

Conference Program

Towards Inclusive Public Transport in Urban Regions

Day 1 – Thursday 06/02/2025

8.30 *Check-in and coffee – Grand Hall*

9.30 Opening of the Conference – Grand Hall

Prof. dr. Pieter Ballon, vicerector research, VUB

9.40 Findings of the CarinPT Project – Grand Hall

Prof. dr. Tauri Tuvikene, Tallinn University

11.00 *Coffee break – Grand Hall*

11.20 Parallel sessions

Session 1: Evaluating Equity in Public Transport - chair: prof. dr. Kobe Boussauw – Grand Hall

The social benefits of public transport according to cost-benefit analysis	Simon Bothof
Incorporating equity into accessibility evaluations of transport policy scenarios in Cape Town, South Africa.	Ruth Nelson
Can we quantify equity in transport? A novel decision-making method based on the analysis of fundamental needs	Geert te Boveldt
Optimizing Paratransit in Nairobi through Network Analysis	Dorcas Nthoki Nyamai
Optimal Design of Transit Systems with Equity Considerations: The X-Minute City - for Whom?	Loukas Dimitriou, Filippos Alogdianakis

Session 2: Exploring inclusive public transport from a gender perspective

chair: dr. Tanu Priya-Uteng – Open Lab

Driving factors for the gender use gap in shared mobility: A case study of the Brussels-Capital Region	Hannah Hook
Breaking barriers: Investigating Women’s Cycling Participation Beyond the Brussels Canal.	Juliana Betancur Arenas
Women's safety in public transport: The greater Rabat Case	Ikrame Laadssi
Mobility of Non-Binary and Gender Nonconforming Individuals: Methodological Approaches and Best Practice Recommendations	Oxana Ivanova

13.00 *Lunch break – Grand Hall*

14.00 Plenary introduction to the World Café – Grand Hall

14.15 World Café

1. Transit Oriented development - Grand Hall
2. Demand-responsive public transport - Grand Hall
3. Micro-mobility and public transport - Open Lab
4. Fare-free public transport - UA.00.5

16.00 Coffee break – Grand Hall

16.30 Plenary wrap-up session: reflections on the World Café – Grand Hall

Hosted by prof. dr. Tauri Tuvikene (Tallinn University) and Laura Babío (POLIS network)

17.30 Social drink and informal walking dinner – Grand Hall

19.00 Evening Program

Documentary ‘Retazos Móviles’ by Sandra La Rota – Open Lab

‘Retazos móviles’ is a co-created film in which Latin American women stitch together their intimate experiences of how public transport and mobility in remote areas of the Netherlands have shaped their lives. This project combines stop-motion with a textile technique (Arpillera) developed during the dictatorship in Chile, where textiles spoke of silenced stories.

21.00 Closing of day 1 – Grand Hall

Conference Program

Towards Inclusive Public Transport in Urban Regions

Day 2 – Friday 07/02/2025

8.00 *Check-in and coffee– Grand Hall*

9.00 Parallel sessions

Session 3: Accessibility in peri-urban and rural areas

chair: dr. Chiara Vitrano – Grand Hall

Commoning accessibility in urban-peripheries	Ersilia Verlinghieri
Basic accessibility - experiences from the Sõrve peninsula, Estonia	Juri Petruhhin
Assessing job accessibility and distributional effects of public transport policies in the low countries	Josefien Hoérée
Suppressed travel and accessibility in more remote areas: What role can public transport provision play?	Chiara Vitrano
Key destinations of captive users of on-demand public transport: A spatio-temporal analysis of trip patterns	Freke Caset, Ate Poorthuis, Marjolein Hantson

Session 4: Re-imagining just public transport

chair: prof. dr. Tauri Tuvikene – Open Lab

Exploring conditions for sustainable mobility practices through future prototyping in living lab research	Mia Hesselgren
The end of public transport as we imagine it	Thomas Vanoutrive
Exploring Human Rights to Public Transportation: An Inquiry into the Right to Public Transportation and Urban Mobility as a Human Right	Lina Olsson, Ren Thomas
Co-creating sustainable and shared transportation futures for Irish towns.	Dean Phelan
Commoning Accessibility: a conceptual framework	Giovanni Lanza

10.40 *Coffee Break – Grand Hall*

11.00 Parallel Sessions

Session 5: A people-centered view on public transport planning

chair: prof. dr. Wojciech Koblowski – Grand Hall

Challenges of Public Transport in practice in peri - urban areas: insights from Italy	Francesca Lacqua
Public transport for all? Improving cognitive accessibility through communication	Laura Lindegaard
Effects of poor behaviour on public transport by other passengers on inclusivity for disabled people.	Roger Mackett
How fair is fare-free public transport for workers? Insights from railway workers in Luxembourg	Merlin Gillard, Sonja Faaren Ruud
The impact of Ghent's Low Emission Zone on physically disabled persons	Hannah Hook, Freke Caset

Session 6: Integrating Mobility modes for inclusive connectivity in urban regions

chair: Marcus Finbom – Open Lab

E-scooter and public transport integration – how can shared e-scooters realise their potential as a public transport first/last mile alternative?	Nils Fearnley
Micromobility in Brno: Opportunities and Challenges for Sustainable Urban Transport	Nikola Koktavá
Good luck cross-commuting in the periphery: Equitable public transport access to manufacturing and logistics employment sites on the edge of Frankfurt's polycentric metropolitan region	Lukas Stevens
Inserting “urban” into infrastructural regionalism: A relational comparative study of mobility infrastructure in Lagos and Benin City, Nigeria	Allen Xiao
When algorithms re-organise the public realm: Preliminary findings from research with food delivery cyclists in Leeds, UK	Morgan Campbell

Session 7: Transit space as public space

Chair: dr. Louise Strauli - U.A.0.05.2

Bus stop designs' relation to activities in the surrounding space: A study of 5 Bus rapid transit stops in Malmö, Sweden	Jeongmin Hyeong
Train stations as lighthouses of an inclusive mobility culture	Luca Nitschke
Affective Atmosphere and the Sociality of Transit Spaces	Hoai Anh Tran
Waiting space as fluctuating territories – spatial configurations supporting inclusive bus-stops	Victoria Sjöstedt
The role of art in commuting experiences: results from a project in Brussels	Charlotte van Vessem

12.40 *Lunch Break – Grand Hall*

13.30 Parallel workshops

Workshop 1: Participatory tools to co-develop inclusive mobility solutions

Lluís Martínez – Open Lab

The involvement of the public in the development of mobility solutions has become increasingly common in transport research and policy. However, the approaches and methods applied may result in different levels of engagement and satisfaction from participants. This workshop will explore the importance of public participation in developing transport solutions that cater to diverse needs. Using insights from the Smarthubs and StreetForum projects, the session will focus on how participatory approaches can support the development process and facilitate consensus. We will begin with an introduction to the methodologies developed and applied in both projects, discussing the specific tools used to engage local communities and stakeholders. Participants will learn how these methods helped identify (non-)users' needs, particularly for disadvantaged groups, and how they can contribute to reaching a consensus about which solutions to adopt. During a hands-on activity, participants will be able to test two selected tools. In the closing discussion, participants will be invited to reflect on their own practices and identify opportunities for more inclusive, participatory approaches in transport planning.

This workshop aims to inspire new ways of thinking about transport inclusivity and provide practical insights for incorporating diverse voices into decision-making processes. The sharing of participants' experiences and knowledge in this field will be highly appreciated and encouraged throughout the session.

Workshop 2: Gamification for inclusive transport

dr. Erin Cooper – U.A.00.5

Public outreach is an important part of developing inclusive public transport systems. However, it can be difficult to obtain feedback from users which goes beyond commonly identified challenges. Gamification is an engaging approach for identifying various needs of public transport users and proposing new solutions. This workshop builds on the past years of experience using a serious game tool with public transport users across 10+ cities in Europe to understand the needs of the elderly, disabled, youth, and other vulnerable road users. The ‘serious game’ used in this workshop is a board game which helps users to imagine their transport journeys and identify specific barriers that hinder their journeys as well as suggest potential solutions. Participants in the workshop will have the opportunity to play the serious game and develop their own transport solutions for one of two game concepts: improved public transport hubs or improved DRT services in low-density areas. The workshop will compare results to results of previous games carried out in other cities. There will be an opportunity to provide feedback on the game and discuss how to make the most effective use of this outreach technique. Participants will discuss ways to share and compile results of similar focus groups to a broader audience and address some of the main challenges of transport agencies and operators aiming to implement the results of the workshop.

Workshop 3: Making digital mobility sustainable

dr. Karol Kurnicki – Grand Hall

The aim of the workshop is to identify and discuss issues arising from digitalisation of mobility both in its current and potential, speculative form. The digitalisation of mobility is not only about the technological advancement – it is meant to address the great social challenges and solve problems that come from the fact that people and things move. We already know that promises of technology are often not realistic, empty and sometimes misleading. At the same time, digitalisation is not something we can reverse – in any case the future of mobility is at least partly digital.

In this context, this workshop will first imagine what a sustainable and just urban mobility would look like. In the second step, the participants will be asked to imagine what is needed if sustainable digital mobility systems are to function in the future. The intention is to go beyond usual critical thinking about digitalisation and include areas that could make it truly working for the civic benefits and meaningful participation.

15.30 Closing Plenary – Grand Hall

16.00 *End of conference*

List of presenters

Filippos	Alogdianakis	Lab for Transport Engineering, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Cyprus
Juliana	Betancur Arenas	Mobilise research group, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Simon	Bothof	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Morgan	Campbell	University of Leeds
Freke	Caset	Ghent University (Dept of Mobility and Spatial Planning) and VUB (Cosmopolis Centre for Urban Research)
Erin	Cooper	KU Leuven
Loukas	Dimitriou	Lab for Transport Engineering, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Cyprus
Sonja	Faaren Ruud	KU Leuven
Nils	Fearnley	TOI Institute of Transport Economics
Merlin	Gillard	LISER, VUB
Marjolein	Hantson	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Mia	Hesselgren	KTH Royal Institute of Technology
Josefien	Hoérée	University of Antwerp
Hannah	Hook	Ghent University
Jeongmin	Hyeong	Malmö University
Oxana	Ivanova	Transport Research Centre Verne, Tampere University, Tampere, Finland
Nikola	Koktavá	VSB - Technical University of Ostrava
Karol	Kurnicki	Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde
Sandra	La Rota	University of Antwerp
Ikrame	Laadssi	Université Gustave Eiffel (France) and The national institute of urban and land planning (Morocco)
Francesca	Lacqua	University of Milan Bicocca
Giovanni	Lanza	DASTU - Politecnico di Milano
Mohan	Li	Guangdong University of Finance and Economics
Laura	Lindegaard	Aalborg University

Roger	Mackett	University College London
Lluis	Martinez	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Ruth	Nelson	TU Delft
Luca	Nitschke	ISOE - Institute for social-ecological research
Dorcas Nthoki	Nyamai	TU Dortmund University
Lina	Olsson	Malmö University
Chefen	Ouyang	Taiwan Design Research Institute
Juri	Petruhhin	Tallinn University
Dean	Phelan	University College Dublin
Ate	Poorthuis	KU Leuven
Victoria	Sjöstedt	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Department of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management (LAPF)
Lukas	Stevens	TH Aschaffenburg
Geert	te Boveldt	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Ren	Thomas	Dalhousie University
Hoai Anh	Tran	Dept. Urban Studies, Malmö University
Charlotte	van Vessem	Mobilise, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Thomas	Vanoutrive	Research Group for Urban Development, University of Antwerp
Ersilia	Verlinghieri	University of Westminster
Chiara	Vitrano	VTI - The Swedish Road and Transport Research Institute
Allen	Xiao	National University of Singapore