

Financing of public transport infrastructure is key to boost Europe's economy:

A common UITP-EPF vision

1. EPF, representing public transport users in 20 countries, and UITP, representing more than 400 urban, suburban and regional public transport operators and authorities from all member states, fully support the European Union's intention to mobilise additional investments in strategic areas including transport infrastructure, urban development, energy and energy efficiency, with the overall objective of boosting the European economy in a sustainable way.
2. In order to reach this objective effectively however, proper attention should be paid to urban mobility.
3. Indeed, urban areas play a major role in the European economy. 80% of the European Union's GDP is generated in urban areas, which gather about 75% of the European population.
4. Public transport contributes to the competitiveness of cities. In so doing it creates value, for individuals, businesses, and territories– which exceeds the initial investment in public transport – up to 3 to 4 times. In particular public transport helps leverage private investment in the city. The economic benefits of public transport for the city and the benefits for citizens are optimized when public transport schemes are adequately integrated into economic development strategies, urban development and housing policies, education and employment strategies, tourism and culture policies, and of course other aspects of urban transport policy. Local governments should be empowered so as to be able to carry out successfully such integrated urban strategies. Moreover, public transport creates good jobs at local level that cannot be delocalized.
5. Besides, urban areas are key points in most, if not all, people's journeys: they do not only represent the first and last miles of long distance journeys, they also serve as connecting points, linking transport modes and corridors. Well-developed and maintained urban infrastructure greatly helps in removing bottlenecks and improving passengers' experience.
6. Last but not least, **developing regional and urban mobility helps to make European funding actions visible to the citizen, who sees an immediate benefit, directly linked to the quality of their daily life.**
7. Without ignoring the principle of subsidiarity, the UITP and EPF therefore believe that through relevant and coordinated investment at European level, sustainable urban mobility, in particular the use of urban and regional public transport, should be promoted.

8. In view of the above, UITP and EPF encourage the European Investment Bank and the European Commission to **give proper attention to public transport infrastructure projects when implementing the European Fund for Strategic Investment mechanism**. Equally, **regional and urban transport projects should be fully integrated in the priorities of the Connecting Europe Facility and of research projects such as Shift2Rail and Horizon2020**. Finally, **the upcoming review of the 2011 White Paper on transport should create the right conditions for the development of regional and urban public transport**.

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About EPF:

EPF is the independent umbrella bod bringing together 34 mainly voluntary organisations for public transport users in 20 European countries. It aims to spread good practice and ensure that public transport is easy to use and gives value for money.

EPF is multimodal, for the individual members of its affiliated bodies want to use the most suitable mode for their specific journeys and need good quality information to help them make that choice.

It therefore engages in constructive dialogue with public transport operators and political decision-makers and participates in EU projects and consultations.

About UITP:

UITP is the international association representing public transport stakeholders. In the European Union, UITP brings together more than 400 urban, suburban and regional public transport operators and authorities from all member states and is consequently recognized as a key interlocutor for the European institutions and other bodies.

UITP represents the perspectives of short distance passenger transport services by all sustainable modes: bus, regional and suburban rail, metro, light rail and tram and waterborne. These services are often organised in integrated public transport networks covering metropolitan areas and other specific territories.