

**PARALLEL SESSION: URBAN TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY PLANNING
DAY FOUR – THURSDAY, JULY 5 – 9:00AM – 12:30PM**

Digital Transport for Africa: Toward an Open and Collaborative Digital Platform to Improve African Urban Public Transport

Concept Note

Session Theme and Objectives

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11.2 calls for “safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for all,” in addition to other critical global targets to reduce air pollution and decarbonize the transport sector. The official indicators include the percentage of residents within a half-kilometer of frequent transit, as well as related needs for access to business, social services and job opportunities.

However, to monitor targets, plan integrated public transport, and provide new services such as passenger information services, policy makers and others need public transport systems data, including, at the most basic level, network and stop data. In Africa, these data are scarce. The World Bank estimates that 92 percent of the largest low- and middle-income cities in the world do not have complete transit maps. In many of these cities, minibuses systems (sometimes called paratransit because of their nonscheduled, flexible routes and stops) provide mobility for most people, yet few data exist on their operations. Furthermore, challenges exist around collecting this data in standardized ways. The digital revolution and the spread of new forms of data and technology offer opportunities to create missing public transport data. Several efforts have emerged in African cities and elsewhere to leverage digital technology to provide open source data about stops, routes, and schedules. These efforts include Nairobi’s Digital Matatus, Accra Mobility, and Transport for Cairo, in addition to emerging projects in Addis Ababa, Dhaka, Abidjan, and other cities.

In this session, participants will learn of these efforts and the launch of the new Resource Center for Digital Transport. The Resource Center was opened by *Agence Française de Développement* (AFD) and is hosted by the World Resources Institute’s Ross Center for Sustainable Cities, in conjunction with cities and other development partners. The Resource Center will provide tools and lessons for data collection as well as a forum in which cities and development partners can share experiences and exchange knowledge with the goal of scaling up the collection and sustainability of open data on public transport networks in cities.

Background and Rationale for Subtopics and Case Studies

At the session, the AFD and WRI will provide information on the background and genesis of the Resource Center, explaining which partners have come together and how countries could consider the value of this work in measuring SDG progress on transport and improving public

transport planning and operations, whether it be introducing bus rapid transport (BRT) or more incremental paratransit reform.

Case studies will be provided from the Digital Matatus project in Nairobi. This groundbreaking effort created a first-ever map of paratransit in the city in digital form, accessible to users through platforms such as Google Maps. The session will also feature a case from Accra, where the Accra Mobility program created a map and digital inventory of TroTro routes to help inform operations and user information. And a third case will be presented from Cairo, where Transport for Cairo has successfully mapped public transport in Africa's second largest metropolis.

Structure of the Session

- Opening remarks from the moderator
- Introduction: Antoine Chevre, AFD, and Ben Welle, WRI
- Presentation of initiatives in African cities:
 - Digital Matatus, Nairobi: Peter Waiganjo/Daniel Ochieng, University of Nairobi; Jackie Klopp, Columbia University; Sarah Williams, MIT
 - Accra Mobility: Alex Johnson, Accra Metropolitan Assembly; Enok Nyamador, Open Street Map; Simon Saddier, Transitec
 - Transport for Cairo Phase II: Mohammed Hegazy, Transport for Cairo
- Understanding transport demand using cellphone data: Orange/AFD project in Dakar
- Launch of Resource Center for Digital Transport in Africa: AFD and WRI
- Questions and answers and discussion on moving forward
- Closing remarks from the moderator

Expected Results/Outcomes or Lessons/Recommendations

It is expected that participants in this session will learn of efforts in Africa to collect data and map public transport for open access and why this is important; gather knowledge for use in additional cases; and learn more about the emerging Resource Center for Digital Transport in Africa.

Speakers

Antoine Chevre, Agence Française de Développement

Ben Welle, World Resources Institute

Peter Waiganjo, University of Nairobi

Daniel Ochieng, University of Nairobi

Jackie Klopp, Columbia University

Sarah Williams, MIT

Alex Johnson, Accra Metropolitan Assembly

Enok Nyamador, Open Street Map

Simon Saddier, Transitec

Mohammed Hegazy, Transport for Cairo