Dear Editor:

I would like to submit the manuscript entitled “Measuring the Impacts of Disruptions on Public Transit Accessibility and Reliability” by Luyu Liu, Adam Porr, and Harvey J. Miller for consideration as a research article for publication in the Transportation Journal. In this paper, we measure the impacts of the Ohio State football games and the COVID-19 pandemic on public transit system’s accessibility and reliability; we conduct the two case studies of short- and long-term disruptions on the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) bus system in Columbus, Ohio. We calculate *realizable real-time accessibility*, a conservative real-time accessibility measure that can be achieved by users subject to delays, and *scheduled accessibility*, accessibility based on schedule. We also calculate *accessibility unreliability*, the deviation between realizable accessibility and scheduled accessibility, to measure the reliability of delivered accessibility. We find there are two peaks of high unreliability before and after each football games, with the stadium as the geographic center of the disruption. The after-game peaks are shorter and more intense than the before-game. We also find COVID-19 had persistent negative impacts on accessibility and reliability: Realizable accessibility universally declined during the pandemic, but only part of cities experienced unreliability increase, primarily in urban perimeters and suburbs. Improved traffic conditions during the pandemic may help to reduce unreliability, but the later service cuts increased unreliability. The two case studies prove the effectiveness of the method to detect system disturbances and provide important guidance for public transit system operation and planning.

As the corresponding author, I confirm that the manuscript has been read and approved for submission by all the named authors. We hope you find our manuscript suitable for publication and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Sincerely,

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