

Measuring Transit Accessibility Potential: A Corridor Case Study

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ABSTRACT: Buses are the most widely used and essential component of a public transit system and the selection of a bus route are very important as it affects the overall performance of the system and its efficiency. Moreover the bus routes and bus stop locations are very important criteria for selection of this mode of transport by commuters. Bus stops attain their importance to the transit service as they are the main points of contact between the passenger and the bus. Considering spatial attributes, both the location and the spacing of bus routes and bus stops significantly affect transit service performance and passenger satisfaction, as they influence travel time in addition to their role in ensuring reasonable accessibility. Knowing that every transit trip begins and ends with pedestrian travel, access to a bus stop is considered a critical factor for assessing the accessibility of the stop location. In this paper, on the basis of the actual population surrounding the stop, the potential of a particular bus route / corridor is estimated for a particular corridor so as to assess a bus route / corridor on a more spatial basis. This potential measures the efficiency of a bus route / corridor through the surrounding road network, which can be used to compare the performance / efficiency of two or more routes / corridors in a system and also o ways to improve the performance of a particular route by increasing number of bus stops or changing their locations.

I. INTRODUCTION

Public transportation is a key component of a sustainable transportation system that improves mobility without placing economic and environmental burden of increased auto ownership on the travelling population. Due to lack of public transport facilities, significant growth in personalized vehicle population and considerable reduction in city bus transportation is observed.

Most of the metropolitan cities lack proper accessibility to public transport. Transport and land use planning have a significant role in promoting accessibility, and at the same time accessibility is becoming increasingly important in making sound and sustainable land use and transport decisions. Therefore, it is important to develop models that are able to measure accessibility to public transport networks.

II. ACCESSIBILITY CONCEPT

Accessibility is a commonly used concept in transport planning, urban planning and in geography. Accessibility is often defined as the ease of travel between two locations. The Oxford Advanced learner's Dictionary (2000) defines 'accessible' as "that can be reached, entered, used, seen, etc." Accessibility can be defined as the effort or ease with which activities can be reached using the available transportation system. Accessibility has been regarded a property of places showing how easily they can be accessed from other places, as well as a property of people indicating how easily they can reach a set of potential destinations.

2.1 ACCESSIBILITY MEASURES: CERTAIN APPROACHES

Baradaran & Ramjerdi (2001) classified the approaches for measuring accessibility into:

Travel cost approach which reflects the "spatial separation" characteristics of a transportation network, i.e., distance, time, generalized cost, etc.

Constraints based approach which reflects the number of activities (or opportunities) that can be reached from an origin point within a certain time limit.

Gravity approach derived from the gravity model formula, which reflects both the attractiveness of zones and the quality of the transportation system that connects them.

Utility based approach developed on basis of disaggregate / behavioral approach originally proposed by Ben Akiva and Lerman (1978) and therefore they reflect, in addition to the characteristics of the transportation system, the utility that different alternatives of services or facilities have to the users;

Composite approach developed by combining the space time and utility based models and it assumes uniform travel speed;

2.2 TRANSIT ACCESSIBILITY

Many factors contribute to transit accessibility, including reasonable proximity from the origin and the destination to the service, safe, pleasant and comfortable walking pathways to transit facilities, and acceptable parking facilities for cars or bicycles, etc. In public transit planning, access to the service and accessibility

provided by the service are two very important issues (Murray et al 1998). Access is the ease with which people can reach the transit stop. Accessibility is the suitability of the transit system in helping people get to their destinations in a reasonable amount of time as shown in Fig 1.

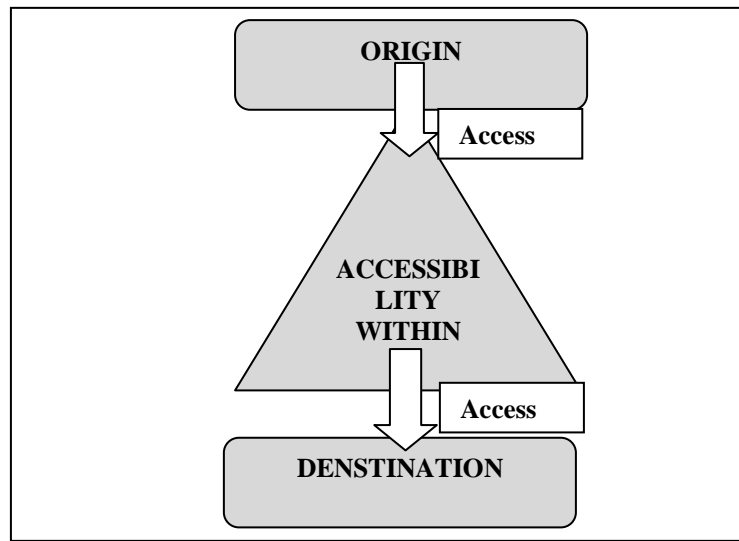


Fig 1 Public Transport System Access

(Source: Murray et al 1998)

Of the many factors, walking distance to transit facilities is recognized as an important determinant of transit use. A quarter mile approximately 400 m. is the commonly accepted distance for people willing to walk to use transit (Demetsky and Lin 1982) Cerero (1994) found that proximity to a rail station was a much stronger determinant of transit use than land use mix or quality of the walking environment. Levinson and Brown West (1984) indicated in their study that transit use sharply drop after the first 0.06 mile, and diminish beyond 0.36 mile. Zhao, Li, and Chow (2002) found that transit use deteriorates exponentially with walking distance to transit stops. A decay function was developed to reflect the deteriorating trend in transit use with respect to walk distance. So, increasing suitable access to transit systems is seen as a means of attracting more people to the transit system.

2.3 MEASURING TRANSIT ACCESS

GIS can be thought of as a system, digitally creates and "manipulates" spatial areas that may be jurisdictional, purpose or application oriented for which a specific GIS is developed. For measurement of accessibility GIS is very important tool. Traditionally, transit access is measured using the GIS buffer technique. In this method access is defined as a walking distance to a public transit stop, and then all the areas within the threshold distance of all stops are identified. People living in the areas identified as within the threshold distance are said to have suitable access. Generally the specified distance is quarter mile from bus stops. There are problems with this method. One is that it assumes Euclidean walking distance to a transit stop. When in reality the pathways are always longer, and must follow the actual street network. Another issue is that information on the exact residence or location of individuals is not available. The most precise geographic information which exists is census data reported at some aggregate scale.

III. STUDY CORRIDOR

3.1 Location and Linkages

Dumas road is one of the major roadway corridor for the city of Surat. It is located on the western part of the city. It starts from Athwa gate junction at the inner ring road and ends at the coastal villages of Dumas and Bhimpore. The population density is very high at the eastern part of the corridor where, important government establishment like Government Multi story Office Complex, Police Bhavan, Session and District Courts generate a very high volume of traffic. Moreover educational and commercial campuses, hospitals and commercial establishments also add to the heavy traffic flow.

A number of important traffic routes are linked with this corridor like inner ring road at Athwa junction; Ghod Dod road at Parle Point junction; City light road at Jani Farsan junction; Piplod / University Road at Kargil Chowk; Vesu Road near Big Bazar, Udhana Magdalla Road at Y junction and the 90 mts. outer ring road i.e. Sachin Magdalla National Highway. These major roads are very important linkages and increase the importance of Athwa Dumas Corridor.

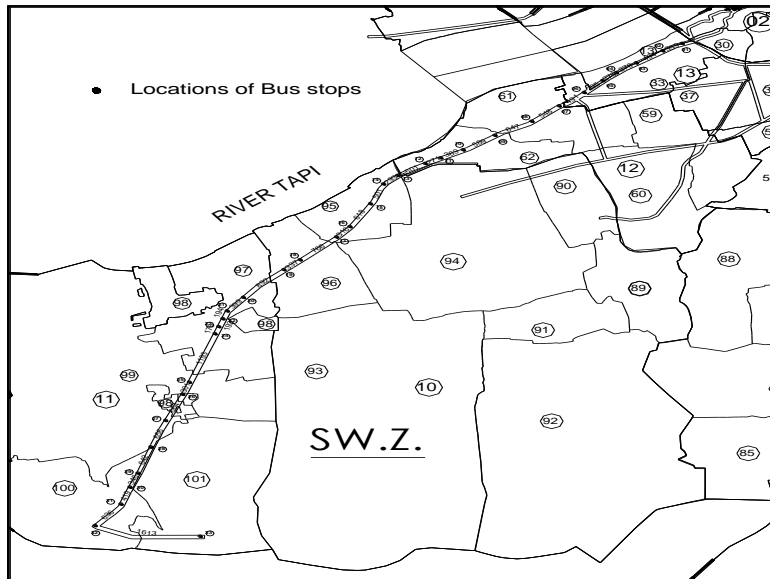


Fig 2 Athwa Dumas Corridor and Location of Bus Stops

3.2 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

This corridor of length 16.47 km is located the South West (Athwa) administrative zone of Surat City and in doing so it passes through nine different census ward out of which three wards are in the old city limits and six census wards fall within the areas newly annexed into municipal limits after 2006. The population and density of these words are shown in Table 1 and 2. At present there are 33 designated bus stops along the route.

Table 1 Census Wards of Old City Areas Through which Athwa Dumas Road passes

Ward Nos.	33 (TP 5 Athwa – Umra)	61 (Umra)	62 (Piplod)
Population	30,585	54,046	17,588
Density	17,991	11,852	9,160

Table 2 Census Wards of New City Areas Through which Athwa Dumas Road passes

Ward Nos.	95 (Rundh)	96 (Magdalla)	97 (Gavier)	99 (Dumas)	100 (Sultanabad)	101 (Bhimpor)
Populations	4355	6104	2585	7225	3659	7861
Density	1192	2655	637	351	814	1230

IV. POTENTIAL OF CORRIDOR.

4.1 Public Transit Accessibility Index (PTAI)

It is required to bring the walking distance in certain modules for relative comparison so that one can consider the level of service status. In view of this Accessibility Index value with reference to walking distance accessibility may be defined as the increase of walking distance (in Kilometers).

TABLE 3 PUBLIC TRANSIT ACCESSIBILITY INDEX

Walking Distance (Meters)	< 250	350 *	450	550	> 950
PTAI (WD)	4	2.85	2.2	1.81	1.05

$$* \left[\frac{1 \times 1000}{350} \right] = 2.85$$

Here the PTAI (WD) value of 250, 350, 450, and 950 are converted into index values of 4, 2.85, 2.22, 1.81 and 1.05. Higher the index value better is the transit accessibility.

4.2 Potential of a Bus Stop

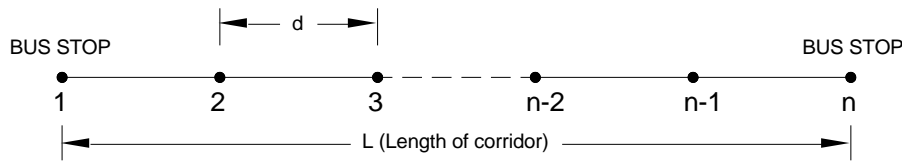


FIGURE 3 SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM OF BUS ROUTE

Number of Bus Stop = i (1 to n)
 Population of Zone = P_i Persons
 Area of Zone = Z_i Square kilometer
 Density of Zone D_i = P_i / Z_i Person per square kilometer

Public Transit Accessibility Index for a Walking Distance w = $PTAI_w$
 Area within walking distance A_w = πw^2
 Population catered by Bus Stop (i) Within Walking Distance w is P_{iw} = $D_i \times A_{iw}$
 Potential of Bus Stop for walking distance w (i) = $P_{iw} \times PTAI_w$
 Gross Potential of Bus Stop for all three walking distance = Σ Potential w
 Average Potential of Bus Stop = $\frac{\Sigma \text{Gross Potential } (i) + \Sigma \text{GrossP}(i + i)}{2 d}$

Overall Potential Index of route = $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \text{Average Potential of Bus Stop}}{L}$

4.3 Calculating the Potential

(1) First of all the density of population for the census ward within which the bus-stop is located is found.

Density (persons / km²) = $\frac{\text{population of Zone}}{\text{Area of Zone}}$ $D_i = \frac{P_i}{Z_i}$

(2) For different walking distance (250 m, 350m, 450 m) The Public Transit Accessibility Index (PTAI) is found.

Walking Distance (w)	250	350	450
PTAI (w)	4.00	2.86	2.22

(3) Population within the command area (walking distance) of bus-stop which has direct walking accessibility to bus stop is calculated and $D(i)$ is found.

Population (iw) = Density $D_i \times A_w$

Potential of a bus stop (i) for a walking distance w is for = $P_{iw} \times PTAI(w)$.

(4) Using different walking distances 250m,350m and 450 m different potentials for all bus stops is found and the sum of all three potentials for a particular bus stop gives the gross potential of a bus stop (i) for all three walking distances. Using $6PTAI(i)$ and using gross potential of adjacent bus stops the average Potential of a bus stop is found.

(5) Sum total of all the Average potentials divided by number of stops gives the overall Public Transport Accessibility Index of the route per bus stop.

Overall Potential = $\frac{\Sigma \text{Average Potential}}{\text{Total number of bus stops}}$

If the sum is divided by the total length of the route (bus corridor 'L') we get the overall Potential per running kilometer.

Overall Potential = $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \text{Average Potential of Bus Stop}}{\text{Length of the Route 'L'}}$

In the present case study the potential of the corridor is calculated w.r.t. 33 present / designated stops and also w.r.t length of the corridor (per km).the Potential w.r.t length can be utilized for comparison of performance / potential of different corridors or for some corridor for different time.

The potential w.r.t bus stands (per stop) can be used for analysis of improvement of the bus route by increasing the number of bus stands and their locations.

V. CONCLUSION

Using the powerful GIS network analysis functions, indices can be developed to assist in the assessment of a bus stop locations, also the process can be used to find out the potential of the bus route as a whole or for different parts of it. The results can be utilized for improvement of the performance of the public transport system and can be used for further studies.

Accessibility and linkage with potential users of the bus stop and using information on population densities for different urban districts and transforming it in terms of persons per km; hence, an extra important attribute for the polyline layer can be added other than the travel distance or time. This can be viewed as a three dimensional coordinate where the third dimension represents the population. Moreover, the effect of time on the demand variability also can be introduced through the use of appropriate data in morning / evening peak periods or even on a seasonal basis.

Distribution of potential users within the circular buffer zone for example, by creating various circles radiating from the location of the bus stop with 50m increments and locating the share of the total network length in km within each.

Study of accessibility thirst areas and analysing ways to meet this requirement so as to satisfy a demand and at the same time improve the potential of the transit system.

Analysis of important routes meeting, closing and making with the present Athwa Dumas corridor under study and the effect of changes, variations, improvement of the new additional roads.

Assessing the effect of feeder services through para transit modes or feeder routes to strengthen the existing bus route. Suggesting new bus stops after assessing the shortfall for present condition and additional requirement for projected population growth and development of the area.

REFERENCES

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APPENDIX – I

PTAI (i) FOR WALKING DISTANCE 250 METRE

Bus Stop	CensusWard	Area (Sq. Km)	Pop. at 2011	Density (Persons per Km ²)	For Walking Distance 250 Meter		
					PTAI= 1/0.250	Pop. 250 = D x 0.1964	P(i) x PTAI
1	33	1.7	30585	17991	4.00	3533.47	14133.87
2	33	1.7	30585	17991	4.00	3533.47	14133.87
3	33	1.7	30585	17991	4.00	3533.47	14133.87
4	33	1.7	30585	17991	4.00	3533.47	14133.87
5	33	1.7	30585	17991	4.00	3533.47	14133.87
6	33	1.7	30585	17991	4.00	3533.47	14133.87
7	61	4.56	54046	11852	4.00	2327.77	9311.08
8	61	4.56	54046	11852	4.00	2327.77	9311.08
9	62	1.92	17588	9160	4.00	1799.11	7196.42
10	62	1.92	17588	9160	4.00	1799.11	7196.42
11	62	1.92	17588	9160	4.00	1799.11	7196.42

Measuring Transit Accessibility Potential: A Corridor Case Study

12	62	1.92	17588	9160	4.00	1799.11	7196.42
13	62	1.92	17588	9160	4.00	1799.11	7196.42
14	95	3.652	4355	1192	4.00	234.21	936.83
15	95	3.652	4355	1192	4.00	234.21	936.83
16	95	3.652	4355	1192	4.00	234.21	936.83
17	95	3.652	4355	1192	4.00	234.21	936.83
18	96	2.299	6104	2655	4.00	521.46	2085.82
19	96	2.299	6104	2655	4.00	521.46	2085.82
20	97	4.061	2585	637	4.00	125.02	500.07
21	97	4.061	2585	637	4.00	125.02	500.07
22	97	4.061	2585	637	4.00	125.02	500.07
23	97	4.061	2585	637	4.00	125.02	500.07
24	97	4.061	2585	637	4.00	125.02	500.07
25	99	20.577	7225	351	4.00	68.96	275.84
26	99	20.577	7225	351	4.00	68.96	275.84
27	99	20.577	7225	351	4.00	68.96	275.84
28	99	20.577	7225	351	4.00	68.96	275.84
29	100	4.491	3659	815	4.00	160.02	640.06
30	100	4.491	3659	815	4.00	160.02	640.06
31	100	4.491	3659	815	4.00	160.02	640.06
32	100	4.491	3659	815	4.00	160.02	640.06
33	101	6.389	7861	1230	4.00	241.65	966.60

APPENDIX – II

PTAI (ii) FOR WALKING DISTANCE 350 METRE

Bus Stop	Census Ward	Area (Sq. Km)	Pop. at 2011	Density (Persons per Km ²)	For Walking Distance 350 Metre			
					PTAI = $1/0.350$	Pop. 350 = $D(i) \times 0.385$	Pop. of 350-250	P(i) x PTAI
1	33	1.7	30585	17991	2.86	6926.60	3393.14	9694.67
2	33	1.7	30585	17991	2.86	6926.60	3393.14	9694.67
3	33	1.7	30585	17991	2.86	6926.60	3393.14	9694.67
4	33	1.7	30585	17991	2.86	6926.60	3393.14	9694.67
5	33	1.7	30585	17991	2.86	6926.60	3393.14	9694.67
6	33	1.7	30585	17991	2.86	6926.60	3393.14	9694.67
7	61	4.56	54046	11852	2.86	4563.09	2235.32	6386.64
8	61	4.56	54046	11852	2.86	4563.09	2235.32	6386.64
9	62	1.92	17588	9160	2.86	3526.76	1727.65	4936.16
10	62	1.92	17588	9160	2.86	3526.76	1727.65	4936.16
11	62	1.92	17588	9160	2.86	3526.76	1727.65	4936.16
12	62	1.92	17588	9160	2.86	3526.76	1727.65	4936.16
13	62	1.92	17588	9160	2.86	3526.76	1727.65	4936.16
14	95	3.652	4355	1192	2.86	459.11	224.90	642.59
15	95	3.652	4355	1192	2.86	459.11	224.90	642.59
16	95	3.652	4355	1192	2.86	459.11	224.90	642.59
17	95	3.652	4355	1192	2.86	459.11	224.90	642.59
18	96	2.299	6104	2655	2.86	1022.20	500.75	1430.70
19	96	2.299	6104	2655	2.86	1022.20	500.75	1430.70
20	97	4.061	2585	637	2.86	245.07	120.05	343.01
21	97	4.061	2585	637	2.86	245.07	120.05	343.01
22	97	4.061	2585	637	2.86	245.07	120.05	343.01

Measuring Transit Accessibility Potential: A Corridor Case Study

23	97	4.061	2585	637	2.86	245.07	120.05	343.01
24	97	4.061	2585	637	2.86	245.07	120.05	343.01
25	99	20.577	7225	351	2.86	135.18	66.22	189.20
26	99	20.577	7225	351	2.86	135.18	66.22	189.20
27	99	20.577	7225	351	2.86	135.18	66.22	189.20
28	99	20.577	7225	351	2.86	135.18	66.22	189.20
29	100	4.491	3659	815	2.86	313.68	153.66	439.03
30	100	4.491	3659	815	2.86	313.68	153.66	439.03
31	100	4.491	3659	815	2.86	313.68	153.66	439.03
32	100	4.491	3659	815	2.86	313.68	153.66	439.03
33	101	6.389	7861	1230	2.86	473.70	232.05	663.01

APPENDIX – III

PTAI (ii) FOR WALKING DISTANCE 450 METRE

Bus Stop	Census Ward	Area (Sq. Km)	Pop. at 2011	Density (Persons per Km ²)	For Walking Distance 450 Metre			
					PTAI = 1/0.450	Pop. 450 = D(i) x 0.6364	Pop. of 450-350	D(i) x PTAI
1	33	1.7	30585	17991	2.22	11449.58	4522.98	10051.07
2	33	1.7	30585	17991	2.22	17991.18	11064.57	24587.94
3	33	1.7	30585	17991	2.22	17991.18	11064.57	24587.94
4	33	1.7	30585	17991	2.22	17991.18	11064.57	24587.94
5	33	1.7	30585	17991	2.22	17991.18	11064.57	24587.94
6	33	1.7	30585	17991	2.22	17991.18	11064.57	24587.94
7	61	4.56	54046	11852	2.22	11852.19	7289.10	16198.00
8	61	4.56	54046	11852	2.22	11852.19	7289.10	16198.00
9	62	1.92	17588	9160	2.22	9160.42	5633.66	12519.24
10	62	1.92	17588	9160	2.22	9160.42	5633.66	12519.24
11	62	1.92	17588	9160	2.22	9160.42	5633.66	12519.24
12	62	1.92	17588	9160	2.22	9160.42	5633.66	12519.24
13	62	1.92	17588	9160	2.22	9160.42	5633.66	12519.24
14	95	3.652	4355	1192	2.22	1192.50	733.39	1629.75
15	95	3.652	4355	1192	2.22	1192.50	733.39	1629.75
16	95	3.652	4355	1192	2.22	1192.50	733.39	1629.75
17	95	3.652	4355	1192	2.22	1192.50	733.39	1629.75
18	96	2.299	6104	2655	2.22	2655.07	1632.87	3628.59
19	96	2.299	6104	2655	2.22	2655.07	1632.87	3628.59
20	97	4.061	2585	637	2.22	636.54	391.47	869.94
21	97	4.061	2585	637	2.22	636.54	391.47	869.94
22	97	4.061	2585	637	2.22	636.54	391.47	869.94
23	97	4.061	2585	637	2.22	636.54	391.47	869.94
24	97	4.061	2585	637	2.22	636.54	391.47	869.94
25	99	20.577	7225	351	2.22	351.12	215.94	479.86
26	99	20.577	7225	351	2.22	351.12	215.94	479.86
27	99	20.577	7225	351	2.22	351.12	215.94	479.86
28	99	20.577	7225	351	2.22	351.12	215.94	479.86
29	100	4.491	3659	815	2.22	814.74	501.07	1113.48
30	100	4.491	3659	815	2.22	814.74	501.07	1113.48
31	100	4.491	3659	815	2.22	814.74	501.07	1113.48
32	100	4.491	3659	815	2.22	814.74	501.07	1113.48
33	101	6.389	7861	1230	2.22	1230.40	756.69	1681.54

APPENDIX – IV

POTENTIAL INDEX FOR OVERALL ATHWA DUMAS CORRIDOR

Bus Stop	Census Ward	Area (Sq. Km)	Pop. at 2011	Density (Persons per Km ²)	Potential for Walking Diastance			Sum Of {D(i) x PTAI(i)}	Average of adjacent stops	Distance between Bus Stops	Potential Index
					250 Meter	350 Meter	450 Meter				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	33	1.7	30585	17991	14133.87	9694.67	10051.07	33879.61			
2	33	1.7	30585	17991	14133.87	9694.67	24587.94	48416.48	41148.05	339	121.38
3	33	1.7	30585	17991	14133.87	9694.67	24587.94	48416.48	48416.48	491	98.61
4	33	1.7	30585	17991	14133.87	9694.67	24587.94	48416.48	48416.48	379	127.75
5	33	1.7	30585	17991	14133.87	9694.67	24587.94	48416.48	48416.48	276	175.42
6	33	1.7	30585	17991	14133.87	9694.67	24587.94	48416.48	48416.48	395	122.57
7	61	4.56	54046	11852	9311.08	6386.64	16198.00	31895.72	40156.10	491	81.78
8	61	4.56	54046	11852	9311.08	6386.64	16198.00	31895.72	31895.72	548	58.20
9	62	1.92	17588	9160	7196.42	4936.16	12519.24	24651.82	28273.77	647	43.70
10	62	1.92	17588	9160	7196.42	4936.16	12519.24	24651.82	24651.82	589	41.85
11	62	1.92	17588	9160	7196.42	4936.16	12519.24	24651.82	24651.82	389	63.37
12	62	1.92	17588	9160	7196.42	4936.16	12519.24	24651.82	24651.82	271	90.97
13	62	1.92	17588	9160	7196.42	4936.16	12519.24	24651.82	24651.82	501	49.21
14	95	3.652	4355	1192	936.83	642.59	1629.75	3209.16	13930.49	293	47.54
15	95	3.652	4355	1192	936.83	642.59	1629.75	3209.16	3209.16	501	6.41
16	95	3.652	4355	1192	936.83	642.59	1629.75	3209.16	3209.16	618	5.19
17	95	3.652	4355	1192	936.83	642.59	1629.75	3209.16	3209.16	316	10.16
18	96	2.299	6104	2655	2085.82	1430.70	3628.59	7145.12	5177.14	766	6.76
19	96	2.299	6104	2655	2085.82	1430.70	3628.59	7145.12	7145.12	337	21.20
20	97	4.061	2585	637	500.07	343.01	869.94	1713.02	4429.07	892	4.97
21	97	4.061	2585	637	500.07	343.01	869.94	1713.02	1713.02	399	4.29
22	97	4.061	2585	637	500.07	343.01	869.94	1713.02	1713.02	194	8.83
23	97	4.061	2585	637	500.07	343.01	869.94	1713.02	1713.02	193	8.88
24	97	4.061	2585	637	500.07	343.01	869.94	1713.02	1713.02	176	9.73
25	99	20.577	7225	351	275.84	189.20	479.86	944.91	1328.96	1193	1.11
26	99	20.577	7225	351	275.84	189.20	479.86	944.91	944.91	301	3.14
27	99	20.577	7225	351	275.84	189.20	479.86	944.91	944.91	664	1.42
28	99	20.577	7225	351	275.84	189.20	479.86	944.91	944.91	656	1.44
29	100	4.491	3659	815	640.06	439.03	1113.48	2192.57	1568.74	642	2.44
30	100	4.491	3659	815	640.06	439.03	1113.48	2192.57	2192.57	346	6.34
31	100	4.491	3659	815	640.06	439.03	1113.48	2192.57	2192.57	419	5.23
32	100	4.491	3659	815	640.06	439.03	1113.48	2192.57	2192.57	636	3.45
33	101	6.389	7861	1230	966.60	663.01	1681.54	3311.15	2751.86	1613	1.71

Overall Potential Index=37.43 per stop

Total= 1235.06

Overall Potential Index=74.98 per km