



Press release

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City-HUB Final Conference

The City-HUB Consortium organized its Final Conference “Urban Interchanges: how much integration we need?” in the premises of the French Institute of Science and Technology for Transport, Development and Networks (IFSTTAR) in Lille, France on 19 February 2015. The Conference was organized under two sessions “an Urban interchange concept” and “Guidelines for monitoring and assessment”, followed by a round table with the topic: “Recommendations for European interchanges: City-HUB Model”.

The project’s coordinator, Prof. Andrés Monzón from TRANSyT-UPM opened the Conference at 09:15am welcoming the participants, presenting an overview of the City-HUB project and highlighting the scope of the Final Conference. Then, the regional director of IFSTTAR on the Lille Villeneuve d'Ascq site Mr Philippe Rigaud made a welcome speech and presented the IFSTTAR research policy. Following this, the Head of Mobility of the Barcelona Transport Authority Mr. Lluís Alegre gave a presentation about the needs, experiences and desires of the end-users of urban interchanges.

At 11:30am, Prof. Andrés Monzón introduced and explained the process for the development of the City-HUB model from investigating, evaluating and understanding the mobility needs of passengers. The presentation of Prof. Eftihia Nathanail of CERTH followed, focusing on the guidelines for successful interchanges, while Mr. Peter Christiansen from TOI closed the 1st session of the Conference, presenting good practices for interchanges.

Prof. Joao Abreu of the Instituto Superior Técnico of Lisbon opened the 2nd session of the Conference at 14:00pm and spoke about the economic and social impacts of urban interchanges. Then, Mr. Derek Palmer from TRL presented important changes and potential actions needed for successful interchanges, while Ms. Sara Hernandez from TRANSyT-UPM introduced crucial findings from the users’ viewpoint. Mr Ivo Cré, Deputy Director of the POLIS Network representing the European project NODES, presented initial results of the project highlighting the NODES toolbox for urban interchange development.

Dr. Imre Keserű from Vrije Universiteit Brussel moderated the discussion of the evening round table involving the key-note speakers, the NODES representative, the City-HUB stakeholders and the City-HUB partners. The main points of this discussion are summarized to the following:

- All participants agreed that a strong focus on the term “user” was revealed from the presentations and discussions made during the Conference. This seems to be in line with the current approach by the European Commission to promote user-based policy developments and the concept of smart cities.
- A second point was that as journeys become more complex and there is an increasing need for users to change a line or mode, the interchanges are not just a location where people change transport but they have become places “in their own right”. To this end, the guidance for the non-transport related aspects of the outputs of City-HUB model for developing a successful interchange were considered to be cutting edge and of practical use to city authorities and developers.
- An additional key point was the importance of considering the views and concerns of all stakeholders involved in the development of interchanges, including transport providers, owners/managers or developers of the interchange, as well as local businesses, representative groups (less able people, senior citizens), taxis and complementary modes. However, it was also recognized that there are specific areas of

potential conflicts and tensions between the different stakeholder groups, and that often those people who are in charge of the interchange do not have the skills, training or knowledge of how to deal with this.

- Also, it was recognized that the use of interchange buildings is not static and it is of high importance to understand the best ways to incorporate adaptability and flexibility, which seem to be two crucial aspects for the success of interchanges in the future.
- Another point referring to the improvement of the interchanges was that more information is needed to be gathered in terms of: a) better understanding of the value time spent on journeys; b) improving the “whole journey experience” through the hierarchy of different nodes and interchange points of a journey; and c) working more on how best serve the local travelling public segmented by journey type, time and function of the journey, rather than only catering to one small segment such as the commuter.
- The key role of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) and applications (apps) in the improvement of the journey experience and the increase of the efficiency between the legs of the journey, was also identified. The use of ITS and applications, both in terms of information provision and way-finding, can increase the access to and from interchanges by more sustainable modes (i.e. public transport, walking, car and bike sharing).
- Lastly, the topic of security and how this can be enhanced with both technical and non-technical interventions was defined by the participants as of a future concern to be studied further. The connection of TEN-T networks linking major cities with the local transport networks was a second topic that should be studied in the near future.

The Conference closed around 18:00, and a farewell cocktail followed.



Photos from the City-HUB Final Conference

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