

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Mobility Solutions for Liveable Cities

ITF presents latest results on impacts of shared urban mobility at World Mobility Leadership Forum

Smart methods for sharing vehicles hold the key to solving cities' mobility issues, from congestion and air quality to better access to jobs or education.

This is the message José Viegas, Secretary-General of the International Transport Forum (ITF), is bringing to the World Mobility Leadership Forum held in Detroit, USA, on 28-29 September.

Most negative impacts of current urban mobility patterns stem from the extraordinarily inefficient use of the private car. While a car is one of the most capital-intensive investments households make, on average it is used 50 minutes out of 24 hours and carries 1.2 to 1.6 passengers.

Traditional public transport, however, is not attracting enough passengers to contain the growth of car traffic in cities: Few people accept two or more transfers given an alternative. Crowded buses or trams are another issue for potential users.

Car sharing is no panacea either: It does little to reduce the total vehicle mileage and may even increase solo driving if prices are low enough.

How can transport capacity be allocated more efficiently to reduce negative impacts without limiting the mobility of city dwellers?

Based on real mobility data from Lisbon, Portugal, ITF modellers replaced all scheduled buses and private cars in that city with shared taxis and on-demand 8- and 16-seater minibuses. The shared taxis offer door-to-door service and the minibuses a streetcorner-to-streetcorner service (max. 400m walk, no transfer needed, seating guaranteed). They are complemented by the existing high-capacity metro/subway.

The simulation shows a dramatic improvement in urban mobility, but also the liveability of a city:

- ▶ Only 3% of today's number of vehicles needed to provide the same trips.
- ▶ 95% of current parking space parking no longer required and available for different uses.
- ▶ Congestion disappears, with 23% to 37% fewer vehicle miles travelled.
- ▶ Traffic CO₂ emissions fall by 34%, without any new technology.

There would also be knock-on effects:

- ▶ Further reduction of vehicle miles travelled should be expected as walking and cycling conditions improve dramatically.
- ▶ A further reduction of CO₂ emissions as clean technologies are more quickly adopted due to quicker replacement of intensively used vehicles.
- ▶ Much better and more equal access to jobs, health services and educational institutions.

“Smart sharing is a key component for the future of urban mobility”, said ITF Secretary-General José Viegas.

“The challenge will be to manage the transition. One way could be to limit the access of private cars to a city centre to two days per week. This would already lead to a palpable improvement, with 15% less congestion and CO₂ emissions.”

To further test the model, the ITF is preparing similar simulations for five more cities, among them Auckland (New Zealand), Dublin (Ireland) and Helsinki (Finland). Two more cities will be announced soon.

José Viegas will present the results of the study on 28 September at 12:40 p.m. at the World Mobility Leadership Forum, in Detroit, USA.

The related ITF report *Shared Mobility: Innovation for Liveable Cities* can be downloaded at: <http://www.itf-oecd.org/shared-mobility-innovation-liveable-cities>

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Who we are

The International Transport Forum is an intergovernmental organisation with 57 member countries. It acts as a think tank for transport policy and organises the Annual Summit of transport ministers. ITF is the only global body that covers all transport modes. The ITF is administratively integrated with the OECD, yet politically autonomous.

What we do

ITF works for transport policies that improve peoples' lives. Our mission is to foster a deeper understanding of the role of transport in economic growth, environmental sustainability and social inclusion and to raise the public profile of transport policy.

How we do it

ITF organises global dialogue for better transport. We act as a platform for discussion and pre-negotiation of policy issues across all transport modes. We analyse trends, share knowledge and promote exchange among transport decision-makers and civil society. ITF's Annual Summit is the world's largest gathering of transport ministers and the leading global platform for dialogue on transport policy.

Learn more: www.itf-oecd.org