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1 **A fuzzy Delphi analytic hierarchy model to rank factors influencing**
2 **public transit mode choice: A case study**

3

4 **Abstract**

5 This study applied a decision-based model with uncertainty to identify factors in
6 mode choice and to rank their influence in attracting riders to available public
7 transit modes in the city of Tehran. The model integrates a fuzzy Delphi method
8 and a fuzzy analytic hierarchy process with fuzzy set theory to process opinion
9 uncertainties. The surveys found that from highest to lowest in influence, the
10 service attribute rankings were safety, reliability, frequency, comfort, travel cost,
11 information provision, and accessibility. Based on these attributes, subway
12 ranked highest in passenger attraction potential, followed by ride-hailing, bus
13 rapid transit, vans and taxis, then public bus services. These findings support the
14 hypothesis that it is worthwhile for big cities to ramp investments in public transit
15 improvements even as ride hailing services proliferate with the potential to attract
16 users away from more throughput-efficient and lower-cost services.

17 **Keywords:** Fuzzy modelling; Fuzzy analytic hierarchy process; Fuzzy Delphi
18 method; Public transit; Public transit service quality

19 **1. Introduction**

20 In recent years, Tehran has experienced huge population growth as well as expansion of
21 its urban area. Today the estimated population of the City of Tehran is almost 8.5
22 million. However, daily commuting of people into the city boosts the population to
23 more than 15 million (Gohari et al. 2015). The recent proliferation of shared mobility
24 options has caused a rapid change in the transportation sector. Although public
25 transportation services could meet the transportation needs of the growing population,
26 users of those services are experiencing traffic congestion and overloaded vehicles
27 during the peak hours. These issues lead to delays, longer waiting times, and higher

28 inefficiencies. Consequently, these attributes discourage the use of public transportation
29 modes and encourage a shift towards the use of private cars. This cycle leads to further
30 congestion, higher pollution, and worsens the performance of some public
31 transportation services (Nassereddine and Eskandari 2017). The situation also leads to
32 inequity because residents who can afford private cars find them more comfortable,
33 flexible, private, and faster in some situations (Bergstad et al. 2011). Although the
34 importance of public transportation is increasing with the fast-paced growing population
35 of Tehran, the public transit infrastructure is not meeting travel demands. This has led to
36 severe traffic congestion and overloaded vehicles, which diminish the efficiency of
37 public transit services. Although residents are inclined to use public transit services, the
38 low quality of those services encourage a considerable portion of residents to use
39 private cars (Nassereddine and Eskandari 2017).

40 A report from the municipality of Tehran found that public transit services
41 handle approximately half of the daily trips (Nassereddine et al. 2017). The major
42 public transit services in Tehran include bus, bus rapid transit (BRT), subway,
43 vans/taxis, and app-based ride-hailing services that provides coverage to most of the
44 regions in Tehran.

45 According to Ojo (2019), high vehicle ownership in developed countries reduces
46 the demand for public transit whereas demand is higher in developing countries where
47 ownership is low. The authors posit that the increasing trend in vehicle ownership in
48 developing countries can gradually cause a reduction in public transit use rate. These
49 findings suggest that it is useful to determine the changes needed in the quality
50 attributes of public transit services to encourage a modal shift from private cars to
51 public transit. Discouraging the use of private vehicles and encouraging a shift to public
52 transportation services is a significant focus of large cities (Morton et al. 2016) and

53 provision of quality public transit services facilitates the modal shifting process
54 (Redman, Friman, Gärling, & Hartig, 2013). Therefore, informing policymaking
55 requires identifying and evaluating the potential of available public transit modes to
56 induce a shift away from private vehicles (dell’Olio et al. 2011). Besides, according to
57 De Oña and De Oña (2015), assessment of service quality is an essential tool for
58 transport planners and operators to retain passengers or attract more users, establish
59 strategic goals, and to determine funding choices. The research questions of this study
60 are:

61 (1) Which transportation quality attributes are most influential in attracting users
62 to public transit?

63 (2) Which available public transit mode alternatives could be most effective in
64 shifting users away from private cars?

65 The main **contribution** of this work is a demonstration of using the integrated models
66 of FDM and FAHP in a case study that practitioners can replicate for other cities. The
67 method assumes no preliminary judgments about the suitability of various modes based
68 on the land-use setting. Agencies can use this work as a template to inform decisions
69 about implementing new policies and appropriating funds to improve public
70 transportation services in cities with a public transit structure like Tehran’s. Moreover,
71 public transit providers can use the template to reach a consensus about the ranked
72 effectiveness of factors in attracting more users to their services. Unlike this study,
73 previous studies did not compare ride hailing as a public transit mode.

74 To implement a successful policy or project in the transportation sector, it is
75 critical to involve multiple stakeholders in the decision-making process (Macharis and
76 Bernardini 2015). The **goal** of this research is to apply an appropriate Multi-criteria
77 decision making (MCDM) model that uses the opinions of *experts* to rank the

78 effectiveness of available public transit modes in Tehran in attracting users away from
79 using private vehicles. The authors selected a combined fuzzy Delphi method (FDM)
80 and fuzzy analytic hierarchy process (FAHP). This study takes an alternative approach
81 to surveying *users* who may have a biased towards a given mode because of familiarity,
82 experience, and frequency of use. Instead, the model processes the opinions of experts
83 from the local government, university scholars, planners, and engineers in transportation
84 science. The benefit of using experts is that they can provide a less-biased assessment of
85 mode attributes, based on multi-modal knowledge and field experience.

86 The structure of the remainder of this paper is organized as follows—Section 2
87 describes in detail the theory and usage of the FDM and FAHP models. Section 3
88 provides a brief description of the questionnaires distributed for the survey of experts.
89 Section 4 provides results of the FDM/FAHP calculations. Section 5 presents final
90 remarks about the results and describes future work.

91 **2. Overview of public transit structure in Tehran**

92 Currently, the public transit service in Tehran includes a regular bus transit system, bus
93 rapid transit (BRT), subways, Taxis and Vans, and app-based ride-hailing services. The
94 following sections explain these services in more detail and in the context of Tehran.

95 **6.1 *Public bus transit system***

96 The regular public bus transit system provides local access to various places within the
97 city and benefits from dedicated lanes along very limited route portions. These buses
98 are usually crowded and since they share the road with other vehicles, they exacerbate
99 the congestion. Buses usually provide service along streets and have local access.

100 Regular buses run from 6 am until 10 pm or 11 pm but may finish earlier through
101 weekends and holidays. Waiting times can vary considerably based the traffic situation.
102 Bus stations usually have a waiting area that seats but no surrounding structure to be

103 equipped with air conditioners or information displays about routes or terminal times.

104 This public transit system is managed by private sectors.

105 **6.2 *Bus Rapid Transit***

106 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is a service that utilizes dedicated lanes to travel faster than
107 regular buses and avoid traffic. Tehran BRT includes ten rapid transit lines. The streets
108 supporting BRT usually include more lanes and that makes it possible to provide them
109 with excluded lanes. Buses travel in exclusive lanes which includes 62 miles. BRT
110 usually follows certain time intervals for their waiting times which are shorter than the
111 waiting times for regular buses. The information related to arrival and departure of the
112 vehicles can also be accessed in waiting stations, inside the buses, and via the website of
113 the service provider. BRTs are double sized compared to the regular buses and have one
114 more door for boarding passengers. BRTs run 24/7. Bus Rapid Transit systems are
115 managed by public sectors.

116 **6.3 *Subway***

117 Subway in Tehran plays an important role in transporting passengers and consists of
118 142 miles of metro-grade rail. Approximately 3 million passengers use the seven-line
119 subway, Tehran Metro, daily. Tehran metro is owned and managed by a public sector
120 called Tehran urban and sub-urban railway. Trains commute in a fixed and short time
121 interval and stations are equipped with elevators or escalators if needed. The average
122 speed for this subway is reported as 28 mph when the maximum speed is reported as 50
123 mph. They operate all days of a week from approximately 5:30 am to 23:00 pm. The
124 trains consist of seven wagons where the capacity for seated and standing passengers is
125 estimated by 1,300 passengers.

126 **6.4 *Taxis and vans***

127 Taxis and vans are usually shared in Tehran. There are taxi stations next to most of the

128 main squares in the city and other spots that are usually crowded. Passengers also can
129 hail taxis and vans from the streets. A regular Taxi can accommodate four passengers
130 (one in the front seat and three on the back seat). Vans are another type of taxis which
131 can accommodate nine to twelve passengers and, compared to taxis, are commonly used
132 for longer trips in the city. Passengers can pay the fare with cash while some also pay
133 through internet-based applications, recently. Taxis and vans are usually supposed to go
134 through their fixed routes. Taxis and vans are owned by individuals but supervised and
135 managed by Taxi Organization of Tehran which is a public sector. Taxis and vans move
136 towards destinations from taxi stations whenever they are almost full of passengers. In
137 some cases, the fare for taxis may be higher than vans while in the current study, the
138 authors assume the same rate of fare for them.

139 *6.5 App-based ride-hailing services*

140 Internet-based ride-hailing services provide door-to-door mobility in almost all regions
141 of the city. Using cell phones and applications installed on them, passengers can request
142 a trip from the two major car-hailing transit services in Tehran which are Snapp and
143 Tap30 and are privately managed. Considering their reviews and rankings, passengers
144 can choose between available drivers and vehicles, and the payments can be online or
145 in cash.

146 **3. Literature review**

147 *6.1 Public transit quality attributes*

148 Service quality is commonly defined as a measurement of the degree to which the
149 service delivered meets to the customers' expectations (Bitner and Hubert 1994). Public
150 transit service quality attributes are factors that can help evaluators assess the
151 performance of a transit service. Assessing the service quality is the first step in
152 improving the customer satisfaction and attracting more users to a system (Aydin,

153 Celik, & Gumus, 2015). The assessment process includes evaluation of several criteria
154 associated with service quality (Awasthi, Chauhan, Omrani, & Panahi, 2011).

155 To measure public transit service quality, previous studies proposed many
156 quality attributes. The attributes to assess public transit service quality are taken from
157 several methods such as literature review, survey of operators, statistical tests, and pilot
158 user surveys (J. De Oña & De Oña, 2015). Lowering the number of attributes simplify
159 the process of data collection. De Oña and De Oña (2015) states that there is no general
160 agreement on the number of service quality dimensions and the attributes that must be
161 selected with respect to each specific case study. However, due to the general
162 importance of some service quality attributes such as service frequency, reliability,
163 comfort, safety, information provision, fare and others, they are used often irrespective
164 of the type of service and context considered.

165 In the current study, the authors conducted a comprehensive literature review to
166 identify the most important public transit service quality attributes. The authors also
167 discussed the attribute selection with public transit experts in Tehran to narrow the list
168 towards context-specific attributes needed to assess the quality of public transit services.
169 Although there were many attributes of service quality, the authors recognized overlaps
170 and redundancies that allowed for a shorter list of attributes into 12 quality attributes, as
171 shown in Table 1. The next sections explain each of the service quality attributes in
172 detail.

173 *5.3.1 Accessibility*

174 According to (Celik, Bilisik, Erdogan, Gumus, & Baracli, 2013) accessibility is
175 measured based on the distance suitability of regions to access the public transit
176 services. Nathanail (2008) and many other studies (Eboli and Mazzulla, 2011; De Oña
177 et al., 2014) consider accessibility as a very crucial attribute in evaluation of customer

178 satisfaction for public transit services. Accessibility will measure how easy it will be for
179 users to access public transit services.

180 *5.3.2 Comfort*

181 According to Aydin et al. (2015) and Jain et al. (2014), comfort can be related to the
182 cleanliness of the transit service, noise level and vibration during a journey. Other
183 comfort factors include the presence of air conditioning inside the public transit
184 services, crowding, and seating availability.

185 *5.3.3 Frequency*

186 As Ojo (2019) states, public transit users appreciate a high-frequency transportation
187 service. In a review study (Redman et al., 2013) also lists frequency of service as one of
188 the most common service quality attributes addressed in evaluating public transit
189 service quality. They used the concept of frequency and waiting time interchangeably
190 when shorter waiting times results in higher frequency of receiving public transit
191 services.

192 *5.3.4 GHG emissions*

193 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is considered as an important quality attribute in a
194 study conducted by Eboli and Mazzulla (2011). This attribute assessed environmental
195 impact when considering the use of ecological vehicles and green technology. (Celik et
196 al., 2013) also found that environmentally conscious vehicles are attractive attributes in
197 public transit services. Keyvan-Ekbatani and Vaziri (2012) presented environmental
198 impacts due to air pollution as an important factor.

199 *5.3.5 Information provision*

200 Information provision is one of the important factors addressed commonly by different
201 studies (Eboli & Mazzulla, 2011). This attribute can include usage of modern
202 equipment to access services, including screen displays to show schedules, vehicle

203 departures and routes, the usage of modern equipment inside public transit services,
204 such as, screen display for route map(s), announcements in stations during and after
205 breakdowns, announcements in vehicles during and after breakdowns, timeliness and
206 accuracy of the provided data and technologic advancements that the users demand
207 (Carreira, Patrício, Natal Jorge, Magee, & Van Eikema Hommes, 2013).

208 *5.3.6 Reliability*

209 Based on the definition provided by Ojo, (2019), reliability is defined as an important
210 quality attribute that represents how reliable public transit services are in delivering
211 users to their destinations. A study by (Aydin et al., 2015) defines reliability as criterion
212 based on passenger perceptions of the accuracy of the planned and practiced departure
213 time, arrival time, journey time and waiting time.

214 *5.3.7 Responsiveness*

215 Responsiveness represents the service quality from staff in addressing customers'
216 requests. It can include understanding users' needs and willingness, readiness, and the
217 promptness of service provider responses concerns and needs (Chou et al., 2014;
218 Awasthi et al., 2011).

219 *5.3.8 Safety*

220 According to Aydin et al. (2015), the authors measure safety of the public transit
221 services through the process of reaching them and being inside their facilities.
222 According to De Oña et al. (2014), travel safety and personal security on board is
223 considered as the main criterion in defining public transit service quality. Likewise, in a
224 study, Nathanail (2008) defined safety during a trip as the perception of passengers
225 about how safe and secure they feel against the system itself and users with respect to
226 crime inside public transit vehicles, and the risk of crashes.

227 *5.3.9 Station comfort*

228 Zhang et al. (2019) used the waiting environment at transit stations as an attribute to
229 assess the public transit service quality. In this study, the authors also consider the
230 availability of seats, air conditioner, safety, and noise as factors affecting station
231 comfort.

232 *5.3.10 Ticketing*

233 According to the results from Nurul et al. (2013), ticketing or payment systems are
234 important service quality attributes that can affect the loading time and eventually the
235 travel time. In another study, Vuk (2005) identified functioning vending machines and
236 similar kiosks as an important attribute in improving the satisfaction of public transit
237 users.

238 *5.3.11 Travel cost*

239 Travel cost, commonly defined as the price to use public transit services, is a feature
240 addressed repeatedly in the literature. Redman et al. (2013) states that users compare an
241 existing fare to an expected reasonable price which is the perceived monetary value of
242 the service they believe is provided.

243 *5.3.12 Welcoming*

244 According to De Oña et al. (2014), attitudes and behaviours of the personnel providing
245 the services to users affect user perceptions about the quality of the service. Also,
246 (Aydin et al., 2015) identified welcoming as one of the most important attributes in
247 evaluating customer satisfaction in rail transit service.

Table 1 Public transit quality attributes

Public Transport Quality Attributes	References
Accessibility	(Redman et al., 2013), (Jain et al., 2014), (Keyvan-Ekbatani & Vaziri, 2012), (Güner, 2018), (Boujelbene & Derbel, 2015), (Barbosa et al., 2017), (Celik et al., 2013), (Calvo & Ferrer, 2018), (Nguyen-Phuoc, Su, Tran, Le, & Johnson, 2020), (Pedroso, Bermann, & Sanches-Pereira, 2018), (Camargo Pérez, Carrillo, & Montoya-Torres, 2014), (Eboli & Mazzulla, 2011), (Nassereddine & Eskandari, 2017), (J. de Oña, de Oña, & López, 2016), (Aydin et al., 2015), (Carreira et al., 2013)
Comfort	(Chou et al., 2014), (R. De Oña et al., 2014), (Zhang et al., 2019), (dell'Olio et al., 2011), (Nathanail, 2008), (Schiefelbusch, 2015), (Keyvan-Ekbatani & Vaziri, 2012), (Lee, 2018), (Pedroso et al., 2018), (Eboli & Mazzulla, 2015), (Mahmoud & Hine, 2016), (Barbosa et al., 2017), (Celik et al. 2013), (Güner, 2018), (Redman et al., 2013), (Eboli & Mazzulla, 2011), (J. de Oña et al., 2016), (Aydin et al., 2015), (Sam et al. 2018), (Carreira et al., 2013)
Frequency	(Redman et al., 2013), (Jain et al., 2014), (Eboli & Mazzulla, 2015), (Güner, 2018), (R. De Oña et al., 2014), (Carreira et al., 2013), (Chou et al., 2014), (Eboli & Mazzulla, 2011), (Celik et al., 2013), (dell'Olio et al., 2011), (Nathanail, 2008), (Nurul et al., 2013), (J. de Oña et al., 2016), (Calvo & Ferrer, 2018), (Mahmoud & Hine, 2016), (Zhang et al., 2019), (Keyvan-Ekbatani & Vaziri, 2012)
GHG emissions	(Keyvan-Ekbatani and Vaziri 2012), (Celik et al. 2013), (Eboli & Mazzulla, 2015), (Pedroso et al., 2018), (Camargo Pérez et al., 2014), (Eboli & Mazzulla, 2011), (Kumar et al., 2018), (Bilişik, Erdoğan, Kaya, & Baraçlı, 2013), (Hsu, Lee, & Kreng, 2010), (Lee, 2018)
Information Provision	(Keyvan-Ekbatani and Vaziri 2012), (Redman et al. 2013), (dell'Olio et al. 2011), (Mahmoud and Hine 2016), (Celik et al. 2013), (Jain et al., 2014), (Calvo and Ferrer 2018), (Eboli & Mazzulla, 2011), (Morton, Caulfield, & Anable, 2016), (R. De Oña et al., 2014), (Carreira et al., 2013), (Aydin et al., 2015), (Nathanail, 2008), (J. de Oña et al., 2016)
Reliability	(Redman et al. 2013), (Keyvan-Ekbatani & Vaziri, 2012), (Bilişik et al. 2013), (Celik et al., 2013), (Jain et al., 2014), (Barbosa et al., 2017), (Zhang et al., 2019), (Sam et al., 2018), (Eboli & Mazzulla, 2015), (Kwong & Bai, 2003), (Huang, Tseng, & Hsu, 2016), (R. De Oña et al., 2014), (Chou et al., 2014), (Awasthi et al., 2011), (Eboli & Mazzulla, 2011), (Lee, 2018), (J. de Oña et al., 2016), (Mahmoud & Hine, 2016), (Eboli & Mazzulla, 2015), (Carreira et al., 2013),
Responsiveness	(Awasthi et al. 2011), (Bilişik et al. 2013), (Mahmoud and Hine 2016), (Barbosa et al., 2017), (Chou et al., 2014), (Sam et al., 2018), (Pedroso et al., 2018), (Morton et al., 2016)

Safety	(Redman et al., 2013), (Jain et al., 2014), (Zhang et al., 2019), (Mahmoud & Hine, 2016), (Calvo & Ferrer, 2018), (Irtema, Ismail, Borhan, Das, & Alshetwi, 2018), (R. De Oña et al., 2014), (Nathanail, 2008), (Chou et al., 2014), (Güner, 2018), (Nassereddine & Eskandari, 2017), (Awasthi et al., 2011), (Aydin et al., 2015), (Barbosa et al., 2017), (Eboli & Mazzulla, 2011), (Mahmoud & Hine, 2016), (Pedroso et al., 2018), (Hassan, Hawas, & Ahmed, 2013), (Morton et al., 2016), (Lee, 2018)
Station comfort	(Redman et al. 2013), (Jain et al., 2014), (Zhang et al. 2019), (Mahmoud and Hine 2016), (Shaygan and Testik 2019), (Celik et al. 2013), (Calvo and Ferrer 2018), (Barbosa et al., 2017), (Keyvan-Ekbatani & Vaziri, 2012), (Ojo, 2019), (Aydin et al., 2015), (Nathanail, 2008)
Ticketing	(Irtema et al. 2018), (Mahmoud and Hine 2016), (Bilişik et al. 2013), (Barbosa et al., 2017), (Chou et al., 2014), (Redman et al., 2013), (Ojo, 2019), (Aydin et al., 2015), (Chowdhury, Hadas, Gonzalez, & Schot, 2018), (Hassan et al., 2013), (Morton et al., 2016), (Nathanail, 2008), (Calvo & Ferrer, 2018),
Travel cost	(Redman et al. 2013), (Keyvan-Ekbatani and Vaziri 2012), (Bilişik et al. 2013), (Celik et al., 2013), (Jain et al., 2014), (Barbosa et al., 2017), (Lee, 2018), (Chou et al., 2014), (Güner, 2018), (Nassereddine & Eskandari, 2017), (Awasthi et al., 2011), (Aydin et al., 2015), (Eboli & Mazzulla, 2015), (Eboli & Mazzulla, 2011), (Mahmoud & Hine, 2016), (Chowdhury et al., 2018), (Pedroso et al., 2018), (Hassan et al., 2013), (Boujelbene & Derbel, 2015),
Welcoming	(dell’Olio et al. 2011), (Mahmoud and Hine 2016), (Celik et al. 2013), (Aydin et al., 2015)

249

250 **6.2 Literature review of evaluating public transit service quality using MCDM**

251 Multi-criteria decision making is a decision-making approach that combines various techniques to help decision-makers and stakeholders make
 252 decisions based on their preferences among two or more criteria (Chen et al. 2008). Camargo Pérez et al. (2014) affirm that MCDM is one of the
 253 most commonly used methods among decision-making methodologies. They stated that between 1982 and 2014, different researches applied 58

254 different MCDM methods to make decisions relating to public transit systems. In recent
255 decades, the methodologies have become one of the most prominent techniques for
256 making decisions about transit systems. Gerçek et al. (2004) evaluated three alternatives
257 for a rail transit network in Istanbul by applying an analytical hierarchy process (AHP).
258 This resulted in the creation of a new alternative that combined two closely competing
259 alternatives in the rail transit networks. Awasthi et al. (2011) presented a hybrid
260 framework that combined SERVQUAL and fuzzy TOPSIS models to evaluate the
261 quality of metro transit service in Montreal, Canada. Nalan Bilişik et al. (2013) applied
262 a combination of SERVQUAL, Delphi, and fuzzy analytic hierarchy process (FAHP) to
263 classify services of the public transit organizations in Istanbul. Based on the views of
264 experts, they identified the public transit company with the highest customer
265 satisfaction level. Celik et al. (2013) evaluated the public transit system in Istanbul by
266 applying customer satisfaction surveys. They provided a novel hybrid approach based
267 on fuzzy TOPSIS and grey relational analysis (GRA) methods to rank public transit
268 alternatives based on predefined quality attributes of the system.

269 Boujelbene and Derbel (2015) used AHP to rank the performance level of four
270 transportation operators by considering quality measurements from the passengers'
271 points of view. Jain et al. (2014) used AHP to prioritize the preference of urban
272 commuters' shift from personal vehicles to public transit modes in Delhi, India. They
273 found safety, reliability, cost, and comfort as factors that encourage a shift towards
274 public transit. Barbosa et al. (2017) applied AHP to assess the objective and subjective
275 quality service factors that determine user preference for public transit. Nassereddine
276 and Eskandari (2017) performed an evaluation of public transit systems in Tehran. They
277 used an integrated approach, including the Delphi method, group analytic hierarchy
278 process (GAHP), and the preference ranking organization method (PROMETHEE), to

279 evaluate user satisfaction levels of public transit in Tehran. Güner (2018) proposed an
280 integrated two-stage approach of AHP-TOPSIS to measure the quality of a bus transit
281 service. Based on experts' opinions, Pedroso et al. (2018) proposed an innovative
282 assessment method that combined the functional unit concept and the AHP method to
283 evaluate the performance BRT, light rail transit (LRT), and monorail transit (MNT)
284 modes in a linear corridor of collective transportation systems in São Paulo City, Brazil.

285 **4. Data collection**

286 This study used a survey approach to collect data corresponding to the attributes
287 affecting public transit service quality and prioritizing them based on experts' opinions.
288 The experts responded to two sets of questionnaires. The first set led to ranking the
289 most effective quality attributes based on the FDM method. The second set led to
290 ranking the most effective public transit mode alternatives with respect to each of the
291 quality attributes, using the FAHP method.

292 The authors looked for public transit experts to answer the surveys. The 32
293 selected participants in the survey were experts chosen from the Ministry of Roads and
294 Transportation in Tehran who have been dealing with public transit in the city,
295 knowledgeable scholars from universities who has been familiar with international and
296 local public transit systems, and public transit planners and engineers from a research-
297 based organization that had conducted several projects to improve public transit system
298 in Tehran. To prevent the biasness of the opinions, the authors decided not to involve
299 the direct operators of any of the studied public transit modes. In the next step, the
300 authors identified the potential participants in the survey in each of the three
301 organizations. The participants had to have university studies in transportation area
302 (specifically public transportation) or work experience directly related to public

303 transportation planning. Table 2 summarizes some demographics about the experts
 304 surveyed.

305 The questionnaires were sent to the survey participants including explanations
 306 about the goal of the survey and the ways they were compared. A sample of the
 307 questionnaire including the survey's questions is available in the Appendix. A concise
 308 description for each of the criteria was also attached to the survey, giving the responders
 309 enough information about the attributes based on which of the different transit modes
 310 would be compared.

311 **Table 2 Demographics of the surveyed experts.**

Demographic variables	Numbers observed	%
Gender		
Male	23	72
Female	9	28
Age		
21–30	8	25
31–40	11	34
41 and above	13	41
Education		
Bachelors' degree	5	16
Masters' degree	18	56
Ph.D.	9	28
Profession		
Administrator	4	13
Technical expert	16	50
Academic scholar	12	37
Years of experience		
Less than 5 years	6	19
Between 5 and 10 years	16	50
More than 10 years	10	31
Place of work		
Governmental organization	14	44
University	12	38
Private research center	6	18

312

313 **5. Methodology**

314 The integrated method has two layers. The first applies the FDM to the pool of experts
 315 to identify the most critical quality attributes in public transit mode choice. The second

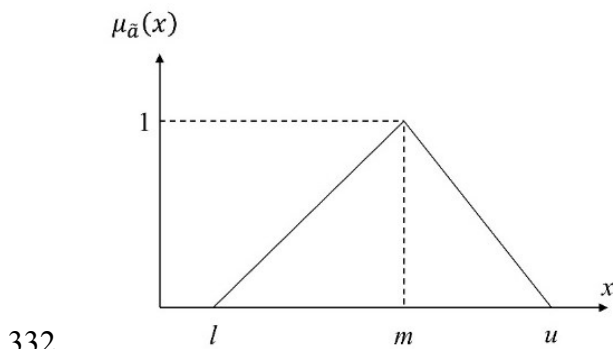
316 layer applies the FAHP approach to weigh and rank the effectiveness of each public
 317 transit mode in achieving the quality attributes to attract more users to the system.

318 6.1 *Fuzzy triangular numbers*

319 In 1965, Zadeh (1965) first introduced the fuzzy set theory to deal with the vagueness
 320 and uncertainty of human responses. A fuzzy set is a class of items with a continuum of
 321 membership levels. A membership function characterizes the set by assigning to each
 322 object a degree of membership that ranges between zero and one. Fuzzy sets have
 323 become helpful mathematical tools for formulating decision problems in which the
 324 available information can be subjective or imprecise (Kahraman et al. 2003). Fuzzy set
 325 theory translates linguistic terms such as good, very good, poor, and very poor into
 326 fuzzy numbers (Awasthi et al. 2011). Analysts often use triangular fuzzy numbers
 327 (TFNs) as membership functions because of their computational simplicity. A fuzzy
 328 number $\tilde{a} = (l, m, u)$ is a triangular fuzzy number (TFN) if its membership function is:

$$329 \quad \mu_{\tilde{a}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x \leq l \\ \frac{x-l}{m-l}, & l < x < m \\ \frac{u-x}{u-m}, & m < x < u \\ 0, & x > u \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

330 From Eq. (1), l and u are the lower and upper values of the fuzzy number \tilde{a} and
 331 m is the mean. Fig. 1 illustrates the TFN membership function.



333 **Fig. 1** TFN membership function of \tilde{c}

334 Mathematical operations on fuzzy numbers \tilde{c}_1 and \tilde{c}_2 are defined as:

335
$$\tilde{a}_1 = (l_1, m_1, u_1) \quad (2)$$

336
$$\tilde{a}_2 = (l_2, m_2, u_2) \quad (3)$$

337
$$\tilde{a}_1 \oplus \tilde{a}_2 = (l_1 + l_2, m_1 + m_2, u_1 + u_2) \quad (4)$$

338
$$\tilde{a}_1 \otimes \tilde{a}_2 = (l_1 l_2, m_1 m_2, u_1 u_2) \quad (5)$$

339
$$\tilde{a}_1^{-1} = \left(\frac{1}{u_1}, \frac{1}{m_1}, \frac{1}{l_1} \right) \quad (6)$$

340
$$\frac{\tilde{a}_1}{\tilde{a}_2} = \left(\frac{l_1}{u_2}, \frac{m_1}{m_2}, \frac{u_1}{l_2} \right) \quad (7)$$

341 Fuzzy set theory mimics human reasoning that uses uncertain information to make
342 decisions. The integrated Delphi and AHP methods of this study apply fuzzy sets to deal
343 with the uncertainties in human judgments.

344 6.2 *Fuzzy Delphi method*

345 Researchers use the Delphi method to drive consensus among experts. Ishikawa et al.
346 (1993) first proposed the fuzzy Delphi method (FDM) derived from the traditional
347 Delphi technique and fuzzy set theory. Noorderhaven (1995) proved that integrating the
348 fuzzy set theory into the Delphi method could solve the problem of fuzziness in the
349 common understanding of opinions from experts. This study uses FDM to rank public
350 transit quality attributes that can affect mode choice in Tehran.

351 The four steps of the FDM method are:

- 352 • Collect data from experts.
- 353 • Establish fuzzy triangular numbers and their aggregation.

- 354 • Defuzzify the data.
- 355 • Screen evaluation indexes

356 *5.3.1 Collect opinions*

357 The questionnaires use linguistic variables to determine the experts' evaluation score for
 358 the importance of each quality attribute. The linguistic levels are “extremely agree,”
 359 “agree,” “neutral,” “disagree,” and “extremely disagree.” The authors provided
 360 questionnaires to experts in transportation planning and business development to collect
 361 their opinions about the effectiveness of the quality attributes, irrespective of the
 362 transportation mode alternative.

363 *5.3.2 Triangular fuzzy numbers and aggregation*

364 The procedure converts the linguistic evaluations into triangular fuzzy numbers. Chang
 365 et al. (2015) found that the best approach is to use a five-point triangular fuzzy set as
 366 summarized in Table 3. For example, if an expert selects “extremely agree,” then the
 367 TFN is (0.7,0.9,1). The next step in the procedure follows the Hsu et al. (2010)
 368 approach to FDM. The aggregated opinions are then:

369
$$\tilde{a}_j = \left(\min_i \{l_{ij}\}, \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n m_i, \max_i \{u_{ij}\} \right) = (l_j, m_j, u_j) ; i = 1, 2, \dots, k; j = 1, 2, \dots, n. (8)$$

370 where l_j , m_j , and u_j are the lowest value, arithmetic mean, and the highest
 371 values of the elements of the fuzzy numbers. The indices i and j enumerate the experts
 372 and the quality attributes, respectively.

373 **Table 3 Linguistic terms and corresponding TFNs for the importance weight of criteria (Tseng**
 374 **2011)**

Linguistic term	Corresponding TFN
Extremely agree	(0.7, 0.9, 1.0)
Agree	(0.5, 0.7, 0.9)
Neutral	(0.3, 0.5, 0.7)
Disagree	(0.1, 0.3, 0.5)
Extremely disagree	(0.0, 0.1, 0.3)

375 *5.3.3 Defuzzification*

376 There are several sophisticated methods for defuzzification. One of the simplest
377 methods is the centre of gravity method such that:

378
$$a_j = \frac{l_j + m_j + u_j}{3}, j = 1, 2, \dots, k \quad (9)$$

379 for each TFN $\tilde{a}_j = (l_j, m_j, u_j)$. Hence, a_j is a defuzzified (crisp) number that
380 quantifies the aggregated opinion of all the experts about the effectiveness of a quality
381 attribute.

382 *5.3.4 Screening the criteria*

383 To normalize the fuzzy numbers, the process finds the difference between the average
384 of an individual expert's opinion and the average of opinions across all the experts. The
385 moderator then sends the results back to each expert for an opportunity to modify their
386 previous comments or to make new opinions based on the deviations of their average
387 opinion from the overall average opinion about an attribute. After defuzzification, the
388 following logic selects the final quality attributes such that:

- 389
 - If $a_j \geq \alpha$, then factor j is added as a quality attribute for the next stage.
 - If $a_j < \alpha$, then factor j is omitted.
- 390

391 The Cronbach threshold of $\alpha = 0.7$ is selected. That is, if the crisp number of
392 each quality attribute is greater than or equal to 0.7 then it qualifies as an evaluation
393 factor and will be omitted otherwise. The iterations continue until the difference
394 between the average of each quality attribute's value and the value from the previous
395 iteration is less than or equal to 0.1.

396 **6.3 Fuzzy analytic hierarchy process (FAHP)**

397 Analytic hierarchy process (AHP) is a popular method for solving complicated decision

398 problems. AHP has been applied extensively by professionals and academics in many
 399 different engineering and management applications (Pedroso et al. 2018). The method
 400 decomposes each complex problem into several sub-problems such that each hierarchy
 401 represents a set of criteria related to a sub-problem. In traditional AHP, a nine-point
 402 scale establishes the pairwise comparisons between criteria and sub-criteria. However,
 403 the method has been generally criticized because the discrete scale cannot handle
 404 uncertainty and ambiguity (Chan and Kumar 2007). Assigning a TFN to each linguistic
 405 scale, as summarized in Table 4, provides a resolution.

406 **Table 4 Linguistic scale (Hsu et al. 2010)**

Linguistic scale for the importance	Crisp Value	Fuzzy Number
Equally important	1	(1,1,1)
Judgment values between equally and moderately	2	(1,2,3)
Moderately more important	3	(2,3,4)
Judgment values between moderately and strongly	4	(3,4,5)
Strongly more important	5	(4,5,6)
Judgment values between strongly and very strongly	6	(5,6,7)
Very strongly more important	7	(6,7,8)
Judgment values between very strongly and extremely	8	(7,8,9)
Extremely more important	9	(8,9,9)

407

408 FAHP adds fuzzy logic to the AHP method to deal with the impreciseness of
 409 opinions from the experts. In this research, the authors use the extent analysis method
 410 proposed by Chang, D. Y. (1996) to implement the fuzzy AHP method. The method
 411 uses pairwise comparisons to evaluate the importance of criteria concerning the main
 412 goal, and the alternatives concerning each criterion. In this study, the *criteria* are the
 413 quality attributes when using a specified public transit mode, and the *alternatives* are
 414 the individual public transit modes available. The following are the five steps of the
 415 FAHP method:

- 416 (1) Problem definition
- 417 (2) Hierarchy structure setup
- 418 (3) Pair-wise comparisons

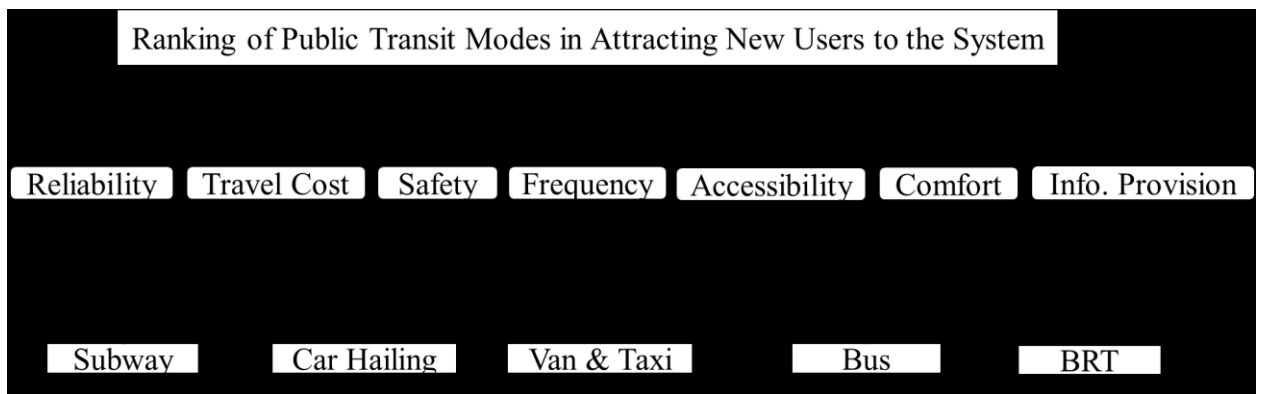
- 419 (4) Fuzzy weight determination per criterion
- 420 (5) Evaluate the weights of the criteria and the alternatives

421 *5.3.1 Problem definition*

422 The goal is to identify and rank public transportation mode alternatives in Tehran with
 423 respect to quality attributes that can spur a mode shift towards public transit and away
 424 from private vehicles.

425 *5.3.2 Hierarchy structure*

426 As shown in Fig 2, the hierarchy structure consists of three levels. The top level states
 427 the final goal of the problem. The middle layer contains the quality attributes of the
 428 public transit system, which are the outputs from the Delphi method. The bottom layer
 429 contains the available public transit mode alternatives.



430
 431 **Fig. 2** Hierarchy of the fuzzy framework.

432 *5.3.3 Pairwise comparisons*

433 The pairwise comparisons involve a linguistic response where experts, based on their
 434 knowledge and experience, decide on the relative importance of one item over another.
 435 First, conducting each pairwise comparison compares the quality attributes with respect
 436 to the main goal. The process then pairwise compares the public transit mode
 437 alternatives with respect to each of the quality attributes. Table 3 defines the linguistic
 438 scales and the associated fuzzy numbers. An expert pairwise comparison matrix then

439 organizes the linguistic variables after their conversion into TFNs such that:

$$440 \quad \tilde{M}^k = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{M}_{11}^k & \tilde{M}_{12}^k & \dots & \tilde{M}_{1n}^k \\ \tilde{M}_{21}^k & \tilde{M}_{22}^k & \dots & \tilde{M}_{2n}^k \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \tilde{M}_{n1}^k & \tilde{M}_{n2}^k & \dots & \tilde{M}_{nn}^k \end{bmatrix} \quad (10)$$

441 where the cells represent the k^{th} decision maker's relative preference of the i^{th}
 442 quality attribute over the j^{th} quality attribute. For n quality attribute and m decision-
 443 makers, the indices are $i, j = 1, \dots, n$, and $k = 1, \dots, m$, where l_{ij}, m_{ij}, u_{ij} are real
 444 numbers with the constraint that $l_{ij} \leq m_{ij} \leq u_{ij}$.

445 Calculate the average of preferences on each factor using the geometric mean
 446 such that:

$$447 \quad \tilde{M}_{ij} = \left(\prod_{k=1}^m \tilde{M}_{ij}^k \right)^{1/k} \quad (11)$$

448 Subsequently, the integrated fuzzy comparison matrix becomes:

$$449 \quad \tilde{M} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{M}_{11} & \dots & \tilde{M}_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \tilde{M}_{n1} & \dots & \tilde{M}_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \quad (12)$$

450 5.3.4 Consistency of pairwise comparisons

451 Priorities make sense only if extracted from consistent matrices. Consistency means that
 452 the pairwise comparisons are closer to logical selections than to random selections. This
 453 analysis selects the consistency index (CI) proposed by Saaty (2004) that stems from the
 454 eigenvalue method. This is combined with the method proposed by Gogus and Boucher
 455 (1998) to calculate a consistency ratio of fuzzy pairwise comparisons. The steps of the
 456 process are:

457 **Step 1:** Convert a triangular fuzzy matrix into two independent matrices where the TFN

458 is presented as follows:

$$459 \quad A_{ij} = (l_{ij}, m_{ij}, u_{ij}) \quad (13)$$

460 Middle numbers of the triangular fuzzy matrix generate the first matrix such
461 that:

$$462 \quad A_m = [m_{ij}] \quad (14)$$

463 The geometric mean (GM) of the upper and lower bounds of the triangular fuzzy
464 matrix generates the second matrix such that:

$$465 \quad A_g = [\sqrt{u_{ij} \times l_{ij}}] \quad (15)$$

466 **Step 2:** Compute the weight vector of each matrix (w^m and w^g) and calculate their
467 corresponding largest eigenvalues (λ_{max}^m and λ_{max}^g) as follows:

$$468 \quad M \times w^m = \lambda_{max}^m \times w^m \quad (16)$$

$$469 \quad M \times w^g = \lambda_{max}^g \times w^g \quad (17)$$

470 Therefore, the solution for the largest eigenvalues is:

$$471 \quad \lambda_{max}^m = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} (w_j^m / w_i^m) \quad (18)$$

$$472 \quad \lambda_{max}^g = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \sqrt{u_{ij} \times l_{ij}} (w_j^g / w_i^g) \quad (19)$$

473 **Step 3:** Calculate the consistency index (CI_m and CI_g) for each matrix as follows:

$$474 \quad CI_m = \frac{\lambda_{max}^m - n}{n-1} \quad (20)$$

$$475 \quad CI_g = \frac{\lambda_{max}^g - n}{n-1} \quad (21)$$

476 Where n is the dimension of the matrix.

477 **Step 4:** Calculate the consistency ratio (CR) of the matrices as a function of the CI and a
478 random index (RI) such that:

$$479 \quad CR_m = CI_m/RI_m \quad (22)$$

$$480 \quad CR_g = CI_g/RI_g \quad (23)$$

481 The method from Gogus and Boucher (1998) produce random indices (Table 5)
482 with a sample size of 400.

483 **Table 5 Random index**

Size of the matrix	RI^m	RI^g
1	0	0
2	0	0
3	0.4890	0.1796
4	0.7937	0.2627
5	1.0720	0.3597
6	1.1996	0.3818
7	1.2874	0.4090
8	1.3410	0.4164
9	1.3793	0.4348
10	1.4095	0.4455
11	1.4181	0.4536
12	1.4462	0.4776
13	1.4555	0.4691
14	1.4913	0.4804
15	1.4986	0.4880

484

485 If the values of CR_m and CR_g are less than 0.1, then the matrices of the
486 judgments are consistent. Subjective judgments can yield consistency ratios exceeding
487 10% (Saaty, 2004).

488 5.3.5 Fuzzy weight determination

489 In this study, an extent analysis method is used to determine weights based on TFNs for
490 each of the quality attributes with regard the final goal, and for each mode alternative
491 with respect to each quality attribute. This method, first proposed by Chang (1996),
492 defines $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ as an object set with $U = \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_m\}$ as a goal set..

493 The m values of goals for each object can be represented in the form $M_{gi}^1, M_{gi}^2, \dots, M_{gi}^m$
 494 where $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$. All M_{gi}^j , ($j = 1, 2, \dots, m$) values are TFNs.

495 Chang's extent analysis (Chang 1996) consist of the following steps:

496 **Step 1:** Calculate the degree of possibility S_2 and S_1 :

$$497 \quad S_i = \sum_{j=1}^m M_{gi}^j \otimes (\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m M_{gi}^j)^{-1} \quad (24)$$

498 where $\sum_{j=1}^m M_{gi}^j = (\sum_{j=1}^m l_j, \sum_{j=1}^m m_j, \sum_{j=1}^m u_j)$ and

$$499 \quad (\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m M_{gi}^j)^{-1} = \left(\frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m u_i}, \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m m_i}, \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m l_i} \right).$$

500 **Step 2:** Calculate the degree of possibility of S_2 and S_1 after computing S_2 and S_1 in
 501 step 1.

$$502 \quad V(S_2 \geq S_1) = \sup_{y \geq x} [\min(\mu_{S_2}(y), \mu_{S_1}(x))] \quad (25)$$

503 Eq. (25) can also be represented by Eqs. (26) and (27).

$$504 \quad V(S_2 \geq S_1) = \text{highest}(S_1 \cap S_2) = \mu_{S_2}(d) \quad (26)$$

$$505 \quad \mu_{S_2}(d) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } m_2 \geq m_1 \\ 0 & \text{if } l_1 \geq u_2 \\ \frac{l_1 - u_2}{(m_2 - u_2) - (m_1 - l_1)} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (27)$$

506 where d is the crossover point's abscissa for S_2 and S_1 .

507 **Step 3:** Calculate the degree of possibility for a convex fuzzy number to be greater than
 508 k convex fuzzy numbers S_i (Eq. 28).

$$509 \quad V(S \geq S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k) = \min V(S \geq S_i), i = 1, 2, \dots, k \quad (28)$$

510 **Step 4:** Compute the weight vector for each comparison matrix as the following:

511
$$W'_k = (d(p_1^k), d(p_2^k), \dots, d(p_n^k))^T \quad (29)$$

512 Let $d(p_i^k) = \min V(S_i^k \geq S_j^k)$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots, n; k \neq i$, where p_i^k is the i th
 513 element of the k th level, $j = 1, 2, \dots, n, j \neq i$. The normalized weight vector is

514
$$W_k = (w(p_1^k), w(p_2^k), \dots, w(p_n^k))^T \quad (30)$$

515 *5.3.6 The weights of criteria and alternatives*

516 The final weights of the public transit mode alternatives are the product of each public
 517 transit mode alternative's weight and those of the quality attributes. Based on the
 518 calculated results, the alternatives with higher weights rank higher in importance of
 519 ability to achieve the objective.

520 **6. Results**

521 *6.4 Fuzzy Delphi method*

522 Initially, the quality attributes are travel cost, reliability, frequency, accessibility, safety,
 523 station comfort, welcoming, ticketing, Information provision, comfort, GHG emissions,
 524 and responsiveness. Table 6 summarizes the crisp numbers that represent the aggregate
 525 opinions from the experts, after defuzzification and screening.

526 **Table 6 First round aggregate opinion ranking of quality attributes.**

	Criteria	Defuzzified Numbers of aggregated Fuzzy scales
1	Accessibility	0.59
2	Comfort	0.58
3	Frequency	0.67
4	GHG emissions	0.47
5	Information provision	0.65
6	Reliability	0.70
7	Responsiveness	0.42
8	Safety	0.77
9	Station comfort	0.44
10	Ticketing	0.34
11	Travel cost	0.68
12	Welcoming	0.43

527

528 In the next step, the authors provided each expert with a questionnaire that
529 contained the average of opinions on quality attributes in the previous step and their
530 average in that step. The experts then refined their opinions and preferences, which
531 became more consistent with the average of opinions. Table 7 summarizes the aggregate
532 results from the next step.

533 **Table 7 Second round aggregate opinion ranking of mode choice criteria.**

	Criteria	Defuzzified numbers of aggregated fuzzy scales	The difference between the averages of opinions in the first and second survey rounds
1	Accessibility	0.70	0.11
2	Comfort	0.68	0.10
3	Frequency	0.70	0.03
4	GHG emissions	0.57	0.10
5	Information provision	0.70	0.05
6	Reliability	0.70	0.00
7	Responsiveness	0.53	0.11
8	Safety	0.78	0.01
9	Station comfort	0.49	0.05
10	Ticketing	0.35	0.01
11	Travel cost	0.70	0.02
12	Welcoming	0.35	0.08

534

535 The results indicate that quality attributes involving travel cost, safety,
536 frequency, reliability, and information provision are considered final when they
537 converge by having a difference in their averages of less than 0.1 in two consecutive

538 rounds, and where their average importance is greater than 0.7. Other quality attributes
 539 (station comfort, welcoming, and ticketing) failed to reach the accepted level after
 540 converging. From the first and second round of surveys for accessibility,
 541 responsiveness, comfort, and GHG emissions, there was no consensus on alternatives
 542 with differences of less than 0.1 between opinion averages. In the third round of the
 543 survey, the remaining quality attributes with no consensus were reassessed by the
 544 experts. Table 8 indicates the results from the third round of the survey.

545 **Table 8 Third round aggregate opinion ranking of mode choice criteria.**

	Criteria	Defuzzified numbers of aggregated fuzzy scales	The difference between the averages of opinions in the second and third survey rounds
1	Accessibility	0.70	0.00
2	Comfort	0.70	0.02
3	GHG emissions	0.66	0.09
4	Responsiveness	0.45	0.08

546

547 These results show that there is consensus on the surveyed criteria such that
 548 accessibility and comfort meet the level of acceptance to become other final set of
 549 criteria, while responsiveness and GHG emissions fell below the threshold for inclusion.
 550 As a result, the experts collectively ranked accessibility, comfort, frequency,
 551 information provision, reliability, safety, and travel cost as the most important quality
 552 attributes in the selection of public transit mode alternatives. Overall, these findings are
 553 not surprising because they are consistent with the commonly used quality attributes,
 554 and also with the findings of Nassereddine and Eskandari (2017). However, given the
 555 goal of reducing congestion, hence emissions, by moving riders towards more high-
 556 efficiency modes of transport spotlights the omission of GHG emissions as
 557 unanticipated. Also, Aydin et al. (2015) used station comfort, ticketing, and welcoming
 558 as some of the important criteria in assessing the quality of public transit services, but
 559 the process in this study eliminated those factors. These differences in results indicate
 560 that the preferences of quality factors and their ranking can vary in different regional

561 contexts, and at different time periods due to the evolution of transportation services
562 and the relative influence of new modes such as ride-hailing.

563 6.2 *Fuzzy analytic hierarchy process*

564 The FAHP method uses the hierarchical structure shown in Fig 2. The FDM produced
565 the quality attributes of the middle layer. The authors' knowledge of shared mobility
566 services available in the city of Tehran informed the public transit mode alternatives
567 shown. First, eqs (10), (11), and (12) accumulated and averaged the results extracted
568 from the questionnaires containing pairwise comparisons (Tables 9 and 10). The first
569 part of the table contains the pairwise comparison matrices of relative rankings among
570 all combinations of quality attributes, with respect to the main objective. The remainder
571 of the table contains the pairwise comparisons between public transit mode alternatives,
572 with respect to each of the quality attributes. Given that the dimensions of the pairwise
573 comparison matrices are seven when comparing the importance of attributes and five
574 when comparing the public transit modes, the values for RI^m and RI^g from Table 5 for
575 each of the corresponding dimensions of the matrices are 1.2874 and 0.4090, and
576 1.0720 and 0.3597, respectively. The CRs with values less than 0.1 in the comparison
577 matrixes indicates that the level of consistency of the pairwise comparisons are
578 acceptable.

579 The value of the fuzzy synthetic extent is calculated using Eq. (24), followed by
580 calculating the degree of possibility for $S_i \geq S_j$ using Eq. (27). Eq. (28) then determines
581 the degree of possibility for a fuzzy number so that it is greater than k fuzzy numbers.
582 Subsequently, normalizing the values from the previous step produces the final weigh
583 for each of the quality attributes and public transit mode alternatives. Table 11 and 12
584 summarize the results.

585

Table 9 Fuzzy pairwise comparison matrices corresponding to the service quality attributes.

Fuzzy Pairwise Comparison Matrix for the Quality Attributes with Respect to the Main Objective							
$\lambda^m = 7.25, \lambda^g = 7.23, CR^m = 0.03, CR^g = 0.09$							
	Reliability	Travel cost	Safety	Frequency	Accessibility	Comfort	Info. Prov.
Reliability	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(1.10,1.59,2.10)	(0.64,0.85,1.13)	(0.81,1.12,1.49)	(1.17,1.70,2.26)	(1.06,1.06,2.16)	(1.11,1.62,2.13)
Travel cost	(0.48,0.63,0.91)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.45,0.61,0.87)	(0.82,1.10,1.42)	(1.00,1.18,1.38)	(0.65,0.90,1.27)	(0.72,0.98,1.32)
Safety	(0.89,1.18,1.57)	(1.15,1.65,2.24)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.83,1.19,1.58)	(0.85,1.17,1.54)	(1.53,2.33,3.17)	(1.71,2.56,3.40)
Frequency	(0.67,0.89,1.23)	(0.70,0.91,1.21)	(0.63,0.84,1.20)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(1.00,1.42,1.90)	(0.96,1.31,1.71)	(0.77,1.04,1.38)
Accessibility	(0.44,0.59,0.86)	(0.73,0.85,1.00)	(0.65,0.86,1.18)	(0.53,0.70,1.00)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.67,0.82,1.07)	(1.03,1.40,1.81)
Comfort	(0.46,0.62,0.95)	(0.79,1.11,1.55)	(0.53,0.70,1.00)	(0.59,0.76,1.04)	(0.93,1.22,1.50)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.71,0.95,1.27)
Info. Prov.	(0.47,0.62,0.90)	(0.76,1.02,1.38)	(0.59,0.76,1.04)	(0.72,0.96,1.31)	(0.55,0.71,0.97)	(0.71,0.95,1.27)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)

586

587

Table 10A Fuzzy pairwise comparison matrices corresponding to the public transit modes.

Fuzzy Pairwise Comparison Matrix for the Alternatives with Respect to Reliability					
$\lambda^m = 5.04, \lambda^g = 5.03, CR^m = 0.01, CR^g = 0.02$					
	subway	Car-hailing	Van and taxi	Bus	BRT
Subway	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.88,1.12,1.39)	(1.31,1.93,2.55)	(1.47,2.27,2.99)	(0.80,1.09,1.47)
Car-hailing	(0.72,0.89,1.14)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(1.15,1.64,2.15)	(1.53,2.49,3.39)	(0.59,0.82,1.18)
Van and taxi	(0.39,0.52,0.76)	(0.47,0.61,0.87)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(1.06,1.46,1.83)	(0.32,0.44,0.70)
Bus	(0.33,0.44,0.68)	(0.30,0.40,0.65)	(0.55,0.68,0.94)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.50,0.62,0.83)
BRT	(0.68,0.91,1.24)	(0.85,1.22,1.69)	(1.42,2.27,3.15)	(1.21,1.62,1.98)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)

Fuzzy Pairwise Comparison Matrix for the Alternatives with Respect to Travel Cost					
$\lambda^m = 5.03, \lambda^g = 5.02, CR^m = 0.01, CR^g = 0.02$					
	subway	Car-hailing	Van and taxi	Bus	BRT
Subway	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(2.02,3.14,4.20)	(1.59,2.47,3.30)	(0.91, 1.09,1.29)	(0.90,1.08,1.27)
Car-hailing	(0.24,0.32,0.50)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.64,0.83,1.13)	(0.33,0.44,0.68)	(0.30,0.42,0.68)

588

Table 10B Fuzzy pairwise comparison matrices corresponding to the public transit modes.

Van and taxi	(0.78,0.92,1.10)	(1.47,2.28,3.06)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(1.48,2.38,3.22)	(0.40,0.53,0.82)
Bus	(0.78,0.92,1.10)	(1.47,2.28,3.06)	(1.48,2.38,3.22)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.60,0.74,0.95)
BRT	(0.79,0.93,1.11)	(1.47,2.40,3.29)	(1.22,1.88,2.47)	(1.05,1.36,1.66)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)
Fuzzy Pairwise Comparison Matrix for the Alternatives with Respect to Safety					
$\lambda^m = 5.02, \lambda^g = 5.02, CR^m = 0.01, CR^g = 0.00$					
	subway	Car-hailing	Van and taxi	Bus	BRT
Subway	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(1.08,1.65,2.20)	(1.16,1.68,2.17)	(1.02,1.28,1.51)	(0.93,1.22,1.56)
Car-hailing	(0.46,0.61,0.93)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.94,1.09,1.25)	(0.44,0.58,0.81)	(0.49,0.64,0.92)
Van and taxi	(0.46,0.60,0.86)	(0.80,0.91,1.06)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.54,0.68,0.92)	(0.44,0.59,0.84)
Bus	(0.66,0.78,0.98)	(1.24,1.74,2.28)	(1.08,1.46,1.85)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.62,0.76,0.98)
BRT	(1.09,0.82,1.08)	(1.09,1.56,2.05)	(1.20,1.70,2.29)	(1.02,1.32,1.62)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)
Fuzzy Pairwise Comparison Matrix for the Alternatives with Respect to Frequency					
$\lambda^m = 5.04, \lambda^g = 5.04, CR^m = 0.01, CR^g = 0.03$					
	subway	Car-hailing	Van and taxi	Bus	BRT
Subway	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.41,0.52,0.74)	(0.43,0.59,0.92)	(1.39,2.06,2.63)	(0.92,1.12,1.32)
Car-hailing	(1.35,1.93,2.46)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(1.04,1.47,1.93)	(1.54,2.48,3.38)	(1.35,1.97,2.51)
Van and taxi	(1.09,1.69,2.30)	(0.52,0.68,0.96)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(1.20,1.84,2.38)	(0.99,1.31,1.68)
Bus	(0.38,0.49,0.72)	(0.30,0.40,0.65)	(0.42,0.54,0.83)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.37,0.53,0.82)
BRT	(0.76,0.89,1.08)	(0.40,0.51,0.74)	(0.60,0.76,1.01)	(1.23,1.89,2.68)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)
Fuzzy Pairwise Comparison Matrix for the Alternatives with Respect to Accessibility					
$\lambda^m = 5.15, \lambda^g = 5.12, CR^m = 0.04, CR^g = 0.09$					
	Subway	Car-hailing	Van and taxi	Bus	BRT
Subway	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.42,0.59,1.00)	(0.56,0.73,1.05)	(1.05,1.46,1.88)	(0.43,0.60,0.94)
Car-hailing	(1.00,1.69,2.38)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(1.09,1.53,2.03)	(1.44,2.01,2.50)	(1.22,2.07,2.85)
Van and taxi	(0.95,1.36,1.80)	(0.49,0.65,0.92)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.92,1.15,1.37)	(0.99,1.41,1.91)
Bus	(0.53,0.69,0.95)	(0.40,0.50,0.70)	(0.73,0.87,1.08)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(1.16,1.76,2.27)
BRT	(1.06,1.65,2.36)	(0.35,0.48,0.82)	(0.44,0.57,0.86)	(0.44,0.57,0.86)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)
Fuzzy Pairwise Comparison Matrix for the Alternatives with Respect to Comfort					
$\lambda^m = 5.02, \lambda^g = 5.02, CR^m = 0.01, CR^g = 0.02$					
	Subway	Car-hailing	Van and taxi	Bus	BRT
Subway	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.41,0.53,0.77)	(0.68,0.90,1.20)	(1.03,1.42,1.83)	(0.81,1.01,1.24)
Car-hailing	(1.29,1.87,2.46)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.93,1.40,1.88)	(1.66,2.35,2.97)	(1.50,2.21,2.92)
Van and taxi	(0.83,1.11,1.46)	(0.53,0.71,1.07)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(1.21,1.66,2.14)	(1.22,1.81,2.40)
Bus	(0.55,0.70,0.97)	(0.34,0.42,0.60)	(0.47,0.60,0.83)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.94,1.24,1.53)
BRT	(0.81,0.99,1.24)	(0.34,0.45,0.67)	(0.42,0.55,0.82)	(0.65,0.81,1.06)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)
Fuzzy Pairwise Comparison Matrix for the Alternatives with Respect to Information Provision					
$\lambda^m = 5.02, \lambda^g = 5.02, CR^m = 0.02, CR^g = 0.04$					
	Subway	Car-hailing	Van and taxi	Bus	BRT
Subway	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.41,0.52,0.70)	(1.58,2.48,3.42)	(1.56,2.41,3.24)	(0.81,1.16,1.56)
Car-hailing	(1.42,1.92,2.45)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(1.67,2.45,3.25)	(1.74,2.70,3.61)	(1.50,2.23,2.95)
Van and taxi	(0.29,0.40,0.63)	(0.31,0.41,0.60)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.55,0.76,1.17)	(0.39,0.56,0.84)
Bus	(0.31,0.42,0.64)	(0.28,0.37,0.57)	(0.85,1.31,1.83)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)	(0.35,0.46,0.67)
BRT	(0.64,0.86,1.23)	(0.34,0.45,0.67)	(1.18,1.79,2.54)	(1.49,2.18,2.89)	(1.00,1.00,1.00)

592

593 **Table 11 Fuzzy Synthetic Extent and Degree of Possibility for the Quality Attributes.**

Fuzzy Synthetic Extent, Degree of Possibility, Weights for the Quality Attributes with Respect to the Objective												
Alternatives	Fuzzy Synthetic Extent			Degree of Possibility of $S_i \geq S_j$							Degree of Possibility	Normalization
Reliability	0.10	0.18	0.30		1.00	0.76	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.76	0.203
Travel cost	0.07	0.12	0.20	0.64		0.39	0.86	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.39	0.105
Safety	0.13	0.23	0.40	1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.268
Frequency	0.08	0.14	0.23	0.78	1.00	0.54		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.54	0.144
Accessibility	0.07	0.11	0.18	0.54	0.90	0.30	0.76		0.90	0.96	0.30	0.079
Comfort	0.07	0.12	0.20	0.64	1.00	0.40	0.86	1.00		1.00	0.40	0.107
Info. Prov.	0.07	0.11	0.19	0.59	0.94	0.35	0.81	1.00	0.95		0.35	0.095

594

595 **Table 12A Fuzzy Synthetic Extent and Degree of Possibility for the Mode Alternatives.**

With Respect to Reliability												
Alternatives	Fuzzy Synthetic Extent			Degree of Possibility of $S_i \geq S_j$							Degree of Possibility	Normalization
Subway	0.15	0.26	0.44		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00		1.00		0.284
Car-hailing	0.14	0.24	0.41	0.93		1.00	1.00	0.98		0.93		0.263
Van & taxi	0.09	0.14	0.24	0.43	0.51		1.00	0.48		0.43		0.122
Bus	0.07	0.11	0.19	0.21	0.29	0.77		0.26		0.21		0.060
BRT	0.14	0.25	0.42	0.95	1.00	1.00	1.00			0.95		0.270
With Respect to Travel Cost												
Alternatives	Fuzzy Synthetic Extent			Degree of Possibility of $S_i \geq S_j$							Degree of Possibility	Normalization
Subway	0.17	0.29	0.49		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00		1.00		0.340
Car-hailing	0.06	0.10	0.18	0.05		0.85	0.21	0.18		0.05		0.017
Van & taxi	0.08	0.12	0.21	0.19	1.00		0.36	0.32		0.19		0.065
Bus	0.14	0.24	0.41	0.83	1.00	1.00		0.97		0.83		0.284
BRT	0.14	0.25	0.42	0.86	1.00	1.00	1.00			0.86		0.294
With Respect to Travel Safety												
Alternatives	Fuzzy Synthetic Extent			Degree of Possibility of $S_i \geq S_j$							Degree of Possibility	Normalization
Subway	0.16	0.26	0.40		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00		1.00		0.285
Car-hailing	0.10	0.15	0.23	0.40		1.00	0.57	0.46		0.40		0.115
Van & taxi	0.10	0.14	0.22	0.36	0.96		0.53	0.42		0.36		0.102
Bus	0.14	0.22	0.33	0.81	1.00	1.00		0.88		0.81		0.232
BRT	0.15	0.24	0.38	0.93	1.00	1.00	1.00			0.93		0.266
With Respect to Frequency												
Alternatives	Fuzzy Synthetic Extent			Degree of Possibility of $S_i \geq S_j$							Degree of Possibility	Normalization
Subway	0.113	0.184	0.305		0.52	0.80	1.00	1.00		0.52		0.185
Car-hailing	0.171	0.309	0.520	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00		1.00		0.356
Van & taxi	0.131	0.227	0.384	1.00	0.72		1.00	1.00		0.72		0.258
Bus	0.067	0.103	0.185	0.47	0.07	0.31		0.51		0.07		0.023
BRT	0.108	0.176	0.301	0.96	0.50	0.77	1.00			0.50		0.177

596

597

Table 12B Fuzzy Synthetic Extent and Degree of Possibility for the Mode Alternatives.

With Respect to Accessibility										
Alternatives	Fuzzy Synthetic Extent			Degree of Possibility of $S_i \geq S_j$					Degree of Possibility	Normalization
Subway	0.10	0.16	0.28		0.46	0.79	0.92	0.99	0.46	0.150
Car-hailing	0.16	0.30	0.52	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.324
Van & taxi	0.12	0.20	0.34	1.00	0.64		1.00	1.00	0.64	0.208
Bus	0.11	0.18	0.29	1.00	0.50	0.86		1.00	0.50	0.163
BRT	0.09	0.16	0.29	1.00	0.48	0.80	0.93		0.48	0.156
With Respect to Comfort										
Alternatives	Fuzzy Synthetic Extent			Degree of Possibility of $S_i \geq S_j$					Degree of Possibility	Normalization
subway	0.11	0.18	0.28		0.41	0.74	1.00	1.00	0.41	0.164
Car-hailing	0.18	0.32	0.52	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.406
Van & taxi	0.14	0.23	0.37	1.00	0.68		1.00	1.00	0.68	0.274
Bus	0.09	0.14	0.23	0.78	0.21	0.52		1.00	0.21	0.084
BRT	0.09	0.14	0.22	0.74	0.18	0.48	0.96		0.18	0.072
With Respect to Information Provision										
Alternatives	Fuzzy Synthetic Extent			Degree of Possibility of $S_i \geq S_j$					Degree of Possibility	Normalization
subway	0.13	0.25	0.44		0.74	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.74	0.301
Car-hailing	0.18	0.33	0.58	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.405
Van & taxi	0.06	0.10	0.19	0.28	0.03		0.90	0.42	0.03	0.011
Bus	0.07	0.12	0.21	0.37	0.11	1.00		0.51	0.11	0.044
BRT	0.11	0.20	0.37	0.85	0.59	1.00	1.00		0.59	0.238

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600

Based on the results encapsulated in Table 11, **safety** was identified as the

601

quality attribute with the highest ranking, which agrees with another study conducted by

602

Nassereddine and Eskandari (2017). However, in this study, frequency ranks higher

603

than travel cost, which was the reverse find of Nassereddine and Eskandari (2017).

604

Nevertheless, the difference in normalized scores was relatively small. In both of the

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studies, accessibility is ranked lowest in importance, likely because Tehran's residents

606

adapt well to using public transit services, even with low accessibility.

607

In Table 12, regarding **reliability**, subway and BRT rank the highest. This is

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anticipated because their dedicated right-of-way increases the travel-time and waiting-

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time reliabilities. Although car-hailing services aim to provide passengers with the most

610

reliable services, crashes or other incidents during a journey can change the expected

611 travel time. Taxi and buses are ranked lowest in reliability, likely because of chronically
612 heavy traffic congestion in Tehran.

613 Comparing of **travel cost** reveals that subway is the most cost-effective mode
614 while car-hailing is the most expensive. In a similar study conducted by Nassereddine
615 and Eskandari (2017), subway was the most cost-effective. The order ranking is similar
616 to the results of Nassereddine and Eskandari (2017) when comparing safety. However,
617 this study found that car-hailing is considered safer than taxis or vans, likely based on
618 the privacy of a ride. Subway seems to be considered safest.

619 With respect to **frequency** car-hailing ranks highest frequency while bus ranked
620 lowest. Van and Taxis are ranked as the second mode with high frequency of service,
621 likely because they are easily reachable at their stations or through hailing. The results
622 from Nassereddine and Eskandari (2017) also shows the same results, but they did not
623 include car-hailing among the available modes.

624 Car-hailing ranked highest in **accessibility** whereas BRT and subway ranked
625 lowest. A likely explanation is that in Tehran, BRT and subway stations are usually
626 further from passengers' residencies as compared to the other modes.

627 With respect to **comfort**, car-hailing ranked highest rank, followed by taxis.
628 This is likely because of their more personalized usage and privacy as compared with
629 other modes. Subway, bus, and BRT ranked the lowest, likely because passengers often
630 experience crowding, poor weak weather conditions, and noise. Buses ranked higher in
631 comfort than BRT, likely because buses are less crowded.

632 **Information provision** is one of the important factors that differentiate car-
633 hailing services from the other modes in Tehran in that users are aware about all the
634 process of their journey by using real-time data transmitted to their smartphones.

635 Subway and BRT ranked below car-hailing, likely because they provide passengers
636 with enough information about the route, stations, maps, and other information.

637

638 **Table 13 Final evaluation of public transit mode alternatives.**

Transit Mode Alternatives	Final weight	Priority
Subway	0.254	1
Ride-hailing services	0.245	2
Van and taxi	0.143	4
Bus	0.134	5
BRT	0.225	3

639

640 Finally, after combining the results from ranking the quality attributes across all
641 modes with the results from the paired comparisons, the method produced a ranking of
642 the importance of the available alternatives (Table 13). The final weights resulted from
643 multiplying the normalized weights of the transit mode alternatives with respect to each
644 quality attribute with the normalized weights of the quality attributes.

645 The results indicate that the subway is the most effective mode alternative in its
646 ability to achieve the desired quality attributes and attracting more users to public transit
647 services. Conversely, the method identified ride hailing as the most critical mode
648 alternative when the quality attributes of high frequency, better information provision,
649 more comfort, and greater accessibility dominate.

650 This result shows that the experts consider subway to be the mode that is the
651 most effective in attracting new users into the system. The method did not rank buses as
652 highly as the other modes. In their study, Nassereddine and Eskandari, (2017) also
653 found that subway and buses ranked highest and lowest, respectively, in the service
654 quality provided. However, there were important differences. That study did not
655 consider ride-hailing services, and used different weightings based on different
656 definitions of the quality attributes. In contrast, this study considered additional
657 attributes, including information provision, comfort, and reliability.

658 **7. Conclusion**

659 Big and crowded cities like Tehran has always been dealing with the problem of traffic
660 congestion due to increasing travel demand and heavy use of personal cars. Using a
661 public transit system can be helpful in attracting private care users. However, service
662 quality is a concern for users who would consider shifting into public transit services.
663 Hence, public transit service providers need to improve the quality of their services by
664 first identifying the most important quality attributes that affect travel choice and
665 second, mapping those attributes to public transit modes. The hybrid approach proposed
666 in this study will help policymakers to evaluate the quality of public transit services and
667 balance their funding proportionately to improve quality of the services that would
668 achieve their objectives.

669 The main contribution of this study is an application of the combined techniques
670 of Fuzzy Delphi Method and the Fuzzy Analytic Hierarchy Process to identify and rank
671 the importance of quality attributes in public transit mode choice, and to rank the
672 effectiveness of each available public transit mode in attracting more users. The method
673 handles imprecise or subjective data and can be replicated for different cities.

674 As a case study, the authors applied the integrated model to the city of Tehran,
675 Iran and found the order of quality attribute importance ranking to be safety, reliability,
676 frequency, comfort, travel cost, information provision, and accessibility. This result
677 implies that transportation officials should consider allocating more resources towards
678 improving the safety of reliability of public transit services in Tehran.

679 The ranking of effectiveness in ability to achieve the identified quality attributes
680 was subway, ride hailing, bus rapid transit, bus public transit, vans, and taxis. It is likely
681 that ride-hailing services rank second because they currently provide shorter waiting-
682 times and greater accessibility than taxis or vans. An important implication is that

683 spurring a shift away from private car usage will require a significant improvement in
684 travel time and waiting time for public transit. Investments to improve connectivity with
685 subways and buses could include collaborations with ride-hailing services to enhance
686 accessibility and reduce cost while reducing travel time and waiting time. Adding more
687 buses and using dedicated lanes and transit signal priority to reduce their travel time
688 could spur the needed improvements. Transit providers can use the method to determine
689 the effectiveness of each of the transit modes and the quality service factors that affect
690 shifts from private to public transit. The results will inform agencies about modes that
691 need improvement based on a quality attribute. One limitation of this study is the
692 number of experts who participated. However, the integrated method can serve as a
693 framework to extend the analysis as more experts become available.

694 This research demonstrates a method of planning that achieves consensus among
695 experts about strategies that could enhance the attraction to public transit by applying an
696 integrated decision-making model to process opinions. The case study demonstrates
697 that, even with uncertainty, the method provides a general understanding and an overall
698 agreement of the factors and their relative importance in motivating or impeding the use
699 of various public transportation modes. The model and the approach of using experts
700 based on their objective understanding of all the available transportation modes in the
701 city can lead to more informed decision-making in the allocation of resources to
702 improve transportation services. This case study supports the hypothesis that it is
703 worthwhile for big cities to ramp investments that could improve public transit even as
704 ride-hailing services proliferate in big cities.

705 This model serves as a baseline for future work that will involve another survey
706 to observe any changes in the results as ride-hailing services and new micromobility
707 modes of transportation continue to proliferate. The authors also plan to apply the

708 model to other major cities of the world to compare results and identify trends. The
709 future work will evaluate rider opinions of different public transit modes to evaluate any
710 gaps between the expectation of experts and the perception of the users.

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717 **Declaration of Competing Interest**

718 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

719 **Appendix A**

720 Table A1 shows the quantification for the question “Indicate your level of agreement on
721 inclusion of the public transit service quality attributes with the following statements:”

722 **Table A1 Level of agreement**

Intensity of Agreement	Description
1	Extremely disagree
2	Disagree
3	Neutral
4	Agree
5	Extremely agree

723

724 Table A2 shows the results from the first round of questionnaire distribution that was
725 intended to find the most effective service quality attributes.

726

727

728

729

730 **Table A2** Ranking of quality attributes

Service quality attribute	Level of agreement				
	1	2	3	4	5
Accessibility	1	2	3	4	5
Comfort	1	2	3	4	5
Frequency	1	2	3	4	5
GHG emissions	1	2	3	4	5
Info. provision	1	2	3	4	5
Reliability	1	2	3	4	5
Responsiveness	1	2	3	4	5
Safety	1	2	3	4	5
Station comfort	1	2	3	4	5
Ticketing	1	2	3	4	5
Travel cost	1	2	3	4	5
Welcoming	1	2	3	4	5

731

732 Table A3 shows the results from the second round of questionnaire distribution that was

733 intended to find the most effective service quality attributes.

734 **Table A3** Ranking of quality attributes

Service quality attribute	Average of level of agreement form the first round	Level of agreement				
		1	2	3	4	5
Accessibility		1	2	3	4	5
Comfort		1	2	3	4	5
Frequency		1	2	3	4	5
GHG emissions		1	2	3	4	5
Info. provision		1	2	3	4	5
Reliability		1	2	3	4	5
Responsiveness		1	2	3	4	5
Safety		1	2	3	4	5
Station comfort		1	2	3	4	5
Ticketing		1	2	3	4	5
Travel cost		1	2	3	4	5
Welcoming		1	2	3	4	5

735

736 **Appendix B**

737 Table B1 quantifies the importance levels.

738

739 **Table B1** Intensity of importance levels.

Intensity of Importance	Description
1	Equally important
2	Equal to moderately more important
3	Moderately more important
4	Moderately to strongly more important
5	Strongly more important
6	Strongly to very strongly more important
7	Very strongly more important
8	Very strongly and extremely more important
9	Extremely more important

740 Table B2 shows the results from the pairwise comparison of the relative importance of 7

741 quality attributes with respect to the main goal.

742 **Table B3** Pairwise comparison of quality attributes.

743

Service quality attribute	Intensity of Importance																Service quality attribute	
	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9
Reliability	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Travel cost
Reliability	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Safety
Reliability	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Frequency
Reliability	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Accessibility
Reliability	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Comfort
Reliability	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Info. provision
Travel cost	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Safety
Travel cost	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Frequency
Travel cost	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Accessibility
Travel cost	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Comfort
Travel cost	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Info. provision
Safety	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Frequency
Safety	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Accessibility
Safety	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Comfort
Safety	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Info. Provision
Frequency	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Accessibility
Frequency	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Comfort
Frequency	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Info. provision
Accessibility	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Comfort
Accessibility	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Info. provision
Comfort	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Info. provision

744 Table B3 shows the results from the pairwise comparison of the relative importance of 7
 745 quality attributes with respect to each quality attribute.

746 **Table B3** Pairwise comparison of public transit alternatives with respect to quality attributes.

Public transit alternatives	Intensity of importance																Public transit alternatives	
	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9
Subway	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Car-hailing
Subway	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Taxi
Subway	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Bus
Subway	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	BRT
Car-hailing	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Taxi
Car-hailing	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Bus
Car-hailing	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	BRT
Taxi	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Bus
Taxi	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	BRT
Bus	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	BRT

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