



ADVANCING
PUBLIC
TRANSPORT

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UITP Press Office

PRESS RELEASE

THE YEAR OF RAIL IS HERE... AND IT'S TIME TO *KEEP IT RAIL!*



BRUSSELS, 3 JUNE 2021

**Rail plays a vital role in keeping our cities and regions alive and moving:
and now UITP is keeping rail on track with our new *Keep It Rail!* focus.**

The European Commission has placed **a necessary spotlight** on a key part of **the public transport landscape** by making 2021 [the European Year of Rail](#).

As an international association, UITP will be **widening that spotlight further** and showcasing the work being done **across the rail sector to provide a safe, smart, and sustainable means of transport**.

We will launch **a series of activities to promote the use of regional, suburban, urban, and local rail transport** as an **essential part** of the world of urban mobility.

Throughout the year, UITP will organise **events and launch new publications and projects** – with **key opportunities for the international media** - to highlight **the key contribution of rail transport** in our everyday lives.

You can be part of [the APTA-UITP Rail Conference](#) where **a two-day virtual technical conference** with **high-energy sessions and speakers** will discuss operations, finance, and workforce development to advance the work of rail (*online, 8-9 June 2021*).

The European [research project Shift2MaaS](#) will be hosting a final event, where **the uptake of Mobility-as-a-Service schemes** and the Shift2Rail 'IP4 technologies' will be presented. (online, 22 June 2021)

Free media registration is available for both!

Regional and suburban rail, metro and light rail hold a vital position in our mobility landscape: urban rail is the backbone of transport in many cities. Especially now, as we look towards building back better and ensuring sustainable cities for the future, we must dedicate much attention to advancing the attractiveness of urban rail and make sure rail receives the institutional and financial support it deserves. Therefore, bringing rail stakeholders from across the world around the table and innovating together is an essential way to maintain excellence in the sector."

Umberto Guida
Senior Director of Knowledge and Innovation
UITP

Did you know...?

- **Tokyo, Moscow and Shanghai** metro systems carry the same **amount of people as live on the globe.**
- The total number of regional and suburban Rail passengers carried in 2006 was more than 6, 800 million. In nearly **10 years, demand has increased by 31%** to reach 8,9 billion journeys.
- With a total annual ridership in Europe of 10,422 million in 2018, **light rail and tram carry as many passengers as metros and regional/commuter rail**, and 10 times more passengers than air travel in Europe.

COVID-19 has **greatly impacted the public transport sector** and altered these statistics – and the rail industry will be vital to **rebuilding our sector in a post-pandemic world.**

Over the years, UITP has produced **a number of publications to highlight the importance of regional and local rail**, such as the Statistics Brief on [light rail and tram – the European outlook](#), and the Statistics Brief [on World metro figures](#).

UITP will take the opportunity of the Year of Rail to **update these publications and launch new editions** with the objective to promote rail as a sustainable mode of transport.

During 2021 we will be **telling more rail stories than ever before**, so stay connected to **our dedicated digizine** for more details.

Let's #KeepItRail! throughout 2021



(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.

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