## PROMOTING GREEN ENVIRONMENT BY PREDICTING GREEN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION USAGE

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**Abstract:** This study utilises the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) to examine the relationship between intention to use green public transportation, attitude, subjective norm, price and service quality. Quantitative research using an intercept survey approach was employed, involving a total of 193 respondents in this study. Analysis of Partial Least Square (PLS) was used to examine the suggested relationship. The result, however, indicates that there is no relationship between attitude and intention. Meanwhile, subjective norms, price, and service quality were significant predictors of green public transportation usage intention. This study contributes not only to green consumer behaviour but also to the management insights regarding green transportation and environment.

Keywords: Green public transportation usage intention, attitude, subjective norm, price, service quality.

## Introduction

In the last decade, environmental issues such as global warming, air and water pollution have been significant issues affecting the quality of life that has led to increased awareness of the environment. (Akehurst et al., 2012; Han & Kim, 2010; Min, Hong et al., 2012). The global CO<sub>2</sub> emission rose to 37.1bn tonnes in 2018, and one of the main contributors came from transportation (The Guardian, 2018; The NST, 2017). Moreover, transportation is an essential requirement for an individual; hence, the demand for transport services have increased in this modern era (Balachandran & Hamzah, 2017; Mehdizadeh et al. 2019). In Malaysia, the main contributors to pollution are public and private transportation, which account for 17% of the overall CO2 emission (The NST, 2017). On the issue of climate change, the transportation sector often ignores the import of sustainability (Balachandran & Hamzah, 2017; Sharaf et al. 2015). Therefore, we need to minimise the environmental problem and increase sustainable and green consumption patterns to allow changes in consumer behaviour and cultural practices (Khan et al. 2015). In Malaysia, studies relating to public transportation mainly focused on safety and customer satisfaction (Tan et al. 2019;

Wang et al. 2016), quality (Ahmad et al. 2014), acceptance (Rezai et al. 2013) environment consent (Borhan et al., 2014), electronic vehicle adoption (Hardman et al. 2016) and eco-friendly fuel vehicles (Halder et al. 2016; Todorovic & Simic, 2019), sustainable transportation (Anfinsen et al. 2019; Sultana et al. 2017; Wu et al. 2019) energy consumption (Tseng & Hung, 2013; Varela-Candamio et al. 2018; Zhili et al. 2019), air pollution and emissions from greenhouse gases (López et al. 2019; Rupp et al. 2019; Zahedi et al. 2019). Meanwhile, studies on green consumer behaviour is linked to green buying (Sharaf et al. 2015; Sharma et al. 2019; Vazifehdoust et al. 2013), green consumption (Paul et al. 2016; Ritter et al. 2015; Sun et al. 2019; Vita et al., 2018; Zhao et al. 2014) green advertisement (Fuiyeng & Yazdanifard, 2015; Kanchanapibul, Lacka, Wang, & Chan, 2014; Kumar, 2017; Vazifehdoust et al., 2013, and green practices (Choshaly, 2018; DiPietro et al. 2013; Rezai et al. 2013b; Yadav et al. 2017).

Based on present understanding, there seems to be a lack of study on green public transportation. As we can see green consumer behaviour can be defined as consumer attitudes, perception or believes that they are using green products or service, and they are more dependant on environmentally friendly products which are free from pollution (Khan et al., 2015). Green consumers will contribute and expose green behaviour to society. They will play three essential roles as a green consumer such as buyer, payer, and user. As a customer, they choose and purchase green products or services and are ready to pay a fair price for said products or services if they are of high quality and have little or no adverse environmental impact (Chekima et al., 2015). Therefore, it is essential to understand more about the factors that influence customer use of green public transportation, especially in Malaysia which can contribute to environmental-friendly behaviour and the sustainability of the city (Mehdizadeh et al., 2019).

## **Research Model and Hypotheses**

# Green Public Transportation Usage Intention and Theories

Theory of reasoned action (TRA) is among the most fundamental and influential theories applied in explaining behaviours that focus on their attitudes and beliefs (Halder et al., 2016). Because of their effectiveness in explaining different human behaviours, these sociopsychological theories were widely used and applied in a variety of contexts (Ajzen, 1991; Ajzen & Fishbein, 2005). This model is used to consider the behaviour, intention driven by attitude and subjective norms of green producr (Venkatesh at el., 2003). Studies of users customer intent on consumer behaviour are well-known and play an essential part in the decision-making process, and many research papers have identified the best determinants to customer usage intention (Chekima et al., 2015). Customer usage intention is defined by Ajzen and Fishbein (2005) as a customers readiness and willingness to utilise product or services. Studies have also identified green usage intentions as an individual's willingness to consider and prefer to use green products and services rather than conventional products and services upon applying the decision-making process (Aman at el., 2012).

Customers who are concerned about the environment will often be willing to use green public transport (Tan et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2016). The intention of the customer is the individual's eagerness and willingness to perform the behaviour (Ismail, 2012). The previous studies have found that the higher its intention to engage in a specific behaviour, the more likely its real performance would be (Alversia et al., 2015; Jafarzadeh, 2012; Menozzi et al., 2015). A consumer's intention to go green depends on his perception of green movements and campaigns, as well as the benefits of green living (Rezai et al., 2013a). The intention to use relates to the intention of the individual to buy a specific brand, which they select after making an individual evaluation (Sharaf et al., 2015). Therefore a customers intentions are crucial when predicting green purchases (Choi et al. 2019).

## Attitude

Attitude is the primary factor in influencing a consumers' usage intention (Choi et al. 2019). It can be determined by the behaviour that a customer shows when they plan to acquire a product or service to satisfy their requirements. Attitude relates to the negative or positive assessment of a specific behaviour by an individual. (Halder et al., 2016; Hong et al. 2016; Safa & Von Solms, 2016; Wang et al., 2016). Moreover, attitude also described as the consequence of a consumer's evaluation of specific behaviours (Ajzen, 1991). Attitudes are also defined as persistent favourable or unfavourable feelings about individuals. objects or problems (Mohd Noor et al., 2012). Additionally, an attitude is defined as a psychological feeling of consumers' through evaluations (Aman et al., 2012). Research has also found that environmental concerns of customers are directly related to their attitudes. (Kai et al., 2016; Paul et al., 2016; Yadav et al., 2016), and that behaviour is the most reliable predictors of the intention to buy green products (Maichum et al., 2016; Paul et al., 2016; Yadav et al., 2016).

Meanwhile, consumers attitude on environmental awareness, environmental ethics, and beliefs have the most substantial positive impact on their intention to use green products (Lai *et al.*, 2016). Furthermore, attitude is an individual behavioural experience that assesses whether one's behaviour towards green usage is advantageous or disadvantageous (Chen *et al.*, 2016). Therefore, it can be postulated that the attitude of passengers positively influences their intention to use green public transport.

H1 A positive attitude will influence consumer green public transportation usage intention positively.

#### Subjective Norm

Subjective norm represents the impact of other people views (family, friends, peers) on individual behaviour (Gottschalk et al., 2013) and a level of social pressure that an individual feels to participate in or abstain from certain behaviours. (Aertsens et al., 2009; Nguyen et al., 2018). Past research found that subjective norms are perceived views or perceptions of others that can affect individual decision making (Maichum et al., 2016)information on the consumers' purchase intention towards green products in developing countries, such as Thailand, is lacking. This study aims to investigate Thai consumers who are aged over 18 years, and whose base education is high school, on purchase intention for green products by using an extended framework of the theory of planned behavior (TPB. Furthermore, the individual not only decides for themselves but also on behalf of others or under the influence of others (Ham et al., 2015). Previous research papers have discovered that a subjective norm is a powerful predictor that is linked positively to behavioural intentions (Choshaly, 2018; Leong, 2015; Mohammed Alqasa et al., 2014; Ogutu et al., 2014).

Consumers who are concerned about environmental issues and whose others values, beliefs and norms are positively aligned with environmental causes are more likely to engage

in green behaviours (Goh et al., 2015; Joshi et al., 2015; Khan et al., 2015). It can also be discovered that individual environmental concerns also influence the behaviour of others through peer group or family pressure, acting as vital others who adopt or reject green buying behaviour. (Paul et al., 2016) a critical variable in green marketing literature, intending to achieve triple bottom line (TBL. The impact of the subjective norm, such as environmental groups, green community and green movements, is also an essential factor in determining the intention of the passenger to go green (Golnaz et al., 2013). Therefore, it proposes the usage of green public transportation intention is positively related to the subjective norm.

H2 Subjective norms will influence consumer green public transportation usage intentions positively.

#### Price

Price is essential in determining the intention of using green public transportation. With the high expenses of fuel cell and battery systems being major obstacles for hybrid buses (Hardman *et al.*, 2016; Rupp *et al.*, 2019) the replacement of internal combustion engine vehicles (ICEVs. A few studies found that higher prices have an adverse effect on the selection of green products by consumers (Gan *et al.*, 2008; Huang *et al.*, 2004).

Furthermore, when many consumers start using green public transportation, it will help to reduce the operating costs and help reduce the effects of global warming (Halder *et al.*, 2016; King *et al.*, 2019; Lin *et al.*, 2015). The price sensitivity has a strong relationship on the buying intentions of consumers that want to go green (Hsu *et al.*, 2017). Thus consumers will make a choice based on location and price when selecting the best transportation mode (Biswas *et al.*, 2016; Padel *et al.*, 2015). Available literature shows that researchers have recognised that prices could reduce the most critical transport problems, such as traffic, accidents, air pollution and noise (Doğan *et al.*, 2018). On top of that, the pricing strategy plays an important element towards the efficient and sustainable transport system (Han, *et al.*, 2019). Pricing strategy not only affects the customer but also the government agencies due to the highly maintained and operating cost for public transportation services (Shivakumar, 2018). Therefore, the price has a negative effect on passengers' intention to use green public transportation.

H3 Higher prices will influence consumer's willingness to green public transportation negatively.

## Service Quality

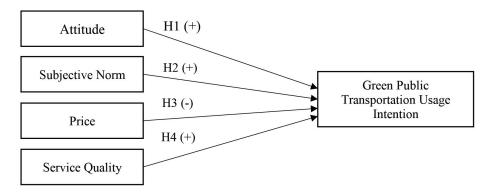
The service quality has the most substantial potential to increase a passengers attitude to use public transportation and also attract new bus passengers. Service quality, including passenger safety, bus schedule, and customer service, will directly affect the usage intention (Gordon *et al.*, 2000; Murti *et al.*, 2013). Providing excellent service quality of public transportation will indirectly increase a passengers attitude toward the usage intention, while poor quality of service will increase the negative attitude towards the usage of public transport. Thus, the quality of service can influence the public's willingness to use public transportation through attitude (Standing *et al.*, 2019).

The service attributes such as passenger safety, reliable driver, bus cleanliness can contribute to higher factor of service quality (Chaudhry et al., 2018). Basically, in order to increase public transportation usage, public transportation companies should accommodate excellent service quality in order to attract more passenger (Belz et al., 2016). The public transport company must provide reliable services consistently to increase better service quality (Mantovani, 2012). Ultimately by providing better service quality in the public transportation system, it can hope to attract more passengers and also solve urban pollution and traffic problems in most of the cities (Cai et al., 2019). Therefore, services quality will have a positive influence on passenger green public transportation usage intention.

H4 Service quality will influence consumer green public transportation usage intention positively.

## **Research Model**

Figure 1 demonstrates the framework for this study by utilising the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) to identify the relationship between attitude, subjective norm, price, service quality, and intention, to explain on green public transportation usage intention.



This research used G\*Power software to determine the optimum sample size; the effect size was set at 0.15 (medium), the strength at 0.80 and the sample size was 85 (Faul et al., 2007). In order to overcome the non-response bias, the study increases the sample size to 400 respondents (Sekaran, 2003). Using the intercept method, 354 responses were collected from the passengers of public transportation in Melaka using structure questions. Some 208 questionnaires were excluded due to the incomplete information, and only 192 were counted as useable, which worked out to a 48% valid response rate. Sekaran (2003) suggested that a total of 30% are enough, and it also supported by G\*Power analysis indicate that 85 respondents for four predictors is enough to represent a proper sample size (Fual *et al.*, 2007). Hence, the total of 192 respondent is enough as the minimum requirement for social science, which is above 0.80 (Hair *et al.*, 2019).

In order to access Common Method Variance, this study utilises Harman's single factor statistical procedure to test Common Method Variance in the questionnaire. The factor analysis shows 59.43 percent of the variance, which is explained by the first factor that 15.37 percent is much smaller than the majority, so the method bias is not a serious problem with this study.

Table 1 indicates the respondent profile, which the majority of the respondent were

Item	Frequency	Percentage %		
Gender				
Male	67	34.7		
Female	126	65.3		
Age				
20-30	171	88.6		
31-40	18	9.3		
41-50	4	2.1		
Ethnic				
Malay	102	52.8		
Indian	67	34.7		
Chinese	17	8.8		
Others	7	3.6		
Education				
High School	8	4.1		
College Graduate	1	0.5		
Bachelor Degree	153	79.3		
Postgraduate Degree	31	16.1		
Occupation				
Government Sector	24	12.4		
Private Sector	139	72.0		
Self-employment	8	4.1		
Others	22	11.4		
Income				
RM500-RM1000	11	5.7		
RM1001-RM2000	144	74.6		
RM2001-RM3000	31	16.1		
RM3001-RM4000	7	3.6		
Environmental Activities				
Yes	30	15.5		
No	163	84.5		

Table 1: Profile of respondent

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female, which is 65.3%, and 34.7% are male. 88.6% respondents were between 20 and 30 years of age, followed by those between the ages of 31and 40 years that represent 9.3% and 4% are between the ages of of 41and 50 years.

The higher portion of the ethnic group is Malay 52.8%, followed by Indian 34.7%. In term of education levels, 79.3% of them have a bachelor degree, and 16.1% are postgraduate degree. 72% respondent is working in the private sector, followed by 12.4% from the government sector: the highest income, 74.6% from income group RM1001 - RM2000. Approximately 15.5% respondent take part in the environmental activity and the remaining 84.5% of which 163 respondents did not have any environment activity.

## Result

This study used the Partial Least Square (PLS) analysis on the SmartPLS 3.2.8 software to evaluate the research model (Ringle *et al.*, 2015).

The evaluation was based on two-stage analytical procedures by Anderson and Gerbing (1988), this study analysed the validity and reliability of the measurement model and checked the structural model to test the significance of path coefficients between exogenous and endogenous construct using a bootstrapping procedure (Hair *et al.*, 2019).

## Measurement Model Evaluation

In the first stage analysis, this study used the factor loadings, composite reliability (CR) and average variance extracted (AVE) to measure convergence validity of the measurement model (Hair *et al.*, 2014). According to Hair *et al.* (2017) in order to archive the convergent validity, the factor loadings and composite reliability must be 0.70 or higher and average variance extracted (AVE) should be more than 0.50. As shown in Table 2, the result of the measurement model shows that all the loading are more than 0.70, and the AVE values are more than 0.70, which

Construct	Item	Loadings	AVE	CR	
Intention	Int1	0.817	0.541	0.775	
	Int3	0.560			
	Int3	0.800			
Attitude	A1	0.755	0.525	0.768	
	A2	0.679			
	A3	0.738			
Subjective Norm	SN2	0.711	0.620	0.764	
	SN5	0.858			
Price	P1	0.876	0.621	0.890	
	P2	0.824			
	Р3	0.851			
	P4	0.702			
	Р5	0.664			
Quality	Q4	0.826	0.604	0.752	
	Q5	0.725			

Table 2: Result of the Measurement Model

Note: AVE=average variance extracted, CR=composite reliability. SN 1,3,5 and Q1,2,5 were deleted due to low loading

indicates good reliability (Hair *et al.*, 2019). Lastly, we identified that there was no problem with multicollinearity as all of the VIF value were less than 5 (Hair *et al.*, 2019). Therefore this result indicated that the instrument is valid and reliable.

In the second stage, this study evaluated the discriminant validity following (Henseler *et al.*, 2014) Heterotrait-Monotrait (HTMT) discriminant validity test. In order to archived discriminant validity, this study follows the HTMT limit at 0.85 and 0.90 suggested by a previous study (Kline, 2011).

The result of HTMT in Table 3 indicates an acceptable discriminant validity. Therefore, the measurement model in this study suggests sufficient convergent validity and discriminant validity.

## Structural Model Evaluation

In the second stage, by running a bootstrapping procedure with a resample of 5000, we tested the hypotheses to evaluate the structural model, Hair *et al.* (2017) suggested looking at  $R^2$ , beta and the corresponding t-values. The results of hypotheses presented in Table 4 indicated that

the  $R^2$  for green usage intention is 0.29, which shows that all the modelled constructs explained 29% of the variance in green usage intention, which indicates a moderate model (Cohen, 1988).

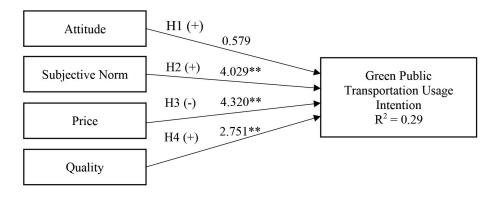
The result of hypothesis in Table 4 showed that three out of four hypotheses are supported. The H1 path concerning the relation between attitude and intention show the coefficient of  $\beta = 0.043$ , LL = -0.070, UL = 0.211 and not significant.

Next, the second hypothesis (H2), which dealt with the relationship between subjective norm and intention indicate coefficient of  $\beta = 0.290$ , LL=0.134, UL=0.412, and significant at p < 0.01 and follow by H3 the relationship between price and intention indicate coefficient of  $\beta = -0.296$ , LL= -0.433, UL= -0.159, and significant at p < 0.01. The last hypothesis concerning the relationship between quality and intention indicated a coefficient of  $\beta = 0.175$ , LL=0.041, UL=0.291, and significant at p < 0.01.

Based on the predictors examined, this study found that price had a stronger effect on the green usage intention, and the following strong effect is quality. Lastly, three of the effect

		Attitude		Usage		Price		Quality		Subjective Norm	
Attitude											
Intention		0.49	6								
Price 0		0.360		0.492							
Quality		0.61	0.618 0.540			0.388					
Subjective Norm		0.804		0.722		0.303		0.330			
Hypothesis	Relationship	Beta	Tabl	te 4: Result	of Hypo P Values	LL	UL	Supported	R <sup>2</sup>	f <sup>2</sup>	
H1	Att $\rightarrow$ Int	0.043	0.074	0.579	0.563	-0.070	0.211	No	0.288	0.002	
H2	$\mathrm{SN}  \mathrm{Int}$	0.290	0.072	4.029	0.000	0.134	0.412	Yes		0.039	
H3	Price $\rightarrow$ Int	-0.296	0.069	4.320	0.000	-0.433	-0.159	Yes		0.111	
H4	Quality $\rightarrow$ Int	0.175	0.064	2.751	0.006	0.041	0.291	Yes		0.101	

Table 3: The result of Heterotrait-Monotrait (HTMT) Test



\*\*p<0.01

Figure 2: Hypotheses Testing

sizes ( $f^2$ ) for this study achieved a small effect size of 0.02 and moderated 0.15 (Cohen, 1988). Furthermore, we also evaluated the predictive relevance of the model using the blindfolding procedure, and the Q<sup>2</sup> value is 0.131 larger than 0. Therefore, this model has predictive relevance (Hair *et al.*, 2014).

#### Conclusion

The finding from this study indicated that there is a no relationship between attitude and the intention to use green public transportation, this show that passenger have a negative perception related to the environment and believe that their action will not bring benefit toward protecting the environment. As mention in the study of Mishra (2014), individual attitudes and beliefs about the environment are often inconsistent with behaviour.

According to the results of the current research there is a satisfactory connection between subjective norms and the intention to use green transportation. This finding proves that subjective norms affect passengers' desire to use green public transportation because they listen to their family, friends and public opinion before making a decision.

This research also found that the younger generation will seek the opinions of others on online platforms such as social media to get additional information and feedback on the services sought before making a decision, influences their thinking, preferences, and behaviours (Lin *et al.* 2015).

Prices were discovered to be negatively associated with the consumers' intentions to use green products or services, which suggests that price has an essential effect on a passenger's assessment process and on their final selection decision. The passenger is more conscious of the price that they need to pay when using green public transportation and this factor has significantly influenced passengers to make price sensitive judgments when using green services (Hsu et al., 2017). According to Chekima (2016), the price has always been the main concern in adopting green behaviour, and only a few individuals are prepared to pay more for environmental services. One of the reasons for this is lack of consciousness and accountability for the environmental factors and those who are price-sensitive consider the cost of green public transport as expensive.

Murti *et al.* (2013) found that there are two dimensions of service quality, the first being the outcome expectations of the services, and the second being the process expected from the services such as customer and employees relationship (Gordon *et al.*, 2000). For this reason, services quality are found to be relevant to green public transportation usage intention. In context with this study, bus passengers believe they are satisfied with the services provided by green public transportation such as excellent customer service, travel schedules, waiting time and cleanliness. Green public transport service providers can therefore use these service quality markers to increase bus passenger numbers, which in turn should lower operating costs and prices concurrently (Tirachini *et al.*, 2019).

#### Implications

The current research provides both a theoretical and a practical contribution in explaining the determinants of green public transportation behaviour, and the finding involves necessary implications that are helpful to customers, academics and also the public transportation industry. In terms of theoretical implication, this study adds support to previous research, which show that the passengers have a negative attitude toward using green transportation, and show that passengers lack of environmental awareness on the importance of reducing air pollution and global warming.

In practical terms, these findings provide essential insights to the public transportation industry to promote environmental awareness among passengers of public transportation as part as their social responsibility, Kim et al. (2005) the present study identifies key antecedents of green purchase behavior and develops a model for explaining their influence on ecological consumption. Using structural equation modeling, the effects of collectivism. environmental concern and Perceived Consumer Effectiveness (PCE proposed that customers with severe environmental concerns may be interested in green behaviour. It can also help policymakers to develop a sustainable marketing strategy for a specific group by understanding attitude and intention to use it. Meanwhile, subjective norm, price and service quality have an essential effect on the intention to use green transportation as well as providing data to the transportation industry in order to create a long-term green marketing plan for efficient promotion to encourage green travel and also enhance the public transportation system.

#### Limitation and Suggestions for Future study

There should be several constraints of this study, which calls for future studies. Firstly, this study only focuses on the passenger who live in Melaka; future study is suggested to explore other distinct geographic to get different opinions. Secondly, future research can use an online survey to achieve a more substantial amount of participants. This study is limited to four variables, future study is suggested to extend the model, looking into attitude and behaviour gap and how another variables such as green advertising able to influence the relationship.

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