

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Student:	Pavel Prokop
Advisor:	Doc. PhDr. Tomáš Havránek, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	The Economic Costs of Unfinished Highways in the Czech Republic

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Contribution

Let me first explain the slightly unusual circumstances regarding this thesis. The author, Pavel Prokop, was assigned the topic in June 2018. After little to no interaction, Mr. Prokop approached me in April 2019 with the intention to submit the thesis for defense in June. After inspecting what was supposed to be the final draft in May, I told Mr. Prokop I couldn't support the thesis if he decided to submit it at that point and that a lot of work was needed. I am pleased to see that Mr. Prokop has improved the thesis dramatically. It is still not really what I had in mind when I published the topic in the SIS (an attempt to produce an estimate of the overall cost of failing to build freeways that could have been built many years ago – arguably a difficult exercise for a BA student), but, to my eyes, it is a solid (if a bit unorthodox) bachelor's thesis. It consists of three ingredients: i) a literature review on the costs and benefits of freeways, ii) a detailed description of the current practice of evaluating these costs and benefits in the Czech Republic, and iii) proposals for improvements in the current practice. To my knowledge, it is the first rigorous attempt to synthesize information on how costly unfinished freeways are in the Czech Republic.

Methods

The thesis is basically a survey, so there's not much to comment on regarding the methodology. No econometrics involved.

Literature

The relevant literature is covered well.

Manuscript form

The level of English used in the thesis is solid, but a careful proofreading would enhance readability. The thesis is typeset in LaTeX.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

I recommend the thesis for defense. Could the author try to provide a rough estimate of how costly is a hypothetical one-year delay in the construction of the freeway D35?

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SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
Contribution (max. 30 points)	20
Methods (max. 30 points)	20
Literature (max. 20 points)	18
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	16
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	74
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	C

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Doc. PhDr. Tomáš Havránek, Ph.D.

DATE OF EVALUATION: 19.8.2019



Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

CONTRIBUTION: *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	0

METHODS: *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	0

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	0

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	0

Overall grading:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F