

PRESS RELEASE

DIGITALISATION AND MOBILITY AS A SERVICE TO BE A KEY FOCUS AT GLOBAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT SUMMIT

BRUSSELS, 23 FEBRUARY 2017

Two trends that are promising to transform the world of urban mobility, Mobility as a Service and digitalisation, will be under the spotlight at the upcoming UITP Global Public Transport Summit (15-17 May 2017) in Montréal.

The **Global Public Transport Summit**, organised by UITP (the International Association of Public Transport), will focus in total on seven key trends and themes affecting urban mobility, under the slogan 'Lead the TRANSITION,' reflecting the rapid changes underway in urban mobility.

New mobility services are an exciting development and the challenge now is integrating them into the existing offer to best meet customers' needs. Accordingly, the Summit will throw a spotlight on emerging players in **Mobility as a Service (MaaS) and combined mobility** and discuss their potential to reduce car ownership. The Summit will highlight how public transport is leading the deployment of autonomous mobility services and look at their exciting potential, including an autonomous vehicle test ride that will operate outside the venue during the Summit.

These discussions will take place within the context of increasing **digitalisation** and the Summit will explore the potential opportunities opening up for traditional industry players in harnessing the vast amounts of data at the sector's fingertips.

"We are in a time of some of the most fundamental change we've ever seen and it's being powered by technology," commented **Jay Walder**, CEO of the US' largest bike-sharing company, Motivate, a leading mobility expert and a speaker at the Summit. "What we're going to see going forward will be of a scale, power and speed that we've never seen before and it's exciting".

Public transport is driving further innovative solutions, such as alternative propulsion systems, that are allowing for ever-greater energy efficiency in the rush for **decarbonisation**, increasingly on the agenda since the landmark [COP21](#) climate agreement. The Summit will explore new policy pathways, success factors and actions driving the push from concept to implementation, such as the roll-out of electric buses or more energy efficient solutions for rail.

Another cross-cutting theme will be **service excellence**, which, due to rising passenger expectations, is increasingly at the forefront of public transport

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companies' strategies. In parallel, the issues of **governance, planning and funding** will also be on the agenda as experts delve into the challenges in delivering high-quality public transport projects within budget and on time.

The Summit will also explore some of the cutting-edge innovation in **bus** and **rail**, from electric buses and the prospect of autonomous buses to new technologies that are boosting rail's energy efficiency and exploring rail's ability to adapt to and survive the digital age.

NOTE TO EDITORS

The Global Public Transport Summit is a unique event that covers all urban and regional transport modes. It combines a full programme of congress sessions with an exhibition of the latest solutions, innovations and products in public transport and urban mobility. The last edition of the event - previously known as the UITP World Congress & Exhibition - took place in Milan in June 2015. The event attracted more than 2,200 delegates from 83 countries and 284 exhibitors from across the industry.

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The International Association of Public Transport (UITP) is a passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility and is the only worldwide network to bring together all public transport stakeholders and all sustainable transport modes. We have 1,400 member companies giving access to 16,000 contacts from 96 countries. Our members are public transport authorities and operators, policy decision-makers, research institutes and the public transport supply and service industry. Visit our website www.uitp.org. Follow us on Twitter: [@UITPpressoffice](https://twitter.com/UITPpressoffice)

CONTACT

ANDREW CANNING | PRESS & MEDIA MANAGER
+32 2 663 66 39 | ANDREW.CANNING@UITP.ORG

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