

# SCHOOL MOBILITY IN BENIN: Role of Formal and Informal Road Transport Systems



**AVERTISSEMENT** : Cette présentation a été traduite du français à titre d'information. En cas de divergences, la [version originale](#) prévaut.

# INTRODUCTION

## A Development Challenge

Mobility is now a determining factor in the economic, social and territorial development of States.

In a context of rapid urbanization, a country's ability to efficiently organize the movement of people and goods becomes a strategic lever for competitiveness and social inclusion.



# School mobility, a major safety issue in Benin

**27,5**

Deaths per 100k inhab.

**5000+**

Accidents per year

Road accidents are one of the leading causes of death among 5-29 year olds.

700 deaths and 6000 injured annually (alarming figure).

Children and pedestrians are the most vulnerable.

# Eat places informal system



## Walking (70%)

Free and ecological, but causes intense fatigue and exposes to aggression.



## Cycling (5%)

Offers autonomy and speed, but suffers from inadequate infrastructure.



## Common Risks

Dangerous road sharing and total exposure to the elements.

## Transport by motorcycle taxi (Zémidjan)

### Motorcycle taxis (70%)



- Flexibility and maximum accessibility
- Negotiable pricing
- Speed



### Hazard risk

- **Main cause of serious accidents:** 30% of emergency department patients are accidents involving Zemidjan.
- **Failure to comply with traffic regulations,**
- **Excessive speed**
- **Imprudence of drivers.**

## Parent/guardian care



### Personal vehicle or motorcycle

- Provides a level of safety and comfort for children;
- Allows for great flexibility in terms of schedules and routes.
- Provides direct routes and relative punctuality



### Hazard risk

- ✓ **High cost:** Represents a significant financial cost to families (fuel, maintenance, vehicle insurance).
- ✓ **Road Congestion:** Contributes significantly to traffic jams, especially during rush hour in front of schools.
- ✓ **Pollution:** Individual vehicles are a source of air and noise pollution, and aggravate environmental challenges

## Other forms of informal transport

### Taxis cities

- Primary urban travel route
- Flexibility and maximum accessibility
- Negotiable pricing

### Tricycles (Cloboto)

- Urban tricycles
- Local service

### Tokpa-Tokpa (Shared taxis)

- Service to the main roads
- Limited capacity but reduced cost
- Unregulated operation



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## EMERGING STRUCTURED INITIATIVES

### Benin Taxi

- Conventional taxi service
- Regulated pricing
- Organized urban coverage



### Modern VTC services

- Emerging digital platforms
- Improved quality standards
- Technology integration



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# SUMMARY: FORMAL TRANSPORT

## Major Benefits

- ✓ A structured solution to secure the journey of students to school.
- ✓ Vehicles that meet technical standards
- ✓ Professional and trained drivers
- ✓ Planned itineraries and schedules

## Current Limits

- ❑ Isolated and uncoordinated initiatives
- ❑ High cost to households
- ❑ Inadequate road infrastructure
- ❑ Weak coordination among actors



# SUMMARY: INFORMAL TRANSPORT

## **Flexibility and Availability**

Easy access in unserved areas and affordable rates for families.

## **High Security Risks**

Non-compliance with traffic laws, systematic overloading and lack of protection.

## **Lack of Professionalism**

Drivers often without a valid license or adequate safety training.



# POLICY ACTIONS

## Reforms and Structuring

The Government of Benin is undertaking major legislative reforms, including a new Highway Code, points-based licenses, and the transposition of WAEMU directives.

**Modernizing the regulatory framework**

# SECURITY MEASURES



## Oversight

Speed cameras to limit speed and rigorous technical controls.



## Education

Mass awareness campaigns for road users.



## Audit

Mainstreaming safety into infrastructure projects.

# STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES



## Future Directions

- ❖ Dedicated school transport services
- ❖ Increased regulation of the informal sector
- ❖ Inclusive mobility for PLMs
- ❖ Integration into urban policies
- ❖ Introduction of road safety in primary, secondary, and university education areas.

# SECURITY

**Priority for our children**

Ensemble pour une mobilité scolaire sécuritaire et durable au Bénin.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR**

**ATTENTION**