

PRESS RELEASE

As the first World Public Transport Day is Celebrated, UITP Calls for Investment as Cities Showcase Global Impact



Brussels, 22 April 2026

Cities, countries and regions celebrated public transport on 17 April.

On 17 April, marking the launch of the very first World Public Transport Day, UITP, the International Association of Public Transport, celebrated the initiatives of over 500 organisations from across the globe and unveiled a new Declaration highlighting its essential role.

With 86 million social impressions and 2.1 billion media impressions, World Public Transport Day has been a huge success across the globe.

Famous landmarks such as the Burj Khalifa and Niagara Falls were lit up in World Public Day colours – and to mark the Day, cities worldwide launched initiatives showcasing the value of public transport in action.

From free travel days and expanded services to community engagement campaigns and sustainability initiatives, these efforts highlight how local authorities and operators are bringing the benefits of public transport closer to people.

[See the events and initiatives around the globe on the official World Public Transport Day website](#) and check out the [video compilation of some key highlights](#).

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These initiatives demonstrate that investment in public transport delivers tangible results - improving accessibility, reducing emissions, and enhancing urban life.

Now, marking the first-ever global celebration, [UITP has issued a Declaration](#) highlighting the essential role public transport plays in daily life, economic growth, and environmental sustainability - while cities across the globe demonstrated its impact through concrete actions and success stories.

Public transport is more than mobility - it is a lifeline for our cities.

Every day, millions of journeys connect people to jobs, education, healthcare, and opportunity. It fosters social inclusion, strengthens communities, and enhances quality of life.

By reducing congestion, lowering emissions, and improving road safety, public transport contributes to healthier, safer, and more liveable cities. It offers freedom and independence while supporting sustainable urban development.

And now, UITP is urging decision-makers to recognise public transport as a strategic asset and to provide it with sustained, long-term support. This includes:

- Ensuring stable and predictable funding frameworks
- Maintaining and modernising infrastructure
- Protecting affordability for passengers
- Strengthening system resilience against economic and energy shocks

"Seeing the celebrations for World Public Transport has shown that the global community has come together behind one goal: celebrating public transport and the benefits it brings us. Public transport is not just a vital service, it is an investment in our collective future and to deliver its full potential, it must be supported as a priority at the highest political level."

Mohamed Mezghani, UITP Secretary General

The message from the very first World Public Transport Day is clear: investing in public transport is investing in people, in communities, and in the future of our planet.

NOTES TO EDITORS

World Public Transport Day is a brand new initiative launching on 17 April 2026 and marked every year on the same day. Brought to you by [UITP](#), the International Association of Public Transport, it's a global celebration of all the ways public transport moves us and makes sure we get from A to B (and everywhere in between). The day highlights the journeys that move us and the people who make them possible - from everyday commutes to extraordinary adventures. The day is a chance to shine a spotlight on how public transport connects people, opens up



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opportunities, supports cleaner cities, and helps build healthier, more connected communities. It's one day and millions of journeys. A day to say – we love public transport, it moves us all.

UITP Contact:

Scott Shepherd, Head of Corporate Communications & Press Relations scott.shepherd@uitp.org

For information and resources for partners and the media, visit www.WorldPublicTransportDay.com

