

The Portuguese National Model as a Decision Tool

Costa, Á*, de Bok, M and Palma, V.

* CITTA, Department of Civil Engineer

Faculty of Engineering of University of Porto, afcosta@fe.up.pt

Phone/fax numbers: 00 351 225081903 - 00 315 225081486

The Portuguese National Transport Model (PoNTraM) represents the supply and demand of medium and long distance travel within the country. After initial development between 2006 and 2007, follow up research has recently got under way to significantly upgrade the demand model.

The scope of the Portuguese National Transport Model is to evaluate transport measures that have a regional or national impact, such as the construction of a new national airport or a high speed rail link. It considers five modes relevant to long distance travel: car, bus, rail, taxi and high-speed rail, and the demand models are estimated on a large-scale household survey. The model supports the decision making of transport network investments by providing passenger forecasts or highway link flow projections. By doing so it can be used to prioritise network development investments, which is increasingly important with the current pressure on available funds.

The paper presents some case studies and focus on the model as a decision toll to evaluate major transport investments.

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