Can catalytic policy instruments enhance policy legitimacy for less and slower mobility?

Claus Hedegaard Sørensen

1. Less and slower mobility

For decarbonisation of the transport sector, IPCC talks about

- a "*paradigm shift*
- that *minimise the amount of mobility* required to meet people's needs
- And *favours transit* and *active transport modes*"

(IPCC 2022)

Believing that new, shared modes will help us out

"In order to become a serious competitor to private motorized transport, non-private motorized mobility modes must reach a ==level of service as high as that provided by private cars==, which means ==providing a transport solution to people at anytime, from anywhere to everywhere==" (Audouin & Finger, 2018 on MaaS)

Dis-believing that new shared modes will help us out

Only in the centre of big cities, where it is difficult for the car to compete, and in particularly favourable relations between cities, alternatives to the car can compete in speed.

On the outskirts of big cities, in smaller towns, in most relations between cities, and in international relations,it is ==not likely that alternatives will be able to compete in speed with travelling by car and air today==.
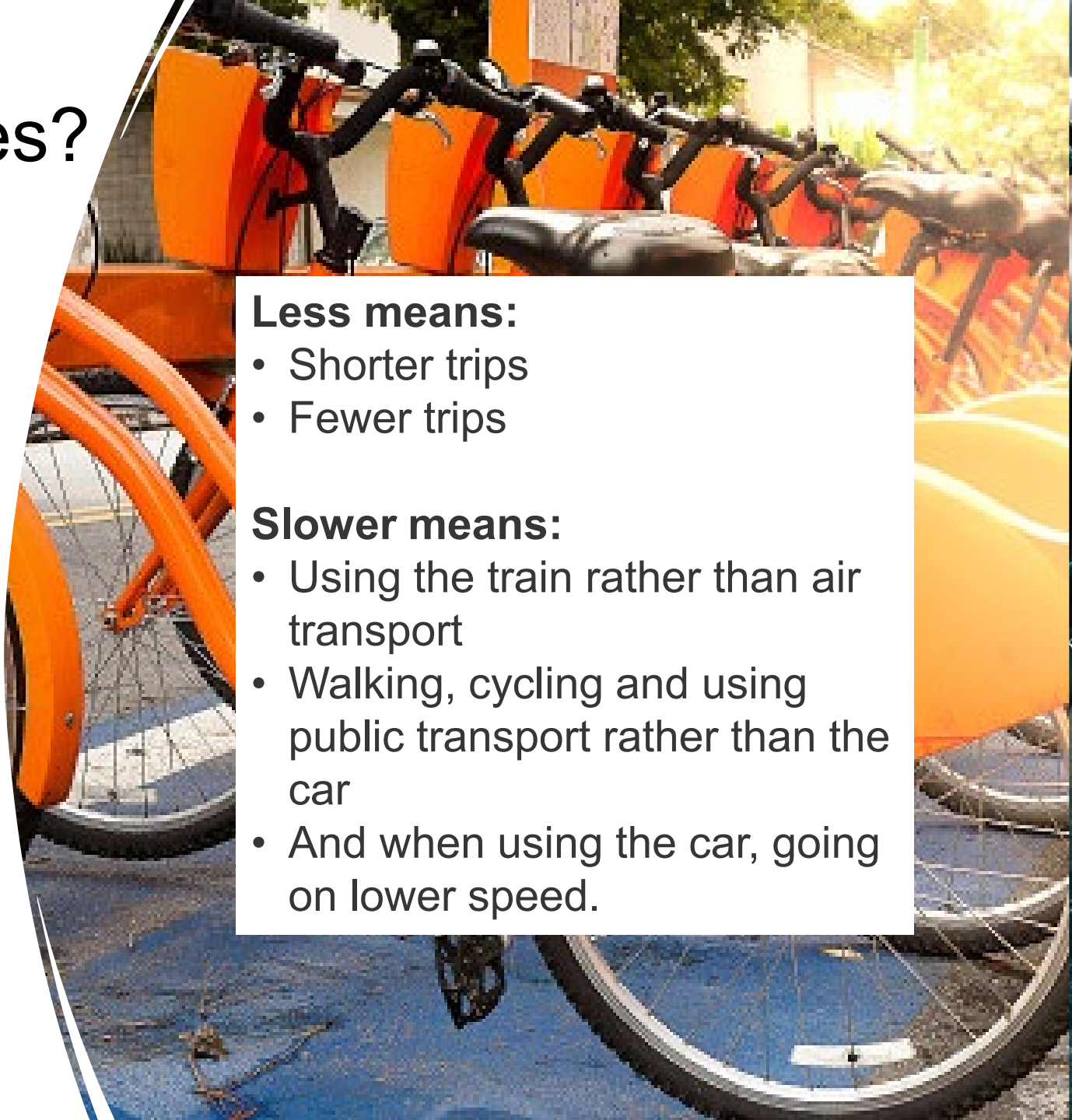
What are the consequences?

A future sustainable mobility system for most people in the Global North will be less and slower.

Less means:
- Shorter trips
- Fewer trips

Slower means:
- Using the train rather than air transport
- Walking, cycling and using public transport rather than the car
- And when using the car, going on lower speed.

2. Lack of legitimacy

But gaining public support and legitimacy for a policy of less and slower mobility is very difficult.

And why is it so?

How to gain legitimacy

Legitimacy can be gained because:

- Policy is rooted in the *values and norms in the population* (normative legitimacy)

- Of *the way that government chooses to craft and execute a policy* (procedural legitimacy)

- The population *believe it is possible to realize* (cognitive legitimacy)

We are used to the high mobility society...

We are used to long commuting distances, holidays far away, and visiting friends and family easily all over the world.

Many people, in particular in the Global North find the high mobility society attractive – it is part of *our values and norms.*

And therefore, difficult to gain legitimacy for less and slower mobility – protests indicate that
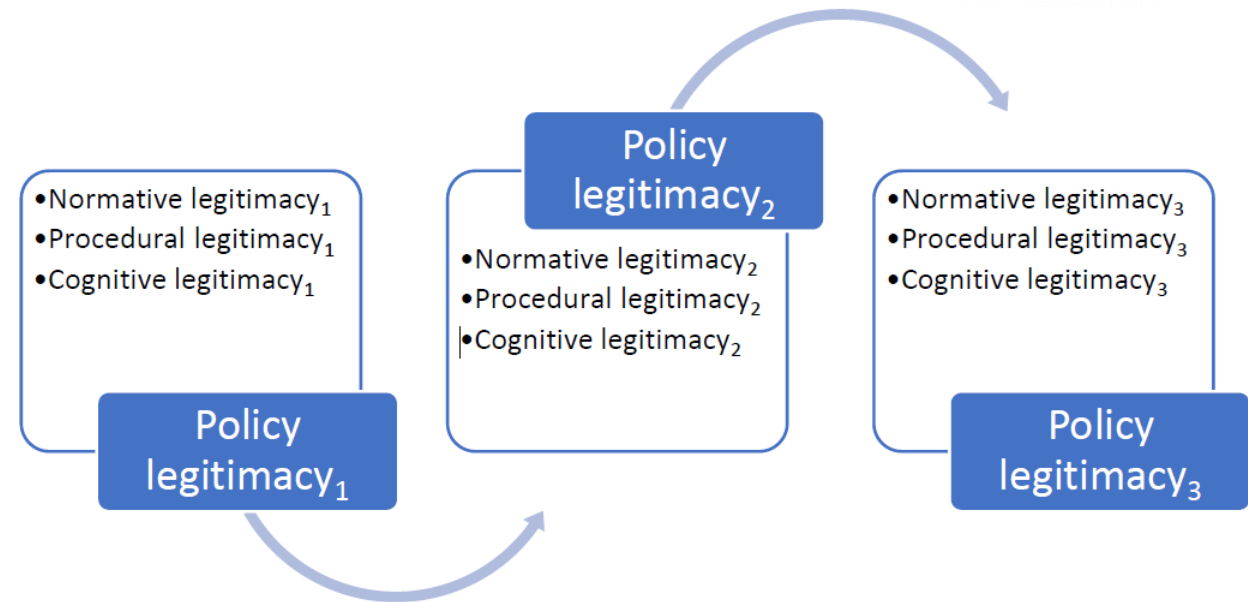
3. Catalytic policy instruments

'Catalytic' policy instruments can influence the policy process and change the legitimation of certain policies…

… by shifting the level of a policy's legitimacy either in an ongoing policy process or in subsequent processes.

Policy instruments *also* has to do with the way policies are crafted, decided and implemented

- Normative legitimacy$_1$
- Procedural legitimacy$_1$
- Cognitive legitimacy$_1$

Policy legitimacy$_1$

Policy legitimacy$_2$

- Normative legitimacy$_2$
- Procedural legitimacy$_2$
- Cognitive legitimacy$_2$

- Normative legitimacy$_3$
- Procedural legitimacy$_3$
- Cognitive legitimacy$_3$

Policy legitimacy$_3$

Examples of catalytic policy instruments

- Citizen participation (contribute to procedural legitimacy)

- Visioning about the better life with less and slower (contribute to normative legitimacy)

- Experimentation on less and slower mobility (contribute to cognitive legitimacy)

Provided that some preconditions are fulfilled.

Preconditions for catalytic policy instruments

Catalytic policy instrument	Preconditions	Examples
Public participation	Observe representativeness, public awareness and education	French citizen convention for climate Copenhagen citizens' assembly
Visioning	Issues of liveability and wellbeing are included in visions.	Four scenarios for mobility in Europe Co-production of transformative and contextual visions in Europe
Experimentation	Experiments involve local stakeholders to adopt results in ordinary planning	Stockholm congestion charging Living Lab Riksten

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Conclusions

A sustainable future implies less and slower mobility

But in the Global North many people are used to abundant and fast mobility…

...which makes it hard to gain legitimacy

Catalytic policy instruments might help gain legitimacy if used consciously and deliberately.

But no Egg of Columbus

Questions for discussion

Is a focus on less and slower mobility a relevant approach?

How do you see popular support and legitimacy for less and slower mobility?

Is catalytic policy instruments a relevant concept?

Do you see potential in e.g. visions, citizen participation and experimentation?