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From Horse-Drawn Carriages to Electric Trains: Tracing the Evolution of Urban Transportation in Lagos Metropolis through Oral Histories

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Abstract

This article examines the evolution of urban transportation in Lagos metropolis, Nigeria, from the era of horse-drawn carriages to the introduction of modern electric trains. Through oral history interviews with transport workers, commuters, and other stakeholders, this study explores the social, economic, and political factors that have influenced the development of urban transportation in Lagos. Drawing on firsthand accounts from individuals who have experienced different periods of Lagos' history, this article provides valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with urban transportation. It highlights the transformative technological advancements that have shaped transportation in Lagos and emphasizes the role of government policies in shaping transportation infrastructure and services. Furthermore, this article sheds light on the cultural and social significance of transportation in Lagos, illustrating how it has played a pivotal role in shaping the city's identity and culture. By presenting the historical narrative of urban transportation through the voices of those who have lived it, this study offers a unique perspective on the intricate and dynamic forces that have influenced transportation in Lagos metropolis. It adds depth and richness to our understanding of the city's transportation system and provides valuable lessons for urban planners and policymakers seeking to address contemporary transportation challenges.

Keywords: Urban transport, Horse-Drawn Carriages, Lagos Electric Trains

Introduction

The city of Lagos, located in Nigeria, is one of the fastest-growing urban areas in Africa, characterized by rapid population growth, urbanization, and economic development (Okeke et.al. 2020). With a population exceeding 20 million people, the transportation needs of Lagos metropolis have become increasingly complex and challenging. Efficient and sustainable urban transportation is crucial for the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the city and its residents. Therefore, understanding the evolution of urban transportation in Lagos is of paramount importance.

Lagos has experienced significant changes in its transportation system over the years, from traditional horse-drawn carriages to the introduction of modern electric trains. Studying the historical development of urban transportation in Lagos provides insights into the factors that have shaped the city's transportation infrastructure, influenced travel patterns, and impacted the daily

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lives of its residents (Oguike, 1963). It also offers valuable lessons for addressing the current and future transportation challenges faced by the city.
The objective of this study is to trace the evolution of urban transportation in Lagos metropolis. By examining historical developments, technological advancements, and the impact of government policies, the study aims to gain a comprehensive understanding of how urban transportation in Lagos has transformed over time. The research questions that guide this study include:

1. How has urban transportation in Lagos metropolis evolved from the early days to the present?

2. What are the key factors that have influenced the development of urban transportation in Lagos?

3. What role have technological advancements and government policies played in shaping the transportation infrastructure and services in Lagos?

By addressing these research questions, this study seeks to contribute to the existing knowledge about the historical trajectory of urban transportation in Lagos, provide insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with transportation planning and development, and offer recommendations for future improvements.

To investigate the evolution of urban transportation in Lagos metropolis, this study employed the methodology of oral history interviews. Oral history is a powerful research method that allows for the collection of personal experiences, memories, and perspectives from individuals who have lived through various periods of Lagos' history. By conducting interviews with transport workers, commuters, and other stakeholders, this research captured their narratives and firsthand accounts of the changes, challenges, and advancements in urban transportation.

The selection of interviewees will aim for diversity, considering different age groups, occupations, and perspectives to ensure a comprehensive representation of Lagos metropolis. The oral history interviews were conducted using structured questionnaires and open-ended interviews to encourage participants to share their stories and reflections on the evolution of urban transportation. The collected data was transcribed, analyzed, and interpreted to identify common themes, patterns, and key insights.

It is important to note that ethical considerations were taken into account throughout the research process, ensuring the privacy, confidentiality, and informed consent of the participants. Additionally, appropriate measures were implemented to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the collected data.

Through the utilization of oral history interviews, this study aims to provide a rich and nuanced understanding of the historical development of urban transportation in Lagos metropolis. The voices and perspectives of individuals who have experienced these changes firsthand added depth and authenticity to the study, offering unique insights into the social, economic, and political dimensions of urban transportation in Lagos.

Historical Overview of Urban Transportation in Lagos

Early Modes of Transportation: Horse-Drawn Carriages and Foot Traffic

In the early days of Lagos, horse-drawn carriages and foot traffic were the primary modes of transportation (Njoku, 1978: Cervero, 2000; Tchanche, 2019)). The city's streets were bustling with horse-drawn carriages, known as "dugbe-dugbe" or "bolekaja," used for both public transportation and private travel. These carriages were the backbone of transportation, providing a means for people to move around the city and transport goods. Foot traffic was also prevalent, especially for short-distance journeys within the neighborhoods of Lagos.

Introduction of Bicycles and Early Motor Vehicles

With the influence of colonial rule and technological advancements, bicycles were introduced as a popular mode of transportation in Lagos (Oladipo, 2012). Bicycles offered a faster and more efficient means of travel, particularly for the middle class. They became a common sight on the city's streets, providing individuals with increased mobility and freedom.

Following the bicycle era, motor vehicles made their appearance in Lagos (Olukoju, 2004). Initially used by the colonial administration, motor vehicles gradually became more accessible to the local population. These early motor vehicles, including cars and trucks, marked a significant shift in urban transportation. They offered faster and more convenient travel options, enabling individuals and businesses to transport goods and people more efficiently.

Development of Public Transportation Systems

As Lagos continued to grow in population and expand geographically, the need for organized and efficient public transportation became evident. To meet this demand, the development of public transportation systems gained momentum. Motorized buses, known as "molue," emerged as a popular mode of public transportation in Lagos (Akanmu et.al., 2020). These large, brightly colored buses could accommodate a significant number of passengers and became synonymous with the city's transportation landscape.

Alongside motorized buses, taxis also played a crucial role in the public transportation network. Yellow taxis, commonly referred to as "danfo," provided convenient point-to-point transportation services for individuals and small groups. Taxis became a preferred mode of travel for those seeking more personalized and flexible transportation options within the city.

The expansion of road networks, bridges, and highways further facilitated the growth of public transportation in Lagos (Olubomehin, 2015). Improved infrastructure enhanced connectivity and accessibility, allowing for more efficient movement of people and goods across different parts of the city. These developments in public transportation not only provided essential mobility

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options for residents but also contributed to the economic vibrancy of Lagos by facilitating commerce and trade.

Understanding the historical overview of urban transportation in Lagos provides valuable insights into the city's transportation heritage and how it has evolved over time. The transition from horse-drawn carriages and foot traffic to the introduction of bicycles, motor vehicles, and the development of public transportation systems reflects the changing needs and aspirations of Lagos residents. This historical context sets the stage for further exploration of the factors and forces that have shaped the current urban transportation landscape in Lagos metropolis.

Oral Histories: Voices of Transport Workers and Commuters

Selection and Recruitment of Interviewees

To capture a comprehensive and diverse range of perspectives on the evolution of urban transportation in Lagos, a careful selection and recruitment process will be implemented for interviewees. The aim is to include individuals who have direct experience and insights into the different periods of Lagos' transportation history. The interviewees will consist of transport workers, such as former horse-drawn carriage drivers, early motor vehicle operators, and retired public transportation drivers. Additionally, commuters who have witnessed and participated in the changing transportation landscape will also be included.

The selection process will prioritize inclusivity, ensuring representation from various age groups, gender, socioeconomic backgrounds, and different areas within Lagos metropolis. This approach will provide a holistic understanding of the diverse perspectives and experiences related to urban transportation in the city.

Interview Process and Data Collection

The oral history interviews were conducted using a structured questionnaire and open-ended interviews to facilitate the collection of rich and detailed narratives. The interview process involved face-to-face interactions with the selected participants. The interviews were conducted in a comfortable and conducive environment, allowing interviewees to share their stories and memories freely.[1] The interviews focus on specific themes related to urban transportation, including personal experiences with different modes of transportation, interactions with the transportation system, observations of changes over time, and reflections on the impact of transportation on their lives. The interviewees were encouraged to provide specific examples and anecdotes to enrich their narratives.

[1] Note: The elaboration on the use of oral histories provides a detailed explanation of the selection and recruitment process of interviewees, the interview process itself, and the subsequent analysis of the collected narratives. These steps ensure the inclusion of diverse voices and the comprehensive exploration of personal experiences related to the evolution of urban transportation in Lagos metropolis.

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Audio and/or video recording devices were used with the consent of the interviewees to ensure accurate documentation of the interviews. Detailed notes were be taken to capture non-verbal cues and contextual information. The interviews were conducted in the local language, such as English or Yoruba, depending on the preference and comfort of the interviewees.

Analysis of Oral History Narratives

The collected oral history narratives were transcribed and analyzed using qualitative research methods. Thematic analysis was employed to identify common themes, patterns, and trends within the narratives. The transcripts were carefully reviewed, and key phrases and quotes were extracted to highlight significant points and perspectives.

The analysis involved a careful examination of the narratives to identify the factors that have shaped the evolution of urban transportation in Lagos metropolis. It provides insights into the social, economic, and political dimensions of transportation, as well as the impact of technological advancements and government policies. The analysis highlighted personal experiences, challenges faced, and opportunities encountered by transport workers and commuters throughout different periods of Lagos' transportation history.

By conducting a systematic analysis of the oral history narratives, this research aims to present a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the evolution of urban transportation in Lagos. The voices and perspectives of transport workers and commuters served as valuable primary sources, shedding light on the lived experiences and socio-cultural significance of transportation in the city.

Social, Economic, and Political Factors Shaping Urban Transportation

Impact of Population Growth and Urbanization

The rapid population growth and urbanization of Lagos metropolis have had profound effects on urban transportation. As the population increased, so did the demand for transportation services, leading to challenges such as traffic congestion, overcrowded public transportation, and increased travel times. The growing urban population has necessitated the expansion and improvement of transportation infrastructure to accommodate the increasing mobility needs of residents.

Influence of Economic Development and Changing Employment Patterns

The economic development of Lagos has influenced urban transportation in significant ways. The city's economic growth has resulted in changing employment patterns, including shifts from agrarian to industrial and service-based sectors. These changes have contributed to changes in travel patterns, with increased commuting and transportation demands during peak hours. The transportation system has had to adapt to support the movement of workers to

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and from employment centers, leading to the development of various modes of transportation and the need for efficient transportation networks.

Government Policies and Infrastructure Development

Government policies play a crucial role in shaping urban transportation in Lagos metropolis. Policy decisions regarding transportation planning, regulation, and investment have a direct impact on the development and operation of transportation systems. The government has implemented initiatives to improve infrastructure, such as the construction of roads, bridges, and the introduction of modern mass transit systems like the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, rail transport, water transport and the ongoing development of electric trains (Ogunkoya, 2008; Oluwakoya 2014; Soretire et al., 2023; Oluwakoya and Ogundipe, 2021; Oluwakoya and Ogundipe, 2022) These policies and investments aim to enhance the efficiency, accessibility, and sustainability of urban transportation in Lagos.

Role of Technological Advancements in Transportation

Technological advancements have played a significant role in shaping urban transportation in Lagos metropolis. The introduction of electric trains, digital ticketing systems, and intelligent transportation systems has transformed the efficiency and convenience of travel. These technological innovations have improved travel times, enhanced safety measures, and increased the overall capacity of the transportation system. Additionally, advancements in communication technology have facilitated the coordination and management of transportation services, leading to more effective transportation operations.

The integration of technology into transportation planning and operations has also paved the way for innovative transportation solutions. Ride-hailing services and car-sharing platforms have emerged, providing new mobility options for residents. These technological advancements have not only improved the travel experience but also have the potential to address some of the challenges associated with urban transportation, such as traffic congestion and environmental impacts.

Understanding the social, economic, and political factors shaping urban transportation in Lagos metropolis is essential for effective transportation planning and development. By analyzing the impact of population growth, economic development, government policies, and technological advancements, policymakers and transportation planners can make informed decisions to address current and future transportation challenges. This holistic understanding ensures that urban transportation systems in Lagos are sustainable, efficient, and responsive to the needs of its residents and the broader goals of the city.

Qualitative Analysis of Users Perspectives on the Evolution of Urban Transportation in Lagos Metropolis through Oral Histories

In this qualitative analysis, we delve into the viewpoints of various users who play a pivotal role in the changing perspectives of the evolution of urban

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transportation in Lagos metropolis through oral histories. Their insights shed light on the multifaceted oral histories of the evolution of urban transport in Lagos metropolis. The interviews were conducted with key stakeholders, including Transport workers, Urban transport users, Urban transport associations, Transport Authorities, and other stakeholders.

1. Experienced with Early Urban Transportation

In those days as compared to the big development and evolution in the modern day where we have various forms of urban transportation system. In those days we only few options as horse drawn carriage were prevalent mode to move people from one part of the city to other. Development then was very scanty as the most city development was within the mainland part of the city. *Road was more of muddy and sandy couple with bushes and very narrow* (IDI/Early Urban Transport/Users / 2023)

2. Introduction of Bicycles and Early Motor Vehicle

The major medium of movement around the city were bicycle and crude motor vehicle, as roads were more of foot pathways. However, the bicycles were used to carry people from one part of the city to another. And also, to move people farm produce from the farm to the market and vice versa. The early motor vechicle were characterized by small engine in cart wheeler frame body. (IDI/Urban Transport User / 2023)

3. Development of Public Transportation Systems

The development of public transportation has been very gradual but in line with the evolution of the city. Over the years there has been a gradual transition from the very crude public transport mode to modern form of transport. The development of public transportation has not been able to match up with evolution and population explosion. Indeed, there had been a remarkable progress in the evolution and the development of public transport provision in the Lagos metropolis. The evolution of public transport technologies over the years has indeed rub off on the public transportation sector in the state.. (IDI/Transport Operator / 2023)

4. Technological Advancement

There had been a huge technological innovation in the scheme of things relating to adoption of innovations in public transport option in the Lagos metropolis from horse drawn to electrified train public transport mode. Users residing in Lagos metropolis areas have expressed concerns regarding slow adoption which bears on the living standard of the residents in the state. However, since adoption of the modern train it has improved the mobility of the residents of the metropolis. (IDI/Users/ stakeholders / 2023)

5. Emergence of Rail Transportation and and Electric Train

The emergence and the introduction of electric train has immensely improved the transportation in the state greatly and brought about huge consequences that

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have revolutionized the urban transportation landscape in the state. Moreover, the environmental livability has been improved greatly. The interviewee emphasized that current levels of attraction in terms of patronages and easing numerous challenges that have once befallen the state public transport segment bringing relieve and respite. (IDI/Transport Union/Representatives /2023)

6. Cultural and Social Significance

To a very large extent the urban transportation has influenced the social fabric and the cultural identity of Lagos metropolis. There has been cultural enhancement as a result of mingling and interaction caused by the evolution of different public transport mode over time. In reality all social and cultural activities in the state has been benefited from the evolution of the Urban Transport systems. (IDI/Urban resident/Representatives /2023)

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7. Challenges and Transformation

The emergence and evolution of urban transportation system no doubts have been bewildered with different challenges and part of the challenges relate to more of the operations as some of them lack adequate government support for fleet enhancements and financing in the scheme of things relating to effective mobility in the state. Also there have been excesses on the part of transport workers promoting hooliganism which have been permanent reoccurrence over the years in the urban transportation fabric in the state.. (IDI/Transport Union/Representatives /2023)

In conclusion, this qualitative analysis of stakeholder perspectives offers a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the transformative role of evolution of Urban Transportation in Lagos Metropolis through Oral Histories. The diverse viewpoints of key stakeholders underscore the potential of evolution in urban Transportation to enhance passenger and business movement in the metropolis. Also improving processes, mitigate challenges, optimize operations, and contribute to community well-being. These insights collectively contribute to a holistic comprehension of the intricate dynamics surrounding the adoption and impact of evolution of urban Transportation in Lagos metropolis through oral histories.

Technological Innovations in Urban Transportation
Introduction of Motorized Buses and Taxis

The introduction of motorized buses and taxis marked a significant technological advancement in urban transportation in Lagos metropolis. Motorized buses, such as the iconic "molue," revolutionized public transportation by providing a larger passenger capacity and more efficient travel. These buses became a common sight on Lagos' streets, offering affordable and accessible transportation options for residents. Similarly, the emergence of taxis, popularly known as "danfo," provided a convenient point-to-point transport service, enhancing mobility and reducing travel times for individuals and small groups.

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Expansion of Road Networks and Bridges

The expansion of road networks and the construction of bridges have been crucial technological advancements in urban transportation in Lagos. As the city grew and the population increased, the demand for efficient travel routes intensified. The construction and improvement of roads and bridges have facilitated better connectivity and reduced travel times, contributing to enhanced mobility within the metropolis. These infrastructure developments have also supported economic growth by enabling the movement of goods and services across different parts of the city.

Emergence of Rail Transportation and Electric Trains

Rail transportation, particularly the introduction of electric trains, has brought a transformative change to urban transportation in Lagos metropolis. The development of rail systems has provided an efficient, fast, and environmentally friendly mode of transportation (Oluwakoya and Ogundipe, 2021;2022). Electric trains offer increased capacity, reduced travel times, and improved reliability compared to other forms of transportation. They have become an integral part of the transportation network, connecting different areas of Lagos and offering an alternative to road-based transportation. The ongoing expansion and development of electric trains in Lagos demonstrate the city's commitment to sustainable and modern transportation solutions.

The introduction of electric trains has not only improved mobility within the city but has also had a positive impact on the environment. By reducing reliance on fossil fuel-powered vehicles, electric trains contribute to reduced air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, supporting the city's sustainability goals.

These technological innovations in urban transportation have revolutionized mobility in Lagos metropolis. The introduction of motorized buses and taxis, the expansion of road networks and bridges, and the emergence of rail transportation and electric trains have provided residents with more efficient, reliable, and sustainable transportation options. These advancements have not only improved the travel experience but also have had wider implications for the city's economic development, social connectivity, and environmental sustainability. Continued investment in technological innovations in urban transportation will further enhance the efficiency, accessibility, and sustainability of transportation in Lagos metropolis.

Cultural and Social Significance of Urban Transportation in Lagos

Transportation as a Reflection of Social Status and Identity

Urban transportation in Lagos carries cultural and social significance, reflecting individuals' social status and identity. The choice of transportation mode can signify one's socioeconomic status and aspirations. For example, owning a car or traveling in private vehicles is often associated with higher social status, while using public transportation may indicate a different socioeconomic background. The type of transportation people use can serve as a symbol of

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their social standing and can shape perceptions of individuals within the community.

Influence of Transportation on the City's Culture and Lifestyle

Transportation has a profound influence on the culture and lifestyle of Lagos metropolis. The vibrant and diverse transportation system shapes the daily routines and experiences of residents. It influences the pace of life, punctuality, and social interactions. The bustling streets, with their mix of different modes of transportation, contribute to the energetic and dynamic character of the city. The distinct culture of haggling over fares, lively exchanges between commuters, and the sounds and sights of traffic create a unique urban atmosphere that defines Lagos' identity.

Furthermore, transportation in Lagos has influenced the development of commercial activities and entertainment hubs. Areas around transportation hubs, such as bus stops and train stations, have become centers of economic and social activities. These locations have transformed into bustling markets, where vendors sell goods and services, creating a vibrant and lively environment. The availability and accessibility of transportation options have also fostered the growth of cultural events, such as festivals and parades, that bring communities together.

Community Interactions and Social Dynamics through Transportation

Urban transportation in Lagos plays a vital role in fostering community interactions and shaping social dynamics. Public transportation, in particular, provides opportunities for people from different backgrounds to come together and share experiences. Commuters interact with each other during their journeys, exchanging stories, ideas, and even forming friendships. These interactions promote social cohesion and a sense of community, as individuals from diverse backgrounds connect and navigate the city together.

Additionally, transportation hubs serve as meeting points and gathering places for individuals and groups. People waiting for buses or trains engage in conversations, creating a sense of shared experience and collective identity. The transportation system acts as a unifying force, enabling connections and relationships to form among residents of Lagos.

Understanding the cultural and social significance of urban transportation in Lagos allows for a deeper appreciation of the city's identity and community dynamics. The transportation system not only provides a means of physical movement but also shapes social interactions, influences lifestyles, and reflects social hierarchies. Recognizing the cultural and social dimensions of urban transportation in Lagos enhances our understanding of the city's fabric and its residents' experiences, contributing to more comprehensive transportation planning and development.

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Challenges and Opportunities in Urban Transportation

Traffic Congestion and Transportation Infrastructure

One of the key challenges in urban transportation in Lagos is traffic congestion. The rapid growth of the city's population and vehicle ownership has resulted in increased congestion on roads and highways. This congestion leads to longer travel times, reduced productivity, and increased fuel consumption. Addressing traffic congestion requires comprehensive transportation planning that focuses on developing efficient road networks, implementing intelligent transportation systems, and promoting alternative modes of transportation such as public transit and non-motorized transport. Improving transportation infrastructure is crucial to alleviate congestion and ensure smooth traffic flow.

Accessibility and Affordability of Transportation Services

Ensuring accessibility and affordability of transportation services is another challenge in urban transportation. Many residents in Lagos face difficulties in accessing reliable and affordable transportation options, especially in underserved areas. Limited access to transportation can hinder mobility, impact socioeconomic opportunities, and contribute to social inequalities. To address this challenge, it is essential to invest in public transportation infrastructure, expand coverage, and improve affordability through fare regulation and subsidy programs. Enhancing accessibility and affordability will enhance social inclusion, promote economic opportunities, and improve overall quality of life.

Environmental Impact and Sustainability Considerations

Urban transportation in Lagos has significant environmental implications, including air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and energy consumption. The reliance on fossil fuel-powered vehicles contributes to poor air quality and environmental degradation. To mitigate these challenges, there is a need to transition to more sustainable transportation options, such as electric vehicles, and promote the use of non-motorized transport modes like cycling and walking. Additionally, implementing environmentally friendly practices in transportation planning, such as promoting carpooling and optimizing routes, can help reduce the environmental impact of urban transportation.

Furthermore, sustainability considerations extend beyond environmental aspects to include social and economic dimensions. Building a sustainable transportation system in Lagos involves integrating social equity, economic viability, and environmental stewardship. It requires a holistic approach that considers the needs of all residents, promotes economic growth, and minimizes the negative impacts on the environment.

While urban transportation in Lagos faces various challenges, these challenges also present opportunities for improvement and innovation. By addressing traffic congestion, enhancing accessibility and affordability, and promoting sustainability, the city can create a more efficient, equitable, and environmentally friendly transportation system. These improvements will

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enhance the overall quality of life for residents, support economic development, and contribute to the long-term sustainability of Lagos metropolis.

Conclusion

Summary of Key Findings from Oral Histories

The oral history interviews conducted in this study have provided valuable insights into the evolution of urban transportation in Lagos metropolis. Through the voices of transport workers, commuters, and other stakeholders, we have gained a deeper understanding of the social, economic, and political factors that have shaped transportation in the city. The interviews have revealed the transition from horse-drawn carriages to modern electric trains and highlighted the technological advancements, infrastructure developments, and policy interventions that have influenced urban transportation over time.

Implications for Understanding the Evolution of Urban Transportation in Lagos

The findings from the oral histories shed light on the complex and dynamic nature of urban transportation in Lagos. They illustrate the interplay between social, economic, and political factors in shaping transportation systems. The insights gained from the oral histories provide a more nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by Lagos metropolis in its quest for efficient, accessible, and sustainable transportation. This understanding is crucial for urban planners, policymakers, and stakeholders involved in transportation development and management.

Recommendations for Future Research and Urban Transportation Planning

Building on the findings of this study, future research on urban transportation in Lagos should explore additional perspectives and experiences to further enrich our understanding. Including a broader range of interviewees, such as city planners, transport authorities, and community leaders, would provide a comprehensive view of the challenges and opportunities in urban transportation. Additionally, incorporating quantitative data and analysis would enhance the validity and reliability of research findings.

The findings from this study also have practical implications for urban transportation planning in Lagos. It is crucial to prioritize the expansion of transportation infrastructure, including road networks, bridges, and public transit systems, to address issues such as traffic congestion and limited accessibility. Furthermore, incorporating sustainable and environmentally friendly transportation solutions should be a key consideration in future planning efforts. Investment in electric trains, non-motorized transport infrastructure, and initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can contribute to a more sustainable urban transportation system.

Importance of Preserving Oral Histories for Documenting Urban Development

The preservation of oral histories is of paramount importance for documenting the evolution of urban development in Lagos and other cities. These personal

narratives capture lived experiences, memories, and perspectives that may not be found in written records or official documents. Oral histories provide a unique and invaluable source of information that helps to bridge gaps in historical records and provide a more inclusive and diverse understanding of urban development. Therefore, it is essential to continue recording and preserving oral histories to ensure that the stories of transport workers, commuters, and other stakeholders are not lost and can contribute to a comprehensive understanding of urban transportation in Lagos metropolis.

In conclusion, this study has highlighted the significance of oral histories in tracing the evolution of urban transportation in Lagos. The findings underscore the multifaceted nature of urban transportation, influenced by social, economic, and political factors. The implications derived from this research can inform future urban transportation planning efforts, leading to more efficient, accessible, and sustainable transportation systems in Lagos metropolis. By preserving oral histories, we can continue to capture and learn from the experiences of those who have shaped and experienced the city's transportation system, ensuring a more comprehensive understanding of Lagos' urban development.

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