Transport and Land-use in Greater Santiago (GS)
Uncoordinated Centralization and market-driven Planning

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Presentation Plan

Scope and Context
- Power balance among institutional levels
- Chilean Institutional framework

Controversies
- Transantiago public transport reform
- 100th Metropolitan Plan Modification

Reform Perspectives
Different objectives depending on administrative scale:

- State, maximum output
- Region, per capita cost-benefit optimum
- Commune, minimum environmental costs

A relatively small, very centralized public sector: 1/4 GDP

Sectoral Ministries that control most of the public budget, but are unable to coordinate

Two controversies that illustrate this: Transantiago & PRMS 100
A major public transport reform started and implemented by a **presidential decree**

- No democratic controls
- An interministerial committee with no clear leadership
- Main aims: modernize the capital city and attract foreign investments

As the bus lines had to be profitable, frequencies, among other service standards, were lowered

Infrastructure, depending on other ministries, wasn’t ready on time
Local authorities and users were not considered in the design. They still have little influence.

Their means for exerting pressure or expressing frustration are minor lawsuits... or violence.

The operation contracts have recently been redesigned, addressing some major service problems and deficit reduction.

But a fundamental *a priori* remains: how can you operate a high quality public transport system **without subsidies**?
100th modification: 14% increase in urban land, expansion under development conditions

A long bureaucratic odyssey where national politics dominate over metropolitan concerns:
→ The PRMS 100 is frozen and almost unchanged
Transantiago + PRMS 100: the incoherent metropolis

With such a small public sector, urban development is too dependent on private investors.

As each sector has different investment imperatives, the result is suboptimal:

- For welfare and equality
- For public finances
Reform Perspectives in Chile

Strengthening and democratizing the Regional Government seems the most feasible option towards intersectoral urban planning.

Important reforms are being implemented, but there is a huge retard in inequalities, welfare policies and decentralization.

A very slow institutional evolution since the 1980 Constitution, while society has rapidly changed.

Social upheaval: major reforms in 2-5 years?
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Thanks for your attention

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