July 13, 2018

To the journal of Sustainability

Dear Editor:

I wish to submit an original article for publication in Sustainability, titled “Relationships between individual characteristics and real walking durations from departures to transit stations”. All the coauthors have agreed with the contents of this manuscript, and have permitted to publish this article.

This study aims to examine the prevalence of walking durations with respect to different individual characteristics. Since walking duration is the reflection of the distance between departure and transit station, it is directly determined by the location of departure but not the individual characteristics. It seems that predicting walking duration is notoriously hard and that is not linearly related to explanatory variables. This study changed the perspective to reexamine this issue, treating the behavior that walking to rail transit as a travel choice result. For a given walking duration, people with different individual characteristics are supposed to have different willingness in deciding whether to use rail transit. Based on this supposition, this study converted this issue into a binary classification problem to conduct the analysis, of which the classification is the travel choice, the features are the corresponding individual characteristics of passengers. This study makes a significant contribution to the literature, because it established the quantitative correlation between walking duration and individual characteristics, also provided a general perspective for estimating the factor influencing walking duration. The findings are expected can be used in estimating or planning the catchment area of public rail transit, which is also considered as the foundation for predicting transit ridership

Further, we believe that this paper will be of interest to the readership of your journal because the main goal of this study is to understand the prevalence of walking duration to transit stations, thus providing references for attracting people from other travel modes to public transit. This study is expected to be a support of the measures to promote the sustainability of urban development.

This manuscript has not been published or presented elsewhere in part or in entirety and is not under consideration by another journal. All study participants provided informed consent, and the study design was approved by the appropriate ethics review board. We have read and understood your journal’s policies, and we believe that neither the manuscript nor the study violates any of these. There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

Sincerely,

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