The Problem

African cities face challenges to make data-driven decisions to improve their transit services. Data on the proportion of city residents with access to public transportation in African cities is difficult to access, outdated, or non-existent. Missing data infrastructure is a barrier to implementing sustainable transport systems, including proper analysis, and planning for upgrading and integrating multi-modal systems, building passenger information systems and instituting better network management and fleet operations.

DigitalTransport4Africa (DT4A)

In 2017, as an initial response to this challenge, partners from World Resources Institute Ross Center for Sustainable Cities (WRI), the French Development Agency (AFD), Columbia University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) created DT4A—a collaborative digital commons and global network that works to scale up and support urban mobility projects through open, standardized data, open-source software, and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing. It provides support for government, tech companies and civil society actors to map city transit networks and foster ecosystems that enable cities to leverage data for critical transport improvements.

DT4A represents a large, diverse network of city authorities and residents, universities, private civic technology companies, and international development groups committed to sustainable urban mobility for all and the principles of Open Data. Members of DT4A pledge to advance safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable urban transport systems for all as described by Sustainable Development Goal 11.2.
DT4A Governance Structure

DT4A is a consortium with a semi-formal and horizontal governance structure. It aims to enable stakeholders in the mobility industry to learn about transit mapping, data collection and tools to leverage data for critical transport improvements. The governance structure consists of three core entities: the steering committee, WRI Africa, and partners and affiliates. The steering committee plays advisory and management roles, while WRI Africa acts as the community manager and project team leader, and partners and affiliates are active members committed to improving public transport.

Beyond Mapping

The term “beyond mapping” refers to the strategic use of curated data to add value and provide practical solutions to real-world challenges that cities are dealing with (e.g., public transport reform). We strive to achieve this through three activities:

1. Conducting country and regional level workshops and trainings
2. Cultivating a network of mappers and partners and fostering collaboration and mutual support
3. Facilitating local mapping efforts and producing tools that leverage available datasets.

Monthly Webinar Series

Building Open-Source Transport Data Collection Tools: A Sustainable Approach
What Kinshasa Tells Us About the Impact of Flooding on Urban Transport and Accessibility
Data Collection Efforts in Informal Transportation & Shared Mobility Around the World

https://digitaltransport4africa.org/subscribe/

DT4A Innovation Challenge Activities

- Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Khartoum, Sudan
- Stellenbosch, South Africa

We are active in: Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | Alexandria, Egypt | Kampala, Uganda | Khartoum, Sudan | Kumasi, Ghana | Lusaka, Zambia | Maputo, Mozambique | Stellenbosch, South Africa

Contact Information

DT4A Website
DT4A GitLab Data Repository
Kampala Accessibility Web App

We are active in: Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | Alexandria, Egypt | Kampala, Uganda | Khartoum, Sudan | Kumasi, Ghana | Lusaka, Zambia | Maputo, Mozambique | Stellenbosch, South Africa

Sponsors and Partners

- MobilityData
- ITDP
- giz
- Global Network - Popular Transportation