

ADVANCING
PUBLIC
TRANSPORT

WHY PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS KEY TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS



▶ TABLE OF CONTENT

3 A FUTURE WITHOUT LIMITS, FOR 2030 AND BEYOND

4 PUBLIC TRANSPORT: MOBILITY FOR YOU, BENEFITS FOR ALL
HOW PUBLIC TRANSPORT BENEFITS THE SDGS

5 MOST SDGS LINK TO MULTIPLE BENEFITS

6 PEOPLE
ACCESSIBILITY
AFFORDABILITY
HEALTHY, ACTIVE LIFESTYLE
CONNECTING PEOPLE
NUMBER ONE IN SAFETY

19 PLANET
CLEAN AIR
SAVING THE PLANET
QUALITY OF URBAN LIFE
NOISE REDUCTION



32 PROGRESS
INNOVATION
BOOSTING THE ECONOMY
LOCAL JOBS
BUSTLING CITIES

45 HOW UITP UNITES THE TRANSPORT SECTOR BEHIND SDG17
MULTISTAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE SOLUTIONS
POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL COHERENCE

A FUTURE WITHOUT LIMITS, FOR 2030 AND BEYOND

People depend on public transport. It is essential in powering lives and livelihoods, moving people, and ensuring no one is left behind. Transforming public transport has an integral role to play in securing the future, protecting the planet, and ensuring the sustainability of our cities.

As the world hits 8 billion people, with most living in urban areas, only half of the world's urban population can claim to have access to a sustainable transport system fit for the future. To get us back on track, we need a transformation of transport in cities through the scaling up of policy measures and shifting finance towards public transport. If not, then the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will remain out of reach.

The SDGs have a specific target (11.2) to expand public transport. As cities grow, so must they grow their public transport systems and ensure that they are safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable. The benefits for doing so are clear, both for the current, and for future generations.

Time is running out. We need policies and investments to improve quality of life via more and better public transport and active mobility. That enable cities to make a difference. Public transport has the ability to transform people's lives and can make the SDGs a reality. In short, it can lock us into a future of prosperity: for society, economy, and environment.

If we ensure that all our urban citizens have convenient access to public transport, we will truly have a future with Vision Zero: no inequality to access, no deaths on our roads, no pollution, no emissions, no discrimination, no marginalisation, and no limits.

We can improve lives and the planet, shift the economy and society to a better place, and avoid inequality with more public transport. That is our vision for 2030 and beyond.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT: MOBILITY FOR YOU, BENEFITS FOR ALL

Public transport is the most sustainable and safest mode of transport. It brings benefits to all of society; improving the lives of people, guaranteeing a healthy planet, and stimulating technological, economic and societal progress.

Public transport, as the backbone of sustainable urban mobility, improves social cohesion, guarantee financial and physical accessibility, and fight climate change. The sector contributes to the economic development of regions and cities, creates employment and connects places and people.

The sector brings 12 tangible benefits to all of society, and it brings those benefits for people, planet and progress.

PEOPLE

- Accessibility and affordability
- Healthy, active lifestyle
- Connecting people
- Number one in safety

PLANET

- Clean air
- Saving the planet
- Quality of urban life
- Noise reduction

PROGRESS

- Innovation
- Boosting the economy
- Local jobs
- Bustling cities

DISCOVER MORE ON
THE BENEFITS OF
PUBLIC TRANSPORT BY
VISITING

 uitp.org/pt-benefits

CHECK OUT THE
TOOLBOX AND SPREAD
THE MESSAGE!

HOW PUBLIC TRANSPORT BENEFITS THE SDGS

In this report, we discover how each of these benefits contributes to specific targets within the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, as it boosts the economy, the sector aids in poverty reduction and economic development across the globe (SDG target 1.4). This benefit also has an impact on target 9.1 and 12.7.

Each benefit is also linked to two case studies from across the world. They demonstrate the real world impact investments in public transport can have.

Across the world, cities are increasing their investments in public transport, walking and cycling. After decades of policies promoting private car use, they are giving cities back to people and making the sustainable choice.

MOST SDGS LINK TO MULTIPLE BENEFITS

PT Benefit	Sustainable development goals														page
	1	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	15	16		
Accessibility and affordability	x		x	x						x					7
Healthy, active lifestyle		x								x					10
Connecting people		x		x						x			x		13
Number one in safety		x								x					16
Clean air		x								x					20
Saving the planet						x				x		x			23
Quality of urban life								x	x	x			x		26
Noise reduction		x								x					29
Innovation						x	x	x				x			33
Boosting the economy	x								x		x				36
Local jobs	x						x			x					39
Bustling cities		x							x	x	x				42



PEOPLE





ACCESSIBILITY & AFFORDABILITY

Public transport offers equal opportunities to all citizens, independent of their social standing or background. It provides access to the most essential parts of daily life. It brings us to school, work, shopping, healthcare and leisure. And it does so at 1/16 the cost of what people pay for owning and operating a personal car.

A good territorial coverage and the long-term availability of the service should be guaranteed by the public authority. This ensures a reliable mobility system that people can base life decisions on. When buying a house for example. Will children be able to get to school? Can

we reach employment opportunities? And are medical facilities easy to reach?

Public transport, particularly networks reaching out to suburbs and rural areas, contributes to territorial cohesion, while also reducing traffic congestion by commuters. For rural areas, a basic public transport offer – including on-demand transport – can ensure access to economic and social opportunities for the region’s inhabitants and local businesses. This plays a key role in achieving SDG target 11.a.

Public transport’s accessibility and affordability addresses SDG target 1.4 by offering cost-effective mobility, enhancing access to basic services and economic opportunities for all, especially those in lower-income brackets. For SDGs 4.2 and 4.3, public transport supports equitable access to education for children and adults, by providing reliable transportation to schools and higher education institutions.

In terms of SDG 10.2, public transport promotes social inclusion by offering equal mobility opportunities regardless of social background, aiding in reducing inequalities. Appropriate financial support would only improve the sector’s contribution to this target.



JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, BRT SYSTEMS FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS

Johannesburg's Rea Vaya BRT system trialled free travel for pensioners and disabled individuals. Its buses and stations are disability-friendly, with universal access features like ramps with handrails, visual and auditory guidance systems, and wheelchair-adapted ticket booths. The level platforms and bus doors facilitate easy boarding. The fleet includes 'articulated' buses accommodating two wheelchairs and 'complementary' buses with kerbside lifts, underscoring Rea Vaya's commitment to enhancing mobility for all passengers.



SAO PAULO, BRAZIL, IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY TO TRANSPORT

The São Paulo Line 4 metro project aimed to create an advanced, driverless system, essential for linking and interchanging between lines. From inception, the project integrated accessibility, enhancing features like tactile paving, clear tactile signage, and sufficient lighting. Well-trained staff, elevators, escalators, doors with minimal platform gaps, priority seating, and accessible fare gates underscore inclusivity. The fully navigable trains show a minor cost increase against significant benefits for those with disabilities and the broader community.





HEALTHY, ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

Most journeys on public transport involve walking or cycling to, from and within public transport stations and stops. As a result, using public transport encourages an active lifestyle. The health benefits associated with active travel include positive impacts on diabetes, mental health, dementia, obesity and a decreased risk of cardiovascular disease and different types of cancers, as demonstrated by the World Health Organisation.

Public transport's encouragement of active lifestyles is closely linked to SDG targets 3.4 and 11.7. It addresses SDG 3.4 by promoting physical health and well-being. By integrating walking or cycling into daily commutes, public transport helps in reducing non-communicable diseases. It also reduces disease risk associated with a sedentary lifestyle.

In relation to SDG 11.7, public transport supports the creation of accessible, green, and public spaces as infrastructure simply takes up less space to move the same amount of people. This space can be converted into green spaces, playgrounds and meeting spots. Encouraging walking and cycling as part of public transport use contributes to more livable, healthy urban environments, decreasing reliance on private cars and fostering a more active, community-oriented lifestyle.

Promoting the combination of walking, cycling and public transport has a positive impact on the health of everybody!





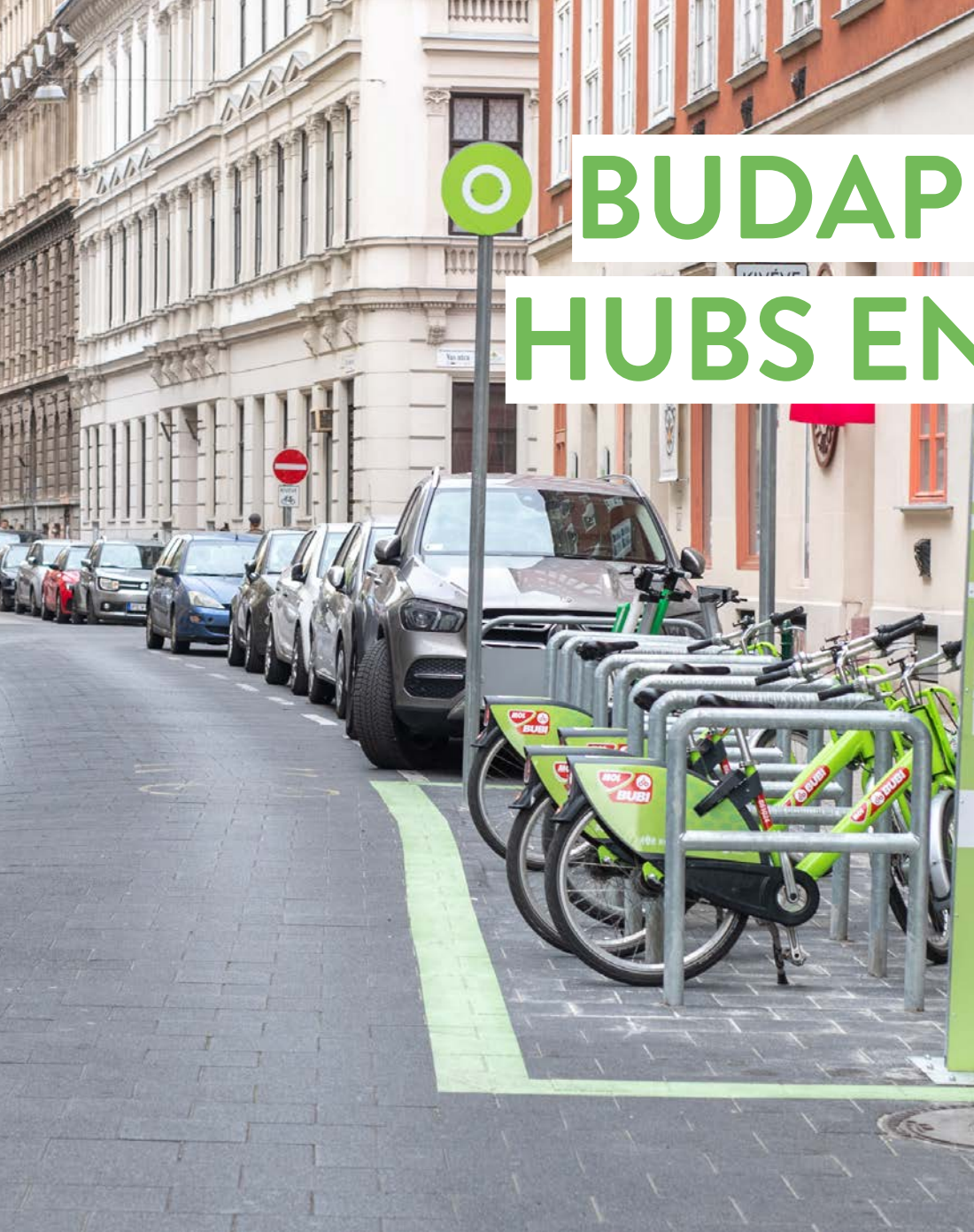
MONTREAL, CANADA, BOOSTING CYCLING WITH THE EXPRESS BIKE NETWORK

Montreal is developing the Express Bike Network (EBN), adding 184km of all-season, high-capacity bike paths to its cycling infrastructure. These paths, up to 3 meters wide with physical borders separating cyclists from traffic, aim to form the city's cycling network backbone. The successful first corridor, Berri – Lajeunesse – St Denis, inaugurated in November 2020, involved over \$16m in investments for safer crossroads, bike signals, ample parking, and street greening. With 17 planned bike paths, the EBN could boost cycling to 15% of regional trips in a decade.



BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, HUBS ENABLE SMOOTH JOURNEYS

BKK Centre for Budapest Transport started developing its micro-mobility hubs in 2014. As it expands its public bike sharing scheme, BKK developed new ways of placemaking and reallocation of public space to improve public transport accessibility for active mobility users. Ultimately, 1000 are foreseen by 2024, mainly built out of car parking spaces and integrated with public transport. The hubs range from micro-mobility hubs all over the city centre to ‘mobility stations’ near mass public transport stations that include bike repair stations and electric vehicle chargers.





By connecting people, public transport significantly aids in achieving the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. It supports target 3.4 for example by promoting physical and mental health through reduced pollution and less stressful commutes.

CONNECTING PEOPLE

At times of increasing inequality and social division, it is ever more important to strengthen the social fabric, and public transport can contribute.

Public transport is a place of encounter. It is a place for people with different backgrounds to meet and interact with each other through a smile, a helping gesture, or a discussion. At major events like concerts or soccer games, it's part of the fun to travel together with other fans. Some people have even made new friends or found the love of their life on public transport!

For SDG 5.1, it empowers women by providing safer and more accessible mobility, enhancing their access to opportunities. Due to its affordability, especially when compared to the cost of owning a car, public transport fights discrimination based on income and gender. The right policies can strengthen this benefit.

In urban areas (SDGs 11.2 and 11.3), efficient public transport fosters inclusive, sustainable cities by improving accessibility for all. Lastly, for SDG 16.1, secure and well-operated public transport systems contribute to safer cities and reduced violence, promoting community cohesion.





BERN, SWITZERLAND, WHEN TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITIES LINK

Rail and tram networks are transforming Bern's connectivity, linking the city centre with peripheral areas. Each expansion provides commuters with direct, faster routes to work and eases congestion in central networks. Crucially, transfer stations are located at key points of spatial development, harmonising land-

use and traffic progress. These hubs not only make jobs more accessible by public transport but also integrate new communities. As part of future plans, these stations will evolve into comprehensive mobility hubs, offering regional bus lines, rental bicycles, e-scooters, and various services.



UNITED KINGDOM, HUB STATION BRINGS LOCAL COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

The HUB Station of the United Kingdom's Network Rail reimagines transport hubs as community-focused spaces. These stations, tailored to local needs while maintaining a national identity, are characterised by a modular, adaptable design. Key features include cost-effective, interchangeable components, enhanced passenger environments with natural materials, and

sustainable landscapes that connect stations to their communities. Emphasising whole-life carbon reduction, the project uses engineered timber and solar arrays. This innovative approach not only connects people but also enhances safety and access to work, leisure, and services, reaffirming the station's pivotal societal role.



NUMBER ONE IN SAFETY

Public transport is the safest way to travel, significantly contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal targets 3.6 and 11.2. Globally, road traffic crashes cause almost 1.3 million deaths every year. On top of this, 50 million people are injured and it costs governments up to 3% of their GDP due to costs such as medical care and lost working days. They are the leading killer of children and young people.

SDG target 3.6 aims to halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2030. Public transport's safety record demonstrates

its critical role in achieving this target. By reducing reliance on riskier modes of transport like private cars and motorcycles, public transport can significantly lower road traffic casualties.

Additionally, SDG target 11.2 focuses on providing access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport. The safety of public transport makes cities more livable and enhances their inclusivity and sustainability. Encouraging the use of public transport is key to developing safer, more resilient urban environments, aligning with the broader goal of sustainable cities and communities.

Supporting and promoting public transport is a vital step toward realising the ambitious “Vision Zero” objective of eliminating road fatalities and serious injuries.



The fifth-largest metropolitan area in the world committed to Vision Zero in 2015. The city has seen an 18% reduction in traffic deaths, including a 24% decrease among pedestrians and a remarkable 77% reduction among cyclists. The 2015 mobility law transformed the Ministry of Transport and Roads into the Ministry of Mobility, establishing a hierarchy that prioritises the

most vulnerable road users. This shift in focus towards walking, biking, and public transport has been pivotal in mobility strategies. Data-driven approaches targeted problematic areas and issues, and strong political will has significantly contributed to promoting safe mobility, proving Vision Zero is attainable with bold action.

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO, BOLD PLANS MAKE VISION ZERO POSSIBLE



As India's first state to officially adopt Vision Zero in May 2017, Haryana took a significant step in improving road safety. With over 140,000 road traffic deaths annually in India, predominantly affecting people aged 15 to 45, its impact on people's lives and livelihoods is considerable. After positive impacts in 10 districts, Haryana's Vision Zero policy expanded to all 21 districts. The state's road

safety action plan looks at increasing public transport and the necessity for quality infrastructure. It also emphasises the importance of pedestrian-friendly footpaths and segregated cycle tracks on city roads. This initiative represents a proactive effort to enhance road safety and reduce traffic-related fatalities in India.

HARYANA, INDIA, DECREASING ROAD DEATHS WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND ACTIVE MOBILITY





PLANET





CLEAN AIR

Public transport significantly contributes to cleaner air. It produces far fewer quantities of air pollutant per passenger kilometre than individual motorised transport. Because of this, the sector plays a critical part in achieving SDG targets 3.6 and 11.6.

Air pollution, linked to respiratory issues, pneumonia, cancer, and other diseases, is a major concern in cities across the globe, where millions (90% of the population) are exposed to air quality below the guidelines set by the World Health Organization (WHO). By shifting from individual motorised transport like cars to public

transport, we can significantly improve air quality.

This shift is crucial for achieving SDG target 3.9: reduce illnesses and deaths from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution. Public transport, especially as it increases its modal share and advances towards zero-emission technologies, allows our cities to breathe and flourish.

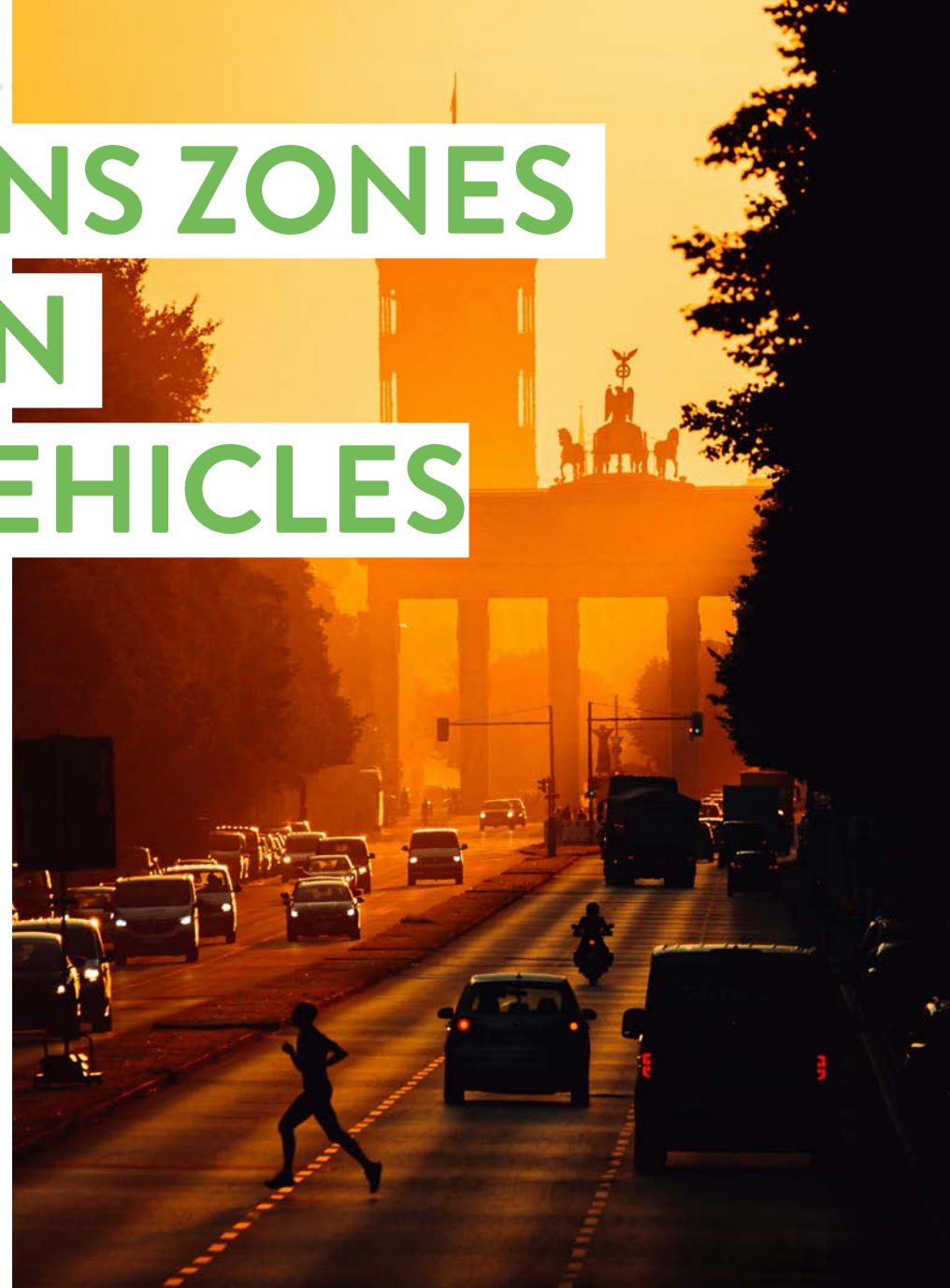
Doctor Maria Neira of the World Health Organization is a great Ambassador on how public transport is critical to improve public health. “Pollution is killing us. A suitable transport system is a critical part of public health. It reduces air pollution, it reduces road traffic deaths, and it reduces non-communicable diseases.”

Additionally, in line with SDG target 11.6, enhancing public transport use directly contributes to sustainable urban environments. Improved air quality brings benefits to both public transport users, and everyone in the region.



LOW EMISSIONS ZONES CUT DOWN ON POLLUTING VEHICLES

Low Emission Zones (LEZs), implemented in over 13 European countries, effectively improve air quality in urban areas. These zones restrict or charge high fees to polluting vehicles based on Euro standards. In Berlin, Germany, LEZs led to a 58% reduction in diesel particle emissions and a 20% decrease in nitrogen oxides. Similarly, in Brussels, Belgium, nitrogen oxides emissions were reduced by 9% and black carbon emissions by 38%. Additionally, LEZs can be integrated with urban tolls, as seen in Milan, Italy, where the Area C combines tariffs and vehicle restrictions. This integration not only reduces car traffic but also increases public transport efficiency, demonstrating the substantial impact of LEZs in enhancing urban air quality and contributing to healthier city environments. No wonder that countries like India are also considering implementing LEZs.



URBAN TOLLS CAN DRASTICALLY IMPROVE AIR QUALITY.

Urban tolls, initiated in Singapore in 1975 and later implemented in cities like London and Stockholm, significantly reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. These tolls, varying by time and day, support sustainable transport and infrastructure. Notably, Stockholm experienced a 10-14% decrease in airborne pollutants, while London saw a 13% reduction in nitrogen oxide emissions. The revenue from these tolls funds public transport initiatives, demonstrating a successful model for enhancing urban air quality and contributing to public health improvements.





SAVING THE PLANET



Public transport is the most climate-friendly way of traveling besides walking and cycling. For citizens' daily mobility, a modal shift to collective public transport and active mobility is needed. Achieving this, via mitigation and adaptation measures, brings benefits to the planet and every person living on it.

This efficiency aligns with SDG target 7.2, which aims for a substantial increase in the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. Planning the shift to low energy intensity land transport modes like public transport and active mobility in tandem with a shift to clean vehicles and renewable energy creates a mutually reinforcing decarbonisation transition. When it comes

to the energy and transport sectors, any investment in one also reinforces the other.

The right policies can optimise investments in both sectors, unlock economic justification for investment, and jointly accelerate the renewable energy and transport transitions. The public transport sector can act as the backbone of energy grids through their well-connected networks in cities and purchasing power to drive demand.

Regarding SDG target 13.2, which calls for integrating climate change measures into national policies and planning, public transport is a practical solution. The modal shift from private vehicles to public transport and active mobility is essential for more ambitious National Determined Contributions (NDCs) achieving the objectives of initiatives like the European Green Deal. This shift can be realised more swiftly than decarbonising private vehicles, making public transport an effective strategy in immediate climate action efforts.

Public transport plays a vital role in environmental sustainability, directly contributing to key SDG targets focused on renewable energy, sustainable urban transport, and climate action.

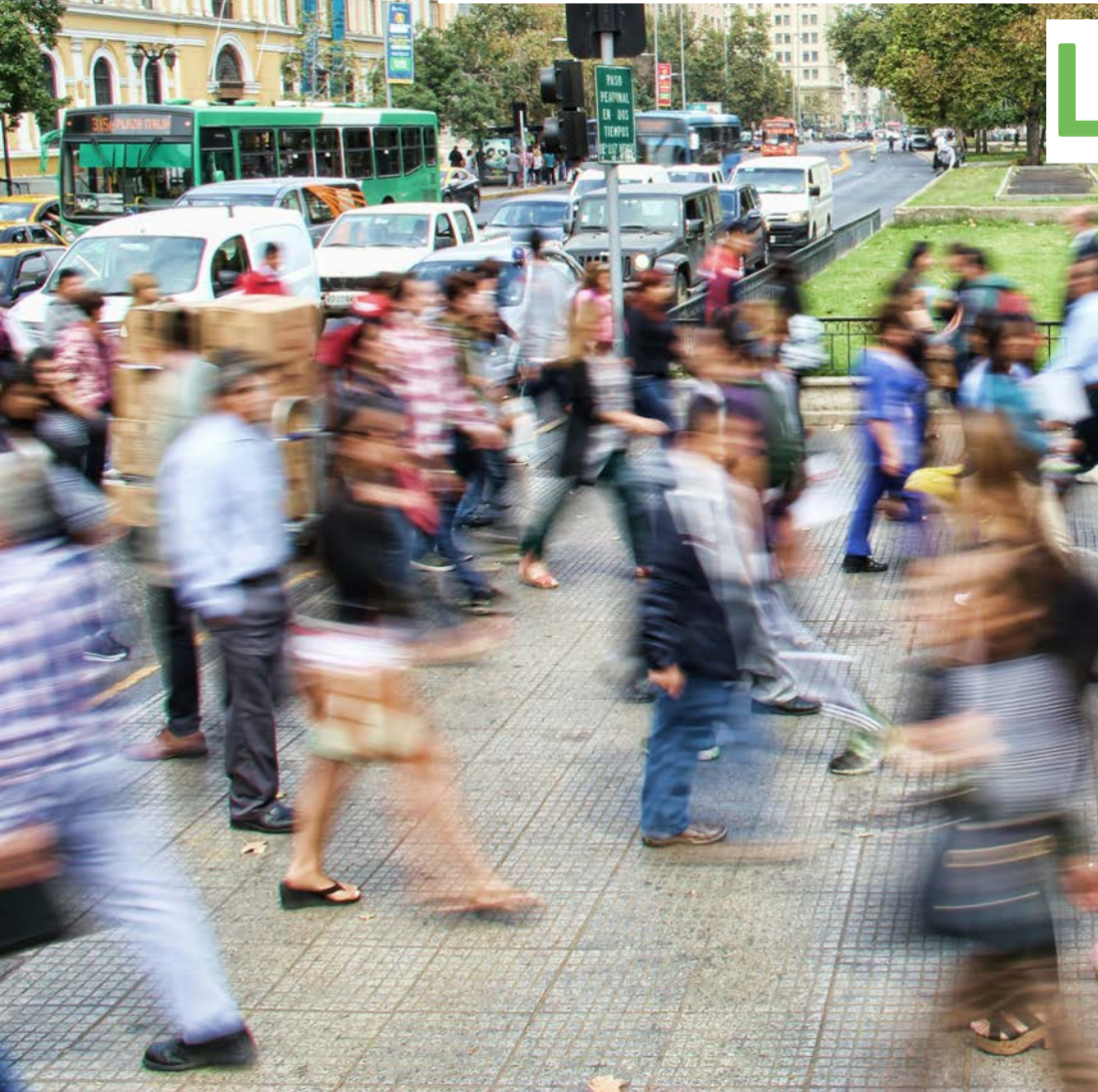


DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, INNOVATION AND ROBUST INFRASTRUCTURE INCREASE SUSTAINABLE MODES



Dubai's rapid growth led to an innovative transformation in public transport, spearheaded by the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA). Since the inauguration of the Dubai metro, RTA has revolutionised mobility with a holistic approach, integrating various transport modes like buses, metros, trams, and waterborne vehicles, including one of the world's longest driverless metro systems. Emphasis on 'soft' mobility solutions and seamless physical and digital integration, such as smartcard payment and the S'hail journey planning app, has significantly enhanced user experience. Public transport usage grew from 6% to 18.1% of total journeys between 2006 and 2019. Combining innovative solutions and robust investment reduces reliance on private vehicles and contributing to environmental sustainability.

SANTIAGO, CHILE, LEADING ELECTROMOBILITY FROM LATIN AMERICA



Santiago's electrification push was a response to Santiago being one of the most polluted capitals in Latin America. The Chilean government's efforts to monitor air pollution and regulate transport emissions have led to the launch of a successful Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line and, in 2019, the city's first fully electric line. This line includes 40 new bus stops, benefiting 660,000 residents. These electric buses are cheap to operate at about \$0.10/km, with potential for further cost reductions at scale. The electrification of buses has contributed to a 5% reduction in CO₂ emissions, demonstrating a significant environmental impact by decreasing air pollutants and increasing the share of renewable energy in public transport.



QUALITY OF URBAN LIFE

Public transport takes cars off the road and frees up space for people. Fewer car lanes means more greenery, safe walking and cycling infrastructure, and a calmer urban environment. An investment in public transport gives space to children to play outside in repurposed car parks, fights urban heat islands and improves city life for all.

The efficiency of public transport systems contributes significantly to improving the quality of urban life, aligning with SDG targets 9.1, 10.2, 11.5, and 15.9.

By replacing numerous private vehicles, a full bus, tram or metro significantly reduces congestion and space

taken by cars. This supports SDG target 9.1, which focuses on developing quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure. This efficient use of space contributes to more sustainable urban planning and transport systems.

By improving accessibility, public transport offers equal mobility opportunities for all, fostering social and economic inclusion regardless of socio-economic status (SDG 10.2). Increased public transport use reduces urban congestion and car dependency, leading to safer, more resilient cities with additional green spaces, play areas, and community hubs (SDG 11.5). This shift also supports integrating ecosystem and biodiversity values into urban planning, allowing for more greenery and biodiversity, thus improving the environmental quality and aesthetics of cities (SDG 15.9).

Overall, public transport enhances the quality of urban life by contributing to sustainable infrastructure, social inclusion, urban resilience, and environmental sustainability, aligning with key SDG targets. The potential transformation of urban spaces, with more room for green areas and community activities, is a vivid illustration of what cities could achieve with a stronger focus on public transport.





LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FOR BETTER STREETS

London's "Healthy Streets for London" initiative aims to improve urban life quality by promoting walking, cycling, and public transport. This framework targets enhanced air quality, reduced congestion, and greener, healthier spaces. Actions include constructing bicycle superhighways, expanding walking and cycling paths,

upgrading public transport stations, and implementing the 'Liveable Neighbourhoods' programme to reduce car trips. By 2041, London aims for 80% sustainable mode share, 20 minutes daily active travel for all, zero road deaths and serious injuries, and 3 million fewer car trips, transforming the city's urban landscape.

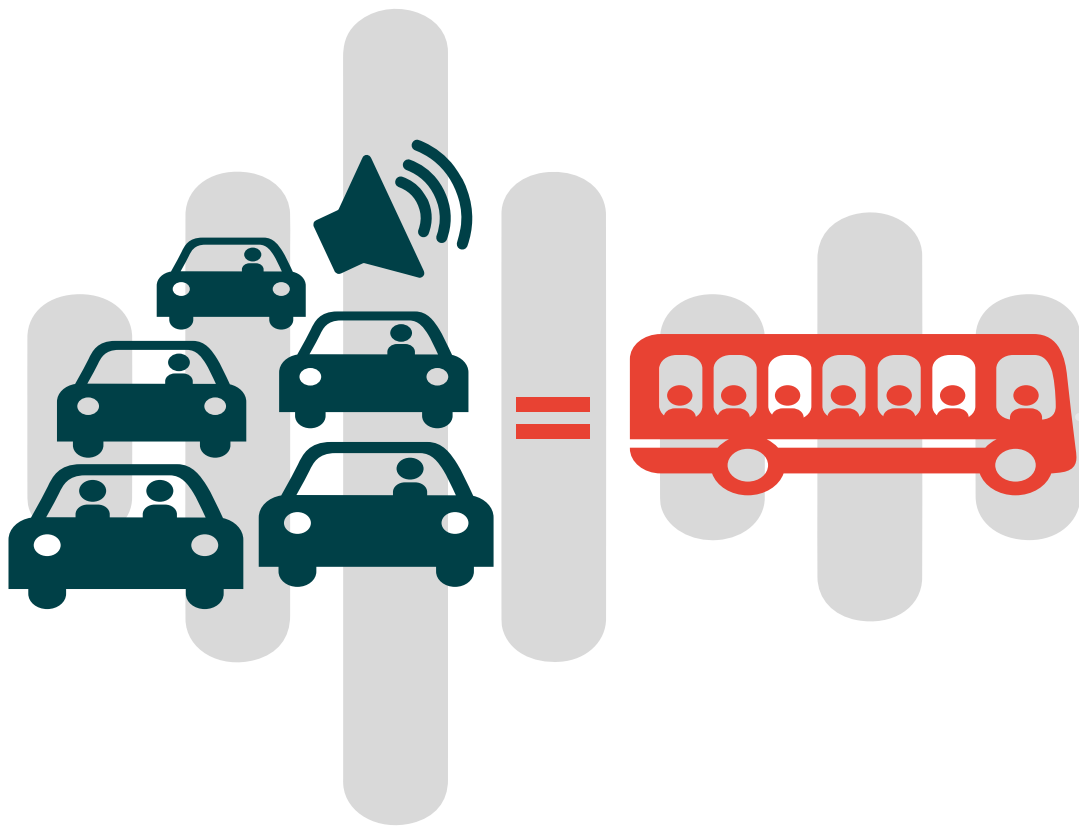


SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA, POLLUTING HIGHWAYS TURN LIVABLE

Photo: Brit in Seoul, own work.

Seoul, South Korea, transformed an elevated highway into the “Seoul Skygarden” in 2017, showcasing how repurposing transport infrastructure can enhance urban life quality. Initially built in the 1960s, these highways are being gradually removed from Seoul’s centre, reflecting a shift in urban and transport planning perspectives. Located near Seoul’s main station, the Skygarden is a

garden and walkway initiative, signifying a commitment to sustainable urban development. With plans for new pathways and a park, this project not only revitalizes the area but also provides residents with valuable green space, contributing to a more liveable and attractive city.



NOISE REDUCTION

Road traffic, a major noise source all around the world, affects our health more than we realise. It is linked to problems like disturbed sleep and high blood pressure, which can lead to serious health issues, even premature death.

Switching to public transport can make a big difference. Less traffic on our streets leads to quieter, more serene

city environments. Residents in city centres, which have been transformed into pedestrian zones with access primarily for buses and trams, have experienced this first-hand. They talk about the relief of living without the constant hum of car traffic.

As a result, public transport's role in reducing noise pollution directly supports the SDG targets to enhance public health and well-being (3.4) and support inclusive and sustainable urbanisation (11.3). Investing in public transport offers tangible benefits for city dwellers.

And there's more good news on the horizon with zero emission buses. As they are set to reduce noise levels even further, our cities will become even quieter and more pleasant places to live. This shift towards quieter streets is not just about comfort; it's about creating healthier, more enjoyable urban spaces for everyone.

As it takes cars off the road, public transport already makes streets quiet, but there is potential for more. Assessments along select bus routes in Stuttgart, Germany show that electric buses register up to 14 dB(A) lower noise levels compared to traditional buses at low speeds, for example around bus stops or at intersections. This means the noise perceived from the

vehicle is more than cut in half. In quiet residential areas, the average noise reduction with electric buses is as high as 5 dB(A) while driving. Electric buses benefit people by reducing emissions and substantially decreasing urban noise pollution, contributing to a more serene city environment.



STUTT GART, GERMANY, ELECTRIC BUSES FOR QUIETER STREETS

In Dakar, Senegal, the implementation of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system is set to drastically reduce traffic congestion, a significant multiplier of transport related noise pollution. The BRT aims to streamline the city's mobility, particularly in dense areas like Guédiawaye, where travel times to central Dakar will be halved. The

system also gives underserved communities access to an additional 120,000 jobs. This system not only reduces the environmental impact of transport but also improves job reachability. Ultimately the BRT makes journeys easier, more sustainable, and reduces overall noise pollution.

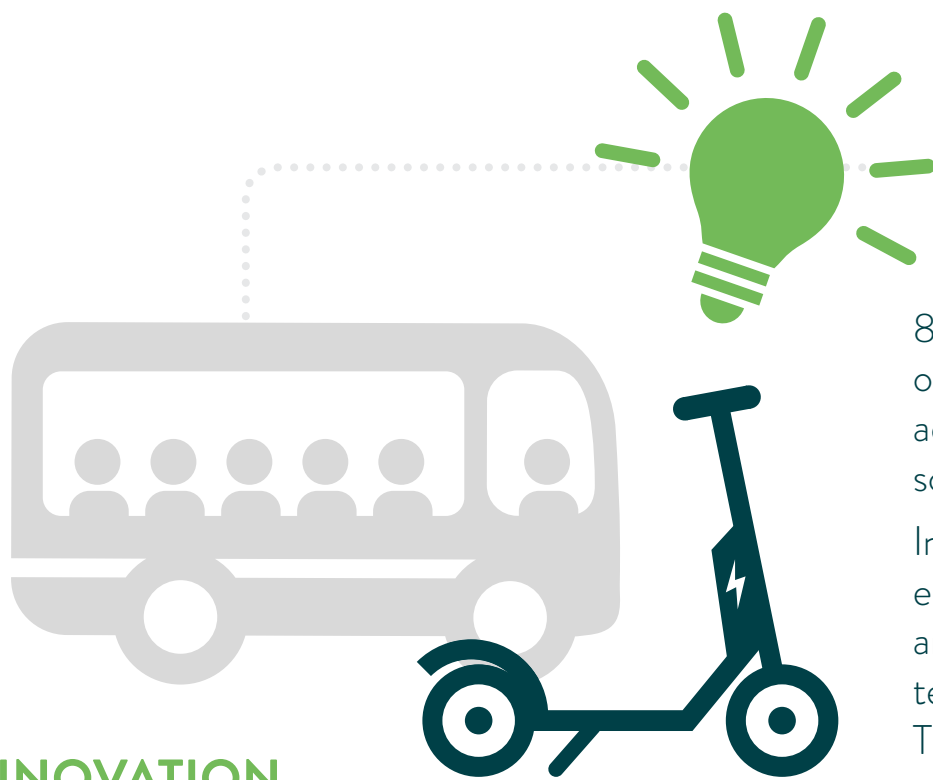
DAKAR, SENEGAL,





PROGRESS





INNOVATION

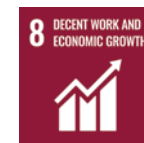
Public transport companies provided e-mobility long before we discussed electric cars. Fully autonomous metros have been in operation for over 35 years. Now, smartphones make it easier than ever to plan, book and pay journeys and use public transport. As the sector looks to the future, new research and development areas include hydrogen, artificial intelligence, cross-border digital ticketing, and autonomous road vehicles.

Public transport's innovation significantly supports SDG targets for energy efficiency, economic growth, resilient infrastructure, and sustainable awareness (7.3,

8.2, 9.1, 12.8). This sector has been at the forefront of adopting new technologies, and by continuously advancing them, is committed to energy-efficient solutions (7.3).

In fostering economic productivity, public transport's engagement in research and development, including artificial intelligence and digital ticketing, drives technological advancement and innovation (8.2). These developments not only contribute to sustainable economic growth but also play a key role in building resilient and sustainable infrastructure (9.1).

Moreover, the sector's digitalisation efforts, particularly in journey planning, enhance public awareness and engagement in sustainable practices (12.8). For example by including CO₂ emissions when offering different options in travel applications. This integration of technology makes sustainable travel choices more accessible and improves the passenger experience.



JACKSONVILLE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, SELF DRIVING TECH AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN PERFECT HARMONY

The Ultimate Urban Circulator (U2C) of Jacksonville, Florida integrates autonomous vehicles (AVs) to modernise and expand public transport. This project, revitalising Downtown Jacksonville, aims to create pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use communities with reduced car dependence. The Bay Street Innovation Corridor introduces AVs in mixed traffic, connecting residential areas, business districts, and entertainment zones. Phase 2 will convert the existing Skyway into an elevated AV roadway, enhancing connectivity. U2C's innovative use of AVs aims to integrate with traditional public transport to reduce traffic, offer personalised and attractive travel options, and encourage a shift from private cars to sustainable travel modes.



Render: Jacksonville Transit Authority

BERGEN, NORWAY, AI ROUTE OPTIMISATION LEADS TO LESS CO2 AND MORE RIDERS

Asistobe AS in Bergen, Norway, has optimised public transport using AI, integrating light rail and bus networks. Launched in 2021, their AI-powered model predicts real transport demand. The model combines diverse data sources like GDPR-compliant telecom data, and advanced AI to enhance operational and capital efficiency. Results include a 23% operational cost saving, a 25% rise in yearly passengers, and a 30% CO2 emission reduction, creating €22 million in annual value. This innovation not only boosts the economy but also increases energy efficiency and sustainable awareness.





BOOSTING THE ECONOMY

Public transport connects people to jobs, training and leisure, supports tourism, increases land and property value, and helps regenerate poorer areas through public transport connections. This significant boost to the economy aligns directly with SDG targets 1.4, 9.1, and 12.7.

The economic benefits of public transport are substantial. For every \$1 invested in public transport, it generates \$5 in economic returns. This is achieved by connecting people to jobs, supporting business

clustering, and enhancing leisure and tourism activities. Additionally, public transport investment positively influences urban regeneration, particularly in deprived areas, by improving transport connections. This leads to increased land and property values and supports sustainable urban development.

These investments benefit a wide range of sectors, including construction, manufacturing, and IT services, often supporting local or regional companies and SMEs. This economic impact of public transport extends beyond direct financial gains. It supports sustainable economic growth and infrastructure development (target 9.1), encourages sustainable public procurement practices (12.7), and aids in poverty reduction and economic development in the region (1.4), making it a key driver in regional and urban economic health.



TORONTO, CANADA, PUTTING MONEY TO ITS BEST USE

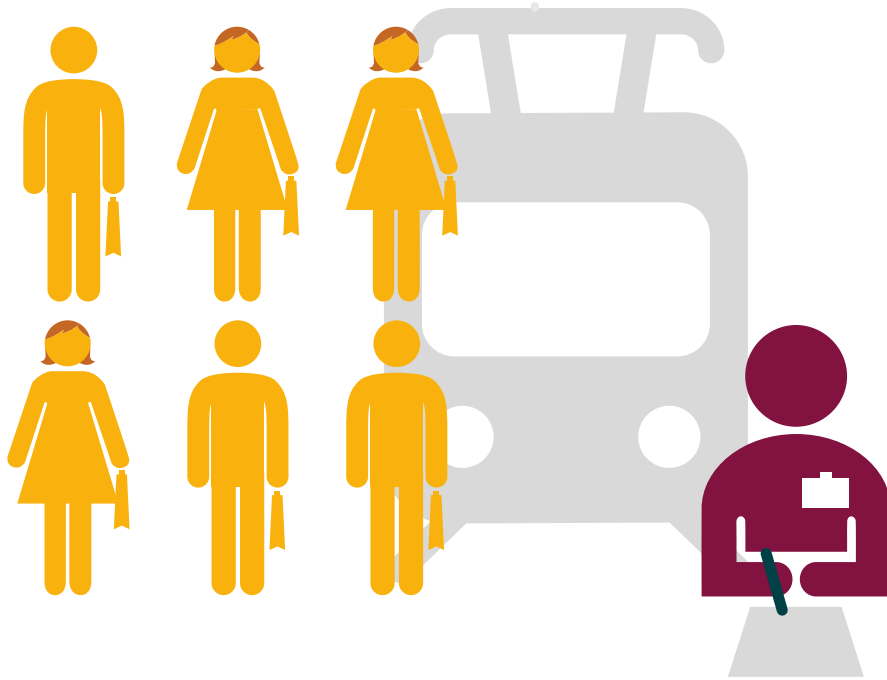


In Toronto, Canada, a Business Case Guidance integrates business cases into decision-making for the capital's transport projects. This approach systematically gathers evidence, aligns proposed investments with organisational goals, and ensures public funds are used effectively. It consistently tracks project benefits and performance throughout each project's lifespan. Applied to the Go Rail expansion project, this initiative focused on improving travel times, enhancing road safety, reducing congestion, and cutting emissions. Remarkably, the business case revealed that for every dollar invested, the region gained a \$2.40 return, exemplifying how such structured decision-making can significantly boost the economy.

JAPAN, LEISURE, HOUSING AND LIFESTYLE FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN GROWTH



The Next10 vision of JR East, one of Japan's major passenger railway companies, boosts the economy by diversifying its revenues through a lifestyle service business centred around railway stations. This strategy involves transforming station spaces into bustling shopping zones with restaurants and retail outlets and developing adjacent real estate, including office buildings, shopping centres, and hotels. This approach not only maximises revenue from real estate and housing but also ensures more sustainable lifestyles with people living close to work, leisure and essential services. By 2027, JR East anticipates a 1.5-fold increase in lifestyle business revenues compared to 2017.



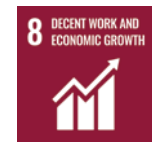
LOCAL JOBS

The public transport sector is among the largest employers at the local level with 13 million of direct jobs globally. Importantly, public transport provides secure local jobs, which cannot be delocalised abroad. The sector employs staff with very diverse backgrounds.

The impact of public transport on employment extends beyond direct job creation. Every job in this sector is linked to four additional jobs in other areas of the

economy. This amplifies its role in boosting local employment and economic growth (target 8.5), and in reducing poverty (1.4) by providing stable income sources.

Furthermore, public transport companies are known for their diverse range of job opportunities, catering to various skill levels and backgrounds. This diversity promotes inclusivity in the workforce and supports social equality (10.1). The sector's commitment to offering vocational training to a large number of young people is crucial for skill development and early career advancement, further enhancing its contribution to local employment and community development.





CAIRO, EGYPT, CAMPAIGNING FOR A MORE DIVERSE WORKFORCE

RATP Dev Mobility Cairo significantly advanced gender equality in Egypt's transport sector by launching a campaign to recruit women as drivers for Cairo's Metro Line 3. This initiative, a first in Egypt, resulted in recruiting, training and appointing the first female drivers on the line in April 2022. It also inspired similar efforts on the Light Rail Transit (LRT) line, leading to

8 women becoming drivers, enhancing their presence in traditionally male-dominated roles. Additionally, the first Egyptian woman joined RATP Dev Mobility Cairo's engineering department in 2022. Campaigns like this happen across the globe and advance inclusive workforces and social equality.



ANTWERP, BELGIUM, AWARENESS THROUGH DIGITALISATION LEADS TO SUSTAINABLE COMMUTING CHOICES

In Antwerp, Belgium, the “Smart Ways of Antwerp” programme, part of the Antwerp Transport Region 2030 Roadmap, demonstrates innovation in public transport through digitalisation in journey planning. This initiative collaborates with regional actors and employers to shift travel behaviours towards sustainable modes, including public transport, bike leasing, car-sharing, and car-pooling. It focuses on understanding and altering

Photo: Mika Baumeister

employee travel patterns and developing company mobility policies. Remarkably, 26% of employees in participating companies now leave their cars at home in favour of sustainable alternatives, showcasing the programme’s effectiveness in fostering sustainable commuting habits.



BUSTLING CITIES

Public transport keeps cities moving safely and sustainably. Its stations provide places for people to come together, meet and shop; while public transport lines become part of the DNA of the city. Public transport is the lifeblood of urban mobility, evidenced by the over 250 billion passenger journeys per year in 39 of the biggest cities across the globe.

Reducing congestion through public transport not only benefits users but also those not using it, as it results in less crowded roads. More priority for public transport eases mobility and enhances urban well-being and health (3.4), by decreasing stress and improving air quality.

Looking ahead, there is a crucial need to strengthen public transport authorities, evolving towards comprehensive mobility agencies, able to define and implement integrated land use and transport planning. For instance, how we introduce autonomous vehicles (AVs) is going to determine the liveability of our future cities. If AVs become a private transport mode, where each individual rides their own car, traffic will increase drastically. However, if we integrate this new technology into the public transport system they could significantly reduce the number of cars on our roads. This integration would support sustainable infrastructure development (9.1) and promote inclusive and sustainable urbanization (11.3).

Moreover, making AVs a part of public transport could further ensure equitable access to mobility for all city residents (10.2). In 2019 less than half of the global population had convenient access to public transport. Autonomous vehicles can be used for on-demand services in rural and sub-urban areas, enhancing social inclusion and reducing inequalities in urban settings.

By reducing congestion the city is not just nicer for the public transport user. It improves the lives of walkers, cyclists and even those that still need to use a car. Trams, buses, metros and taxis; they make our cities better.



The Urban Mobility Metropolitan Plan (UMMP), approved in 2020 for Barcelona's Metropolitan Area (AMB), Spain, integrates over 100 measures across 36 municipalities. It aims to reduce exposure to poor air quality and road danger for residents. The UMMP is structured around six strategic areas: urban and metropolitan mobility networks, quality of life and urban spaces, public transport systems, flexible and efficient

governance, habit changes, and mobility management. Key implementations include Low Emissions Zones (LEZs) at various scales, enhanced metropolitan bus and metro services, and the development of the metropolitan bike network. This plan represents a significant step towards sustainable urban mobility, aiming to improve both environmental conditions and the overall quality of life.

An aerial photograph of Barcelona, Spain, showing a mix of historic architecture, green spaces, and a wide pedestrian walkway. The text 'BARCELONA, SPAIN, ONE PLAN BRINGS BETTER CITY LIVING TO ALL' is overlaid in large, bold, red letters across the center of the image. A dotted line runs vertically down the left side of the page.

BARCELONA, SPAIN, ONE PLAN BRINGS BETTER CITY LIVING TO ALL

In Bremen, Germany, and Vienna, Austria, mobility hubs combine digital and traditional public transport to enhance travel flexibility. Bremen's mobil.punkte, integrating car-sharing with public transport, has been effective for 20 years, reducing private car use. In Vienna, WienMobil Station, managed by Wiener Linien,

unifies various transport services in physical hubs, complemented by a multimodal app. With 20 hubs and new bike-sharing and car-sharing services, these cities exemplify how digitalisation and mobility hubs facilitate seamless, door-to-door public transport journeys.

Photo: Wiener Linien

WHEN NEW AND OLD COME TOGETHER, SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS ARE ENDLESS



HOW UITP UNITES THE TRANSPORT SECTOR BEHIND SDG17

SDG17 aims to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development. The International Association of Public Transport (UITP) works to advance this goal by fostering global partnerships, addressing sectoral challenges, and building capacity across the globe.

UITP is the only global network that brings together all public transport and sustainable urban mobility stakeholders. Our unique network of over 1,900 members in more than 100 countries and partners stands at the base of multistakeholder multi-level cooperation, knowledge development, capacity building and policy advise.

The public transport sector has an inherent positive impact on most of the SDGs and specifically advances certain targets. Every day, the committed members of UITP all around the world work to bring together our network and expertise to drive the agenda forward. For a future mobility system, and much more, that brings benefits to all.

HOW UITP UNITES THE TRANSPORT SECTOR BEHIND SDG17

Multistakeholder Partnerships

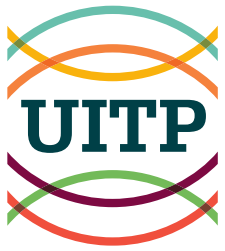
UITP's vast network embodies SDG17's goal of multistakeholder partnerships. It connects public transport stakeholders globally, facilitating shared solutions and coordinated action in urban mobility, crucial for sustainable transport development.

Capacity Development and Solutions

UITP enhances capacity building in line with SDG17 through training and knowledge development. These initiatives equip stakeholders with skills to implement sustainable transport solutions, directly addressing urban challenges. These programmes range from support on implementing a Bus Rapid Transit system, to how to launch a Public Transport Authority.

Policy and Institutional Coherence

UITP's advocacy, including policy recommendations and discussions, supports SDG17 by promoting policy and institutional coherence. Their engagement ensures that sustainable mobility is integrated into broader policy frameworks, aligning various policies towards common sustainable development goals.



ADVANCING
PUBLIC
TRANSPORT

WANT TO LEARN MORE?



Scan me!

Scan me! Join the public transport community and promote the benefits of public transport on digital and physical media.



Rue Sainte-Marie 6,
B-1080 Brussels, Belgium
Tel +32 (0)2 673 61 00
info@uitp.org
www.uitp.org