

## ABSTRACT

Microtransit is an on-demand transportation service utilizing vans or minibuses to offer point-to-point rides for passengers. Unlike fixed-route buses, these services claim greater flexibility in their routes and scheduling, dynamically adjusting to passengers' specific requirements in real-time. Primarily considered an extension of transit systems, microtransit serves to enhance access to transit hubs and act as a potential replacement for traditional bus lines, particularly in less populated regions. Public transportation agencies increasingly recognize the value of incorporating microtransit services to complement existing fixed-route bus and train services, expanding mobility options for commuters. Microtransit frequently adopts public-private partnership models, involving collaborations with local public transport providers alongside private business initiatives. However, several financial challenges hinder the profitability of many microtransit ventures, including limited public awareness and acceptance, higher operational costs, and regulatory barriers.

In Germany, the growth of microtransit has been slow, primarily due to its reliance on experimental clauses provided by municipalities. Nevertheless, a notable shift occurred in 2021 with the introduction of legislation streamlining the expansion of "app-based services." As a result, there is a potential for increased adoption of microtransit services throughout the country in the near future. However, the sector has been relatively understudied until now, necessitating extensive monitoring and evaluation. In this context, this research attempted to assess the predictors of demand for microtransit services among the commuters in Berlin. Through administering a comprehensive survey questionnaire to public transport users, the research identified that number of days commuting, first mile distance, and the last mile distance are the key determinants shaping the demand for microtransit services in the area of focus. Additionally, the research offers insights that can contribute to the success of microtransit operations, ensuring commercial viability while gaining public acceptance as a reliable and affordable transport option.