



PRESS RELEASE

PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS COVID-SAFE: A SECTOR READY TO BUILD BACK BETTER



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The COVID-19 crisis has shown how essential local public transport services are to keeping our cities moving.

During the global lockdown measures, **public transport was maintained** to ensure **the mobility of essential workers** - and now **with economic activity returning** in parts of the world the **demand for mobility is growing**.

There is enough **evidence to show** that with all recommended **safety measures in place**, the **risk to health from the coronavirus pandemic within public transport is very low**.

Despite the lack of scientific evidence to hand, many **governments and select media have called for people to avoid public transport**, leading to an **impact on image, reputation, and passenger behaviour**.

The benefits of public transport are fundamental to achieve strategic city objectives and we must recognise that **the sector is ready, committed, and reliable with data grounded in science**.

In terms of safety in relation to COVID-19, there are more and more scientific studies and analysis – ranging from **Sante Publique France and the Robert Koch-Institut, to the RSSB and Science Magazine** - showing the adept performance of public transport systems.

The **wearing of masks on board, the continual disinfection of high-contact surfaces** and **frequent air renewal and good ventilation** are essential to maintaining that safety.

Public transport's stakeholders are committed to restoring trust and reassuring passengers.

Public transport has taken **the coronavirus pandemic very seriously** by implementing all necessary **cleaning, safety, and deployment measures**.

Although this has come at great cost, the sector has shown **how it can adapt to serve its responsibility** to staff and the communities they serve.

Financial support must now be provided to the sector for it **to survive and thrive** as we witness **a progressive resumption of activities**.

Governments must **invest in a city's social infrastructure - health, education, public transport – as all go hand-in-hand**.

“Public transport demonstrated its resilience by reacting adequately to an extreme situation and continually evolving throughout the global coronavirus pandemic. The sector has faced stigmatisation without any verified argument to back it up and so we must show the factual research conducted around the world to counter these false criticisms. We know that public transport and active mobility play a key role to building back better, so we need to ensure the progress and success of public transport by seizing a unique chance to shape the future of our cities, for everyone.”

Mohamed Mezghani
UITP Secretary General*

Authorities and operators have **adapted their networks and services** to increase services, manage occupancy and continue to **enforce key safety measures** as demand grows.

As we look to the future for our cities, we must remain **committed to providing better mobility** and move **beyond a 'business-as-usual' approach**.

Now is the time to **devise visionary solutions** and **strengthen policy-making** that fosters **inclusive, sustainable, and resilient cities** leading to the urgent **implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**.

Additional efforts must be made to showcase the **benefits public transport offers to our societies**, listen to the facts and to **restore the trust of citizens along the way**.

This should be **a shared responsibility** involving the **political authorities, the public transport agencies, and citizens**.

[View our new Policy Brief: “Public Transport is COVID-Safe”](#)

**acting on behalf of Mohamed Mezghani SARL*
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FOR EDITORS



UITP, The International Association of Public Transport works to enhance quality of life and economic well-being by supporting and promoting sustainable transport in urban areas worldwide. As a passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility, UITP is internationally recognised for its work to advance the development of this critical policy agenda. With more than **1800 members** in **100 countries**, UITP has a long history to its name, and is the only worldwide network to bring together all public transport stakeholders and all sustainable transport modes. Visit the [newsroom](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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