

A new project from UITP

Lead Partner



ADVANCING  
PUBLIC  
TRANSPORT



## PRESS RELEASE

### YOUR TICKET TO A BETTER PASSENGER EXPERIENCE: UITP LAUNCHES NEW FORUM TO ADVANCE OPEN LOOP PAYMENT IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT

*UITP TEAMS UP WITH VISA AND OTHER PARTNERS TO ACCELERATE GLOBAL  
ACCESSIBILITY OF OPEN LOOP TRANSPORT PAYMENT SYSTEMS*

YOUR TICKET TO A BETTER  
PASSENGER EXPERIENCE:  
UITP LAUNCHES NEW  
FORUM TO ADVANCE  
OPEN LOOP PAYMENT IN  
PUBLIC



*BRUSSELS, 22 JULY 2021*

**Moving public transport forward** by **improving the experience** of passengers is at the heart of everything UITP does.

Today, UITP is pleased to announce the launch of the new **Urban Mobility Open Payments Forum**, aiming to advance adoption of **open loop payment systems** in public transport across the globe.

By joining forces with **Visa** and other key industry players, the Forum will be focused on **helping cities create efficient, inclusive, and sustainable door-to-door travel experiences**, enabled by **simple, convenient, and secure open loop payments systems**.

Together **UITP, Visa, American Express** and **Scheidt & Bachmann**, will help pave the way for a world in which paying for public transport in your home city is as familiar and compelling as it is in a city you are visiting.

The launch of the **Urban Mobility Open Payments Forum** follows calls from the transportation sector **to create a clearer framework for engaging in a more open dialogue** at an international level on open loop payments in public transport.

UITP, in collaboration with **Visa as our lead partner**, and alongside **other payments industry leaders** including **American Express and Scheidt & Bachmann**, will bring together a platform to all relevant stakeholders, including **payment systems, industry partners, public transport operators and authorities**.

The Forum will **facilitate exchange and dialogue on solutions and processes**, raising awareness to make it easier and less costly for public transport organisations **to implement open loop payment**.

*“As UITP we constantly seek to further develop the integrated sustainable mobility of the future. To do this, it is of great importance to collaborate with external partners and facilitate innovation and knowledge exchange in the sector. Providing excellence in passenger experience is the common goal of each player in our sector – the new Forum aims to align these interests towards common actions and initiatives.”* said Sylvain Haon, Senior Director of Strategy at UITP.

*“Now more than ever, passengers of public transportation expect cleaner, safer, and more convenient ways to pay when they ride, and transit systems everywhere need the resources to keep pace with these changing expectations,”* said Jason Blackhurst, SVP of global seller products, Visa. *“By partnering with UITP on the Urban Mobility Open Payments Forum, we are able to help accelerate worldwide accessibility to more seamless, contactless ways to pay on transportation systems, and better meet the needs of transit operators, and passengers everywhere.”*

Visa is committed to helping advance open loop payment systems around the globe, with over 450 contactless transit projects currently live worldwide<sup>1</sup>.

### ***The benefits of open loop payments for passengers***

Open loop means **any eligible payment method can be used** without having to be part of the system itself. A passenger can **use their existing contactless card to pay for a trip**, even if they are not affiliated with the transport network.

Passengers can **use public transport without additional hurdles**. They do not have to install an app first or buy an agency specific smartcard for every city they live in or visit. Riders can **simply use a payment card or contactless device such as a phone that they already have and are familiar with**, easing concerns about unused credit balances.

---

<sup>1</sup> Visa Data 2021

The **Urban Mobility Open Payments Forum** will launch **a series of initiatives to inform and educate the wider market** and improve understanding and know-how of the stakeholders of the public transport sector, in particular public transport operators and authorities.

The Forum will be uniquely placed to **understand the challenges of the markets, to educate its players, and together advance innovation.**

**The Forum is actively looking for new members to broaden the discussions on open loop payment in public transport.**



**(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](#).

**Contact:** Scott Shepherd UITP Press and Media Manager [scott.shepherd@uitp.org](mailto:scott.shepherd@uitp.org) 0032-2-663-66-73