



FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY SOLUTIONS

Barcelona, 24-25 April 2014



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Global Experts Group Meeting

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With the collaboration of:



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1. BACKGROUND

Urban transport systems worldwide are faced by a multitude of challenges. Among the most visible of these are the traffic gridlocks experienced on city roads and highways all over the world. The prescribed solution to transport problems in most cities has thus been to build more infrastructures for cars, with a limited number of cities improving public transport systems in a sustainable manner. However, a number of negative externalities associated with poor urban transport systems – such as greenhouse gas emissions, noise and air pollution and road traffic accidents – do not necessarily get solved by the construction of new infrastructure.

The development of sustainable urban transport systems requires a conceptual leap. The purpose of ‘transportation’ and ‘mobility’ is to gain access to destinations, activities, services and goods. Thus, access is the ultimate objective of transportation. As a result, urban planning and design should focus on how to bring people and places together by creating cities that focus on accessibility, rather than simply increasing the length of urban transport infrastructure or boosting the movement of people or goods.

Transport and communication systems are the key to the movement of goods, people, information and ideas. They are also an access key to markets, employment, schools, services and land use, both within cities and between cities, and in rural and other remote areas. The transportation sector is a major consumer of non-renewable energy and land, and is also a major contributor to pollution, congestion and accidents. Integrated transport and land-use policy and planning can reduce the ill effects of current transport systems.

People living in poverty, women, children, youth, older persons and people with disabilities are particularly disadvantaged by a lack of accessible, affordable, safe and efficient public transport systems. From this perspective, transport represents one of the many issues which could contribute to overcoming difficulties and inertia that prevent developing countries from breaking the vicious circle of poverty.

It has been increasingly recognized that Electric Vehicles (EV) may provide an opportunity to significantly reduce global Green House Gas emissions. The International Energy Agency “Technology Roadmap” envisions the widespread use of electric vehicles by 2050, contributing a 30% reduction in light duty vehicle carbon dioxide emissions. The high uptake and adoption of electric vehicles depend on a number of factors, for example: advances in vehicle and battery technologies and reduction in costs of vehicles and batteries from economies of production; the availability of charging infrastructure, increased awareness of citizens and incentives provided by governments including city

governments. Increased use of Electric Vehicles is also dependent on transportation “eco-systems” that can integrate Electric Vehicle Technologies as a part of a large transportation system (e.g., short distance shared EV transport to mass transit stations). A proposed UN-Habitat initiative on “Action Platform on Urban Electric Mobility” seeks to provide a platform for Industry, Cities and Financial Institutions to make mutually supportive commitments or “pledges” to increase the uptake of Electric Vehicles in Cities. Barcelona, itself, is amongst the leading cities in the world, which have made significant progress in promoting electric mobility. The EGM provided an opportunity to share experiences on E-mobility. A “Communiqué” promoting e-mobility was issued at the EGM. This also served to support the preparatory discussions for the forthcoming Climate summit in September 2014, including the Abu Dhabi Ascent meeting held from 4-5 May 2014.

UN-Habitat and the SOLUTIONS project, in collaboration with Barcelona City Council, jointly organized the Experts Group Meeting “FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY SOLUTIONS.” This conference aimed to advance the global agenda on urban mobility and kick-start the engagement of cities in the SOLUTIONS initiative to foster the take-up of urban mobility measures. The UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all, i.e., to find ways to increase urban productivity and improved living and working conditions for urban populations by appropriately meeting transport needs in an economically efficient and environmentally and socially sustainable manner.

UN-Habitat advocates for policies and models to achieve sustainable urban transportation systems across the globe in the context of an overall mission to promote sustainable development of human settlements and the achievement of adequate shelter for all. As part of this effort, UN-Habitat leads the preparatory process for the celebration in 2016 of the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III), with the purpose of strengthening, at the highest political level, the global commitment to sustainable urban development through the accelerated implementation of a new “Urban Agenda for the 21st Century.”

The UN Habitat Global Report on Human Settlements 2013 entitled ‘Planning and Design for Sustainable Urban Mobility’ seeks to highlight the transportation challenges experienced in cities all over the world, and identifies examples of good practice from specific cities of how to address such challenges. The report also provides recommendations on how national, provincial and local governments and other stakeholders

can develop more sustainable urban futures through improved planning and design of urban transport systems.

The SOLUTIONS project (Sharing Opportunities for Low carbon Urban transportation) aims to support the exchange on innovative and green urban mobility solutions between cities from Europe, Latin America and the Mediterranean. The project brings together a wealth of experience and technical knowledge from international organizations, consultants, cities, and experts involved in transport issues and solutions. The project's overall objective is to make a substantial contribution to the uptake of innovative and green urban mobility solutions across the world by facilitating dialogue and exchange, promoting successful policy, providing guidance and tailored advice to city officials, and fostering future cooperation on research, development and innovation.

Barcelona, which covers an urban area of 628 km² with 3.2 million inhabitants (the Metropolitan Area, AMB), has a common urban land-use plan (PGM, since 1976) and is now developing the first metropolitan mobility plan. The municipality of Barcelona has already approved its new Urban Mobility Plan (PMU) aiming to reduce car traffic in about 30 percent. The municipality of Barcelona is applying a strategy based on the extension and renewal of the public spaces, the improvement of public transport services and the promotion of smart mobility.

¹<http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?catid=555&typeid=19&id=12336>

²www.urban-mobility-solutions.eu

2. COMMUNIQUÉ

Background: On 24 and 25 April, 70 international experts participated in the Experts Group Meeting "Fostering Sustainable Urban Mobility Solutions". The purpose of the meeting was to advance the global agenda on sustainable urban mobility and promote the adoption of measures by cities to solve problems related to urban transport, such as emissions of greenhouse gases, noise and pollution air and road accidents, not necessarily resolved by the construction of new infrastructure.

The meeting also served to address the problems associated with high consumption of non-renewable energy and land of the transportation sector, so a special section was dedicated to electric mobility. In this sense, and considering that Barcelona is in itself one of the cities in the world that have made significant progress in the promotion of electric mobility, the event has

lowing:

1. We, participants (70) in the Experts Group Meeting on "Fostering Sustainable Urban Mobility Solutions" held in Barcelona from 24-25 April 2014 with the aim of sharing recent experiences and approaches on Sustainable Urban Mobility, and developing a broad "road-map" for sustainable urban mobility implementation strategy.

2. The Experts Group Meeting (EGM) comprised experts from national, regional and city governments, international organisations and academia including research and training institutions.

3. We indicate our commitment to contribute to the deliberations and preparations for the Climate Summit in September 2014 and beyond to encourage e-mobility and cleaner

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