What is the Transit Competitiveness Index (TCI)?

What sits behind TCI — the Transit Competitive Index web-based tool — are robust analytics from a decade of research measuring competitiveness with dozens of transit agencies and metropolitan planning organizations across the country.

For every origin-destination (O-D) pair, it calculates a numeric competitiveness score that incorporates and appropriately weights the conditions, such as residential and employment densities, congestion levels, parking cost and availability, household characteristics, and many more.

Until 2013, the City of Arlington, Texas (COA) was the largest city in the United States without a fixed-route public transit system. COA recently established a commissioned a study to determine the need for future fixed-route and commuter transit. The TCI was a key tool used to assist planners with determining the competitiveness of transit within the COA.

Four Applications of TCI can be used across a broad array of audiences and jurisdictions.

Intra-Agency Resource Allocation
- Expand competitive markets
- Investigate marginal markets
- Reduce or eliminate uncompetitive markets

Negotiations with Jurisdictions
- Identify ways to improve local transit markets through:
  - Land use density
  - Parking price and supply
  - Transit Priority

Screening and Evaluations
- Quick evaluation of alternatives
- Avoids coding transit service
- Screen potential expansions

Public Outreach and Funding
- Use data and visuals to better connect with:
  - Advocates
  - Voters
  - Neighborhoods

The team created a matrix of TCI scores to determine local route potential.

The same process can also be applied to assess regional services. Much like other areas in the United States, there is strong transit competitiveness to major urban areas from Arlington.

The matrix helped prepare the flow map that assisted in the local route alignments recommendation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency Rating</th>
<th>Arlington Highlands Apartments</th>
<th>Lamar Blvd Apartments</th>
<th>Cooper St/Matlock Rd</th>
<th>Southwestern Medical Center</th>
<th>Daily Trips</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Competitive</td>
<td>&gt; 125</td>
<td>100 - 125</td>
<td>75 - 100</td>
<td>1 - 75</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marginally Competitive</td>
<td>1 - 75</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Uncompetitive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little or No Travel</td>
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