

# Rethinking Public Transport: Increasing Access through Resilient and Inclusive Bus Operations

16-17 Sep 2020

## Introduction

Rapid urbanisation has left many cities struggling to keep up with the demand for transport services and infrastructure. Cities in the Africa region are experiencing increasing time lost in traffic, unacceptable numbers of deaths from traffic crashes, poor access to opportunities, and rising pollution. Along with the influx of motorised transport, once walkable places have been redesigned to prioritise personal motor vehicles. Yet walking and public transport remain the dominant modes of transport. It has become clear to many cities around the globe that prioritising cars in provision of urban infrastructure undermines quality of life and significantly contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. Efficient mobility and liveable streets are critical to the prosperity of cities and wellbeing of urban residents.

To address these issues, the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), with support from the International Climate Initiative (IKI), are implementing a programme dubbed Growing Smarter: Sustainable Mobility in East Africa. The project seeks to achieve a measurable and significant shift away from private vehicles to less polluting modes of transport, such as public transport, cycling, and walking, by introducing higher quality sustainable and equitable transport systems in urban areas.

Each year, the programme brings together practitioners from the Africa region to discuss best practices in sustainable mobility. This year, ITDP and UN-Habitat are organising a virtual conference under the theme *Rethinking Public Transport: Increasing Access through Resilient and Inclusive Operations*. The sessions will take place over the Zoom platform. The conference will focus on the need for efficient bus operations and explore how governments can influence improved quality of service by offering incentives for public transport sector reforms. To ensure resilience in public transport, during the time of COVID-19, improved quality of service and efficient operations are becoming even more vital. The conference offers a great opportunity to rethink and transform public transport operations, from regulatory and operational structures to business models and staff compensation. The format will include case studies from across the region and beyond.

## Programme overview

Day 2: Thu, 17 Sep 2020

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Responsible</i>
14:00	Introduction	Rahab Mundara, Consultant, UN-Habitat
14:10	Forging the transition: How to form modern bus companies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Darko Skrbinek, Future of Transport Consulting, South Africa</li> <li>● Edwins Mukabana, Kenya Bus Service</li> <li>● John Mark Mwanika, Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union, Uganda</li> <li>● Innocent Twahirwa, Jali Transport, Rwanda</li> </ul>	Aimee Gauthier, ITDP
15:30	Stretch break	
15:40	Breakout 1: Financing high-quality, accessible public transport vehicles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Eng Mohsen Sabra, Mwasalat Misr, Egypt</li> <li>● Jan De Man, Busworld Academy</li> <li>● Guy Davies, Disability Solutions, South Africa</li> <li>● Paul Isaac Musasizi, Kiira Motors Corporation, Uganda</li> </ul> <p>Respondents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Neji Larbi, AfDB</li> <li>● Akiko Kishiue, World Bank</li> </ul>	Claire Birungi, ITDP
15:40	Breakout 2: Bus reform and the COVID-19 response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cosmas Ngeso, NTSA, Deputy Director, Licensing</li> <li>● Mitku Asmare, FTA, Ethiopia</li> <li>● Hallie Liao, Shenzhen Bus Group</li> <li>● Catherine Kalisa, UN-Habitat, Rwanda</li> <li>● Anna Karume, ITF</li> <li>● Marian Raluca, Bus world Academy Expert &amp; Head of the European Office of the International Road Transport Union</li> </ul>	Carol Mimano, ITDP
17:15	Closing remarks & vote of thanks	Eng Njeri Mburu, ITDP

## Session descriptions

### Plenary sessions

<p>Forging the transition: How to form modern bus companies</p>	<p>In many cities around the world bus owners have been skeptical about forming companies and cooperatives, drivers and touts are worried about losing their jobs. The panelists will talk about the challenges they faced during the transition and how best to engage stakeholders to facilitate a smooth transition process.</p>
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### Breakout sessions

<p>Financing high-quality, accessible public transport vehicles</p>	<p>In this session, participants will define the key requirements of high-quality bus fleets and discuss financing mechanisms for high-quality vehicles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How does bus size and capacity influence the efficiency of the public transport service?</li><li>• How can cities leapfrog to low emission vehicles and e-vehicles?</li><li>• What is the role of governments in financing bus purchase?</li></ul>
<p>Bus reform and the COVID-19 response</p>	<p>At a time when the world is shunning public transport to avoid infections, how do we promote safe and sustainable options? In this session, we will explore how bus systems are faring amidst COVID-19 and evaluate how they can form part of the response.</p> <p>How do we prevent our cities from a mass shift back to personal vehicle use? The panellists will discuss best practices to enhance safety of passengers in mass public transport systems.</p> <p>The panel will analyse factors such as profitability and government bailouts, passenger numbers and safety measures that increase passenger confidence.</p>