout my master's journey.

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ABSTRACT

The mode split of public transportation usage in Johor Bahru has been disappointingly low. This research highlights the concept of public transport implementation to reduce the number of private vehicles on the road in Jalan Bukit Impian, Johor Bahru. Therefore, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) had been suggested as the alternative to improve public transportation as public transportation is well-known to have high quality of service. The objectives of this study were to determine performance of BRT as well as the financial benefit of different BRT scenarios. Three different BRT scenarios with varying modal split created where scenario 2,3 and 4 consists of 16:84, 38:62 and 46:54 ratio of public transportation to private transportation. The research implements the use of exclusive bus lane and bus priority strategy by recall and green extension method. Average delay time and average travel time was used to assess the performance of the network and the total delay cost is used to assess the financial benefits of BRT implementation. The results. The results were compared between the base case and the BRT scenarios. It was discovered that the implementation of BRT in the study area has no benefits in terms of average delay and travel time. However, in terms of total delay costs, Scenario 4 with 46% public transportation and 54% private transportation has the lowest total delay cost, which is up to 20.43% of savings. It can be concluded that, the objectives of the research in determining the performance and financial benefits of implementing BRT had been fulfilled.

ABSTRAK

Mod pecahan penggunaan pengangkutan awam di Johor Bahru adalah sangat rendah. Kajian ini menyetengahkan konsep pelaksanaan pengangkutan awam untuk mengurangkan bilangan kenderaan persendirian di jalan raya di Jalan Bukit Impian, Johor Bahru. Oleh itu, Transit Aliran Bas (BRT) telah dicadangkan sebagai alternatif untuk memperbaiki penggunaan pengangkutan awam kerana ia merupakan pengangkutan awam terkenal dengan kualiti perkhidmatannya yang tinggi. Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk menentukan prestasi BRT serta faedah kewangan yang diperolehi dengan pelaksanaan BRT. Tiga BRT berbeza senario dengan pelbagai mod pecahan yang diwujudkan di mana senario 2,3 dan 4 terdiri daripada nisbah 16:84, 38:62 dan 46:54 pengangkutan awam dengan kenderaan persendirian. Penyelidikan ini melaksanakan penggunaan lorong bas eksklusif dan strategi keutamaan bas seperti panggilan semula dan kaedah sambungan hijau. Purata kelewatan masa perjalanan dan purata masa perjalanan telah digunakan untuk menilai prestasi rangkaian dan jumlah kos kelewatan digunakan untuk mentaksir manfaat kewangan pelaksanaan BRT. Hasil perbandingan keputusan antara model keadaan semasa dan senario BRT telah mendapati bahawa pelaksanaan BRT di kawasan kajian tidak mempunyai manfaat segi purata kelewatan dan masa perjalanan. Walau bagaimanapun, dari segi kos jumlah kelewatan, senario 4 yang terdiri daripada 46% pengangkutan awam dan 54% kenderaan persendirian mempunyai kos jumlah kelewatan keseluruhan paling rendah dengan pengurangan kos sehingga 20.43%. Maka dapat disimpulkan bahawa objektif kajian dalam menentukan prestasi dan manfaat kewangan untuk melaksanakan BRT sudah dipenuhi.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	TITLE	PAGE
	DECLARATION	iii
	DEDICATION	v
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vi
	ABSTRACT	vii
	ABSTRAK	viii
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	ix
	LIST OF TABLES	xvii
	LIST OF FIGURES	xx
	LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xxiii
	LIST OF APPENDIX	xxiv
CHAPTER 1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	General	1
1.2	Problem statement	2
1.3	Research questions	3
1.4	Aims and Objectives	3
1.5	Scope of Work	4
1.6	Importance of study	5
1.7	Limitations of study	5
1.8	Report Outline	5
CHAPTER 2	LITERATURE REVIEW	7
2.1	Introduction	7

2.2	Transportation in Johor Bahru	7
2.3	Public Transport System Characteristics	9
2.4	What is BRT?	10
2.5	Characteristics of Bus Rapid Transit	11
	2.5.1 Dedicated running ways	12
	2.5.2 Stations	12
	2.5.3 Vehicles	13
	2.5.4 Off-vehicle fare collection	14
	2.5.5 Frequent all-day service	14
	2.5.6 ITS Applications	14
2.6	Bus Priority at Intersection	15
	2.6.1 Passive priority	15
	2.6.2 Active priority	15
2.7	Bus Priority Methods	15
	2.7.1 Extension and Recall Methods	16
	2.7.2 Stage Re-ordering	16
	2.7.3 Stage skipping	16
2.8	Traffic Control Strategies	17
	2.8.1 Pretimed control (fixed time)	17
	2.8.2 Vehicle Actuated	17
	2.8.2.1 Fully-actuated control	18

	2.8.2.2	Semi-actuated control	19
2.9		Detectors	19
	2.9.1	Inductive loop detectors	19
	2.9.2	Magnetic detector	20
2.10		Microsimulation Software	20
	2.10.1	PTV VISSIM	21
	2.10.2	PARAMICS (Parallel Microscopic Simulation)	21
	2.10.3	CORSIM (Corridor Simulation)	22
	2.10.4	VisVAP	24
2.11		Measure of effectiveness	25
	2.11.1	Delays	25
	2.11.2	Economic Assessment	26
	2.11.3	Total Delay Cost- Relative Value of Time	28
2.12		Case studies	29
	2.12.1	Australasian	29
	2.12.2	Guangzhou, China	30
	2.12.3	Bogota, Colombia	30
2.13		Summary	31
CHAPTER 3		METHODOLOGY	33
3.1		Introduction	33
3.2		Site Selection	34

3.3	Data collection on-field	36
3.3.1	Traffic Volume Data	36
3.3.1.1	Total Traffic Volume	36
3.3.1.2	Intersection Peak Hour Volume	37
3.3.1.3	Peak Hour by Approach	37
3.3.2	Vehicle Composition	37
3.3.3	Speed	37
3.4	Data Preparation	38
3.4.1	Traffic Volume	38
3.4.2	Desired Speed Distribution	38
3.4.3	Vehicle Composition	39
3.4.4	Signal Phasing Data	39
3.4.5	VisVAP coding	40
3.4.6	Vehicle Following Characteristics	41
3.4.7	Lane change behaviour	41
3.4.8	Simulation runs	42
3.5	Base case model development	42
3.5.1	Model Error Checking	43
3.5.2	Calibration and Validation	43
3.5.2.1	Traffic Flow	45
3.5.2.2	Speed	46

3.6	Alternative Scenarios	46
3.6.1	BRT Layout	46
3.6.2	Road user modal split and vehicle composition	47
3.6.2.1	Scenario 2	47
3.6.2.2	Scenario 3	47
3.6.2.3	Scenario 4	48
3.6.3	Traffic Signal Data	48
3.6.4	VisVAP coding	49
3.7	Evaluation	49
3.7.1	Vehicle Delay	49
3.7.2	Average Travel Time	50
3.7.3	Level of Service (LOS)	50
3.7.4	Economic Evaluation	51
3.7.5	Relative Value of Time	51
3.8	Summary	52
CHAPTER 4	RESULT AND DISCUSSION	53
4.1	Introduction	53
4.2	Site Selection	53
4.3	Data Collected on-Field	55
4.3.1	Traffic Volume Data	55
4.3.1.1	Total Traffic Volume	55

4.3.1.2	Intersection Peak Hour Volume	56
4.3.1.3	Peak Hour by Approach	57
4.3.2	Vehicle composition	61
4.3.3	Speed	61
4.4	Initial Modelling: Base Case Model	62
4.4.1	Traffic Volume for VISSIM Input	62
4.4.2	Vehicle Composition	64
4.4.3	Desired Speed Distribution	65
4.4.4	Traffic Signal Data	67
4.4.5	VisVAP flow chart	68
4.4.6	Vehicle Following Characteristics	69
4.4.7	Lane change behaviour	70
4.4.8	Simulation Runs	71
4.5	Base case model development	71
4.5.1	Acceleration Pattern	71
4.5.2	Calibration and Validation	73
4.5.2.1	Traffic Flow	73
4.5.2.2	Speed	74
4.6	Alternative Scenario	75
4.6.1	BRT Layout	75
4.6.2	Road user mode split and vehicle composition	76

	4.6.2.1	Scenario 2	76
	4.6.2.2	Scenario 3	77
	4.6.2.2	Scenario 4	79
	4.6.3	Traffic Signal Data	80
	4.6.4	VisVAP coding	81
4.7		Results	82
	4.7.1	Vehicle Delay	82
	4.6.2	Vehicles affected by delay	85
	4.6.3	Average Travel Time	86
	4.6.4	Level of Service (LOS)	89
	4.5.5	Economic Evaluation	92
	4.5.6	Total Delay Cost- Relative Value of Time	92
4.6		Summary	93
CHAPTER 5		CONCLUSION	95
	5.1	Introduction	95
	5.2	Significant Findings	95
	5.2.1	Objective 1: To determine the effects of BRT on vehicle delay and travel time	95
	5.2.2	Objective 2: To evaluate the economic effect of implementing BRT	96
	5.3	Recommendation for future study	97

REFERENCES		99
APPENDIX		105
Appendix A	Traffic Flow	105
Appendix B	Base case VisVAP flow chart and coding	117
Appendix C	Base case data collection	121
Appendix D	Traffic Flow of BRT scenarios	135
Appendix E	Vehicle volume and traffic composition of BRT scenarios	141
Appendix F	BRT scenarios VisVAP flow chart and coding	147
Appendix G	Delay results	155
Appendix H	Travel time results	161
Appendix I	Level of service (LOS) results	167

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
Table 2.1	Desired condition for urban transit development	9
Table 2.2	Urban Running Ways	12
Table 2.3	Summary of Microscopic Program features	22
Table 2.4	Relative value of time for various modes	28
Table 3.1	Validation Threshold of traffic flow	45
Table 3.2	Speed validation threshold	46
Table 3.3	Level of Service (LOS) criteria	50
Table 3.4	The value of time and price cost per litre fuel	51
Table 3.5	Relative values of time for various mode	51
Table 4.1	Total volume of vehicle per day and total volume per week	55
Table 4.2	Summary of peak hour for morning and evening of intersection	56
Table 4.3	Peak hour volume of the intersection	57
Table 4.4	Summary of morning and evening peak for each approach	58
Table 4.5	Highest flow in morning and evening in each approach junction	59
Table 4.6	Total volume during peak hour	60
Table 4.7	Total vehicle composition	61
Table 4.8	Speed characteristics of vehicle classes during peak hour	62
Table 4.9	Volume by time interval used for VISSIM simulation	63

Table 4.10	Total vehicle composition on each approach and turning movement	64
Table 4.11	Signal stage data	68
Table 4.12	Intersection interstage details	68
Table 4.13	Parameters of driving behaviour	70
Table 4.14	Wiedemann 99 parameters	70
Table 4.15	Lane changing behaviour	70
Table 4.16	Default and modified simulation parameters	71
Table 4.17	Result of volume validation	74
Table 4.18	Result of speed validation	74
Table 4.19	Road user mode split	76
Table 4.20	Volume of private and public vehicles in scenario 2	77
Table 4.21	Vehicle composition for scenario 2	77
Table 4.22	Volume of private and public vehicles in scenario 3	78
Table 4.23	Vehicle composition for scenario 3	78
Table 4.24	Volume of private and public vehicles in scenario 4	79
Table 4.25	Vehicle Composition for each scenario 4	79
Table 4.26	Signal stage data	81
Table 4.27	Intersection interstage details	81
Table 4.28	Average vehicle delay	84
Table 4.29	Vehicles affected by delay	85

Table 4.30	Average Travel Time	88
Table 4.31	Savings with comparison of base case with BRT scenarios	94

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
Figure 1.1	Proposed BRT corridors in in Johor Bahru	4
Figure 2.1	Transportation mode split in Johor Bahru in 2015	8
Figure 2.2	Vehicle composition in Johor Bahru	8
Figure 2.3	(a) Stations in Bogota, Colombia (b) Stations at Curitiba, Brazil	13
Figure 2.4	BRT vehicle in Jakarta	13
Figure 2.5	Inductive loop detector	20
Figure 2.6	VisVAP flowchart	25
Figure 3.1	Flow chart of study sequence	34
Figure 3.2	Study area	35
Figure 3.3	Layout of automatic traffic counter	36
Figure 3.4	Run number and the corresponding seed value	42
Figure 3.5	Model validation and calibration process	44
Figure 4.1	T-junction at Taman Impian Emas	53
Figure 4.2	Layout and movement at the intersection	54
Figure 4.3	Total traffic volume per day	56
Figure 4.4	Peak hour volume of intersection	57
Figure 4.5	(a) Peak hour traffic from the North approach (b) Peak hour traffic from the South-West approach (c) Peak hour traffic from the North-East approach	60

Figure 4.6	Desired speed distribution for class 1	65
Figure 4.7	Desired speed distribution for class 2	65
Figure 4.8	Desired speed distribution for class 3	65
Figure 4.9	Desired speed distribution for class 5	65
Figure 4.10	Desired speed distribution for class 6	66
Figure 4.11	Desired speed distribution for class 7	66
Figure 4.12	Desired speed distribution for class 8	66
Figure 4.13	Desired speed distribution for class 9	66
Figure 4.14	Desired speed distribution for class 10	66
Figure 4.15	Desired speed distribution for class 11	66
Figure 4.16	Desired speed distribution for class 12	67
Figure 4.17	Desired speed distribution for class 13	67
Figure 4.18	Intersection stage diagram	68
Figure 4.19	Acceleration pattern for North-East approach	72
Figure 4.20	Acceleration pattern for North approach	72
Figure 4.21	Acceleration approach for South-West approach	73
Figure 4.22	Layout of intersection with BRT lanes	75
Figure 4.23	Dimension of BRT lanes	75
Figure 4.24	Intersection stage diagram	80
Figure 4.25	Comparison of delays in different scenarios by approach	84
Figure 4.26	Average delay time per vehicle in each scenario	85

Figure 4.27	Vehicles affected by delay	86
Figure 4.28	Average Travel Time	88
Figure 4.29	Average travel time per vehicle in each scenario	89
Figure 4.30	Level of service (LOS) of base case	90
Figure 4.31	Level of service (LOS) of scenario 2	90
Figure 4.32	Level of service (LOS) of scenario 3	91
Figure 4.33	Level of service (LOS) of scenario 4	91
Figure 4.34	Total delay cost	92
Figure 4.35	Total delay cost with relative value of time	93

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ATC- Automatic Traffic Counter

BRT – Bus Rapid Transit

LOS-Level of Service

RM-Ringgit Malaysia

RSMPE-Root Mean Squared Percent Error

MOE- Measure of Effectiveness

LIST OF APPENDIX

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
Appendix A	Traffic Flow	105
Appendix B	Base case VisVAP flow chart and coding	117
Appendix C	Base case data collection	121
Appendix D	Traffic Flow of BRT scenarios	135
Appendix E	Vehicle volume and traffic composition of BRT scenarios	141
Appendix F	BRT scenarios VisVAP flow chart and coding	147
Appendix G	Delay results	155
Appendix H	Travel time results	161
Appendix I	Level of service (LOS) results	167

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This chapter presents the importance of transportation and transport problem faced by developing cities. This chapter also describe the research questions to be answered at the end of the study, aims and objectives, scope of work involved in this study and the thesis outline.

Land transportation such as buses is the main mode of transportation in Malaysia. The use of public transportation such as buses are reducing and resulting in the rising use of private transportation. Due to the increasing dependency on private transport, it resulted to the rising in congestion levels. Road users need to confront the peak hour traffic, road accidents, air pollution and driving stress which results in the increasing numbers of social, economic and environmental problems.

According to Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (2017), the number of registered vehicles in Malaysia has increased from 8 million in 1997 to more than 27 million in 2016, representing an increase of more than 300% in 19 years while the population only has an increase of 146% in the last 19 years. High car ownerships have been a trend in urban agglomerations in Malaysia and only a small percentage of urban travel by public transportation. It has been a common scene during the recent years where middle to high income households to own more than one car (Minhans & Moghaddasi, 2013). In 2011, car ownership in Johor is expected to grow from 500 cars per 1000 population to more than 800 by 2025 (Iskandar Regional Development

Authority, 2011). Increase in car ownership will lead to increasing number of vehicles on the road.

According to Kamba et al. (2007), public transportation in Malaysia requires more travel time, does not cover most of the desirable routes and also has infrequent services. Besides that, high traffic congestion and delay experienced by public transportation also makes public transportation undesirable. Less satisfying quality of public transportation will lead to more road users shifting to private transportation and will result to higher level of road congestion. This will affect the productivity and quality of life of road users as they would need to spend more time on the road for to reach their destination. In order to decrease the use of private transportation, improvements need to be done to public transportation. To promote modal shift of private vehicle users to public transportation, car users prefers improvements in punctuality, more accessible routes and low fares.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is constructed to provide improved level of service for bus transportation modes. Bus rapid transits aim to reach railroad level of service but at a much lower development cost and greater operating flexibility as compared with rail transit. Bus Rapid Transit is not only beneficial to the current users of bus transport and users who shift to use bus transport mode but also to private transportation users as they will experience less congestion due to less number of vehicles on the road (Papageorgiou & Ioannou, 2009).

1.2 Problem statement

Johor Bahru is considered the second largest urban city in Malaysia after Kuala Lumpur. Due to the increasing development of the city, similar to many developing Asian cities, they are faced with the challenge of providing efficient urban public bus transportation. Intracity public transportation available in Johor Bahru is limited to buses and buses are always considered to be unreliable by passengers. Buses punctuality are usually depending on the traffic condition where these types of

conditions are not always predictable. Uncoordinated and unorganized movement of buses also makes it difficult for road users as they need to change buses to reach their final destination. These are the few reasons why buses are unattractive to passengers.

In order to promote improvements in public transport in Johor Bahru area, one of the alternatives is to implement BRT as BRT has higher quality of service compared to the common buses. Comprehensive planning and decision making to provide better transportation service to avoid congestion in urban and main residential areas in the state due to increasing in dependency to private vehicles and overall increase in the number of vehicles in the future.

The residents in urban areas needs a reliable transportation facility to commute daily which is the responsibility of the public authorities to accommodate the public needs (Gautam et al., 2013). In order to test the reliability of the BRT, the analysis of delay and travel time of proposed BRT system will be conducted in this study based on microsimulation modelling.

1.3 Research questions

Considering the problem statements as mentioned in the previous section, the following questions can be answered:

- 1) Is there improvement on the delay and travel time by the implementation of BRT?
- 2) What is the monetary value and financial benefits gained from implementation of BRT?

1.4 Aims and Objectives

The aim of this study is to investigate performance of BRT as well as the financial benefit of different BRT scenarios. The specific objectives of the study were as follows:

- (1) To determine the effects of BRT on the vehicle delay and travel time
- (2) To evaluate the economic effect of implementing BRT

1.5 Scope of Work

An intersection in one of the proposed BRT corridors as shown in Figure 1.1 is chosen based on the characteristic of intersections such as presence of traffic signal. The study is conducted to evaluate the performance of BRT with dedicated lane and traffic priority at isolated signalized intersection as well as evaluating the financial benefits in order to see if implementation of BRT is reasonable. Microsimulation models of base case (current condition without BRT) and different scenarios (with BRT) of varying mode split between public transportation (BRT) and private vehicles are evaluated to show the expected performance of road users shift to public transportation mode. Current condition data such as volume and speed data as well as signal phasing timing will be collected to model the current condition of the intersection and the data is also vital model calibration and validation. The microsimulation model were modelled using PTV VISSIM software.

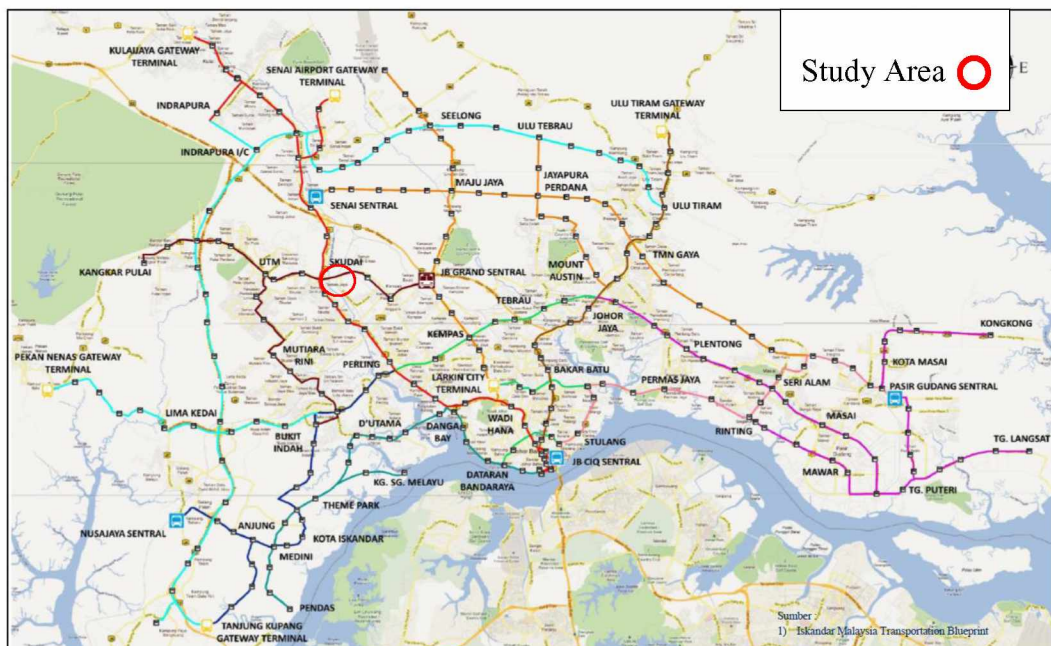


Figure 1.1 Proposed BRT corridors in in Johor Bahru (Perbadanan Pengangkutan Awam Johor, 2016a)

1.6 Importance of study

Providing better public transportation will lead to better access to amenities such as health, education and social services. Better public transportation service will encourage road users to use public transportation on a daily basis hence reducing the number of private vehicles on the road. Less private vehicles on the road will also promote better environmental quality and also reduce fuel consumption.

1.7 Limitations of study

The study only utilizes the use of two validation parameters such as traffic flow and speed. According to Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) (2014), traffic flow and speed is the minimum requirement of validation parameters. It is suggested that more calibration parameters such as the intersection delay and travel time are collected.

This study also does not consider the traffic growth factor in Johor Bahru. The changes in modal split were implemented in the base case model.

1.8 Report Outline

This report contains five chapters focusing on the modelling and analysis of BRT systems.

Chapter 1 presents the background of the study, aim and objectives to be achieved by highlighting the problem statement and the importance of the study on BRT systems implemented.

Chapter 2 discussed the literature review of BRT systems and the characteristics of BRT systems implemented in the study as well as case studies of

BRT systems in similar countries. Other than that, the important inputs for the modelling of the BRT system were also discussed in this chapter

Chapter 3 describes the methodology and the procedures used to conduct the data collection and the development of the BRT system in the VISSIM software. The equipment used for data collection is described in detail in this chapter.

Chapter 4 highlights the results and data generated by the software. The results were analysed and the outcomes and financial benefits were discussed

Chapter 5 summarizes the report by providing the conclusion and the possible recommendations for future studies. This chapter emphasizes the main outcomes of the study and provides helpful recommendations to be improved from the current study to help with future studies.

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