

## **ABSTRACT**

### **Public Transportation in the Kingston Metropolitan Region: Theoretical and Practical Challenges for Policy Makers**

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This dissertation examines the theoretical and practical issues relating to the public transportation system in the Kingston Metropolitan Region against the background of both public and private ownership of the system and the impact of structural adjustment. The study, which also embodies a cross-country comparative analysis of public transportation systems, identifies the strengths and weaknesses of both types of ownership and defends the proposition that public transportation in the Kingston Metropolitan Region is best provided by a system of joint venture operations.

The thesis recognises the importance of transportation to economic development and highlights the fact that despite recent efforts to improve the public transportation system, some of the most acute transportation problems have still not been addressed. As a result, specific measures are recommended to make government more responsive to innovation, although the task is not considered easy due to the prevalence of political interests in the decision-making process.

**Keywords:** William Alexander Lecky; public transportation; privatisation and structural adjustment.