CLAIMS

1. A method for managing supply of a geographic area by transport service vehicles comprising:
determining, for each sub-area of a plurality of sub-areas of the geographic area, a demand for transport service vehicles in the sub-area, wherein the sum of demand over the sub-areas forms a total demand;
determining, for each sub-area of the plurality of sub-areas, a supply of transport service vehicles in the sub-area of the geographic area, wherein the sum of supply over the sub-areas forms a total supply;
calculating a first measure specifying the portion of the total demand that can be met with the total supply when demand in a sub-area may be met with supply in a different sub-area;
calculating a second measure specifying the portion of the total demand that can be met with the total supply when demand in a sub-area may only be met with supply in the sub-area;
calculating a quality of the distribution of the total supply into the sub-areas by a ratio of the first measure and the second measure; and
managing the supply of the geographic area by transport service vehicles depending on the calculated quality of the distribution,
determining that the calculated quality is below a predetermined threshold, checking whether the total demand is higher than the total supply based on the calculated quality and if the total demand is higher than the total supply, increase the total supply.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first measure specifies the portion of the total demand that can be met if the total supply is optimally distributed to sub-areas in terms of the total demand that can be met.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, comprising, if the calculated quality is below a predetermined threshold, changing the distribution of the total supply to the sub-areas

to increase the portion of the total demand that can be met with the total supply when demand in a sub-area may only be met with supply in the sub-area.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein changing the distribution of the total supply to the sub-areas comprises moving at least some supply from a sub-area in which the supply is above the demand to a sub-area in which the demand is above the supply.

5. The method of claim 3 or 4, wherein changing the distribution of supply comprises controlling one or more vehicles to move from the sub-area in which they are located to a different sub-area.

6. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5, comprising, if the calculated quality is below a predetermined threshold, increasing supply at least in a sub-area in which the demand is higher than the supply.

7. The method of any one of claims 1 to 6, comprising, determining that the total demand is higher than the total supply.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein increasing supply in a sub-area comprises controlling one or more vehicles to move to the sub-area.

9. The method of any one of claims 1 to 8, comprising implementing, before determining the supply of transport service vehicles in the sub-areas, a supply shaping approach and evaluating the performance of the supply shaping approach by the quality of the distribution.

10. The method of any one of claims 1 to 9, comprising implementing different supply shaping approaches, evaluating the performances of the supply shaping approaches and selecting the supply shaping approach having the best performance for managing the supply of the geographic area by transport service vehicles.

11. The method of claim 10, comprising controlling transport service vehicles according to the supply shaping approach.

12. The method of any one of claims 1 to 11, comprising measuring demand for each sub-area and supply for each sub-area in a plurality of time slots and determining the quality of the distribution for each time slot.

13. The method of any one of claims 1 to 12, comprising determining the demand for each sub-area by summing the measured demand for each sub-area over the plurality time slots and determining the supply for each sub-area by summing the measured supply for each sub-area over a plurality of multiple time slots and determining the quality of the distribution for a time period including the plurality of time slots.

14. A server computer comprising a radio interface, a memory interface and a processing unit configured to perform the method of any one of claims 1 to 13.

15. A computer program element comprising program instructions, which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the method of any one of claims 1 to 13.

16. A computer-readable medium comprising program instructions, which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the method of any one of claims 1 to 13.