

Total Cost of Ownership for Trolleybus Operations

Why Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)?

TCO analysis has become a critical decision-making tool for cities, transport authorities and operators evaluating zero-emission public transport systems. Across Europe and the world, cities are increasingly comparing battery-electric buses (BEB), In Motion Charging (IMC) trolleybuses, and tram systems not only on vehicle purchase price, but also on long-term operational and infrastructure costs.

At present, however, the sector still lacks harmonised and standardised benchmarking data. Given this, the UITP Trolleybus Committee launched a benchmarking exercise to consolidate operational and financial data from trolleybus systems. The objective was to identify realistic cost ranges, major cost drivers, and best practices that can support future procurement and investment of trolleybuses.

- 17 trolleybus systems surveyed
- Core Benchmark KPIs covering the whole lifecycle
- Estimated cost compositions for both OPEX and CAPEX



→ A trolleybus alighting passengers in Salzburg, Austria.