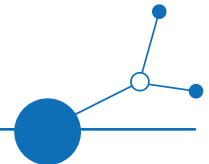


# COOPERATION PLATFORM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF METROPOLITAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT



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## A. Cooperation platform for the development of metropolitan public transport

### 1. Initial information about the new solution

Study cluster and the members developing a new solution	<b>Strengthening Metropolitan Governance through Integrated Public Transport Management.</b> <b>Members of the cluster:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The City of Warsaw;</li><li>■ Stuttgart Region Association;</li><li>■ Joint Spatial Planning Department Berlin-Brandenburg;</li><li>■ The Charles University;</li><li>■ The University of Silesia in Katowice;</li><li>■ Metropolitan Research Institute.</li></ul>
The pilot action tested, and the tool chosen	<b>Pilot action: Possibilities of Integrating Bus Transport in the Warsaw Metropolis</b> <b>Tool chosen and improved: Integrated Metropolitan Transportation System (Stuttgart Region and Capital Region Berlin-Brandenburg)</b>
The new solution	<b>Cooperation platform for the development of metropolitan public transport</b>

### 2. The concept of new solution

Description of new solution	A cooperation platform for the development of metropolitan transport is an integrated, collaborative space designed to facilitate cooperation among stakeholders involved in the planning, development, and operation of public transport system. The goal of this platform is to improve the efficiency, sustainability and inclusivity of the metropolitan public transport system. By fostering collaboration, the platform encourages the exchange of best practices and innovative solutions.
Main elements	The new solution brings together a wide range of stakeholders such as transport planners, local governments, transport operators, transport organizers and county-commune unions. This ensures that all perspectives are considered when making transport decisions.



Instead of having separate organizations making independent decisions in their own area, it encourages communication and data-sharing among all participants and local government units.

**The overall concept of the new solution “Cooperation platform for the development of metropolitan public transport”:**

The key components that form the core structure of the new solution are designed to facilitate a comprehensive and collaborative approach to improving public transport in metropolitan areas. This solution is aimed at metropolitan regions that are seeking innovative approaches for either implementing new public transport systems or unifying existing ones across the area.

In this context, the executive body of the metropolitan entities or governing body responsible for the region’s transport infrastructure will initiate the formation of a formal working group – referred to as the “Cooperation Platform.” Every member of the platform brings valuable insights and expertise to the table, ensuring that all perspectives are considered when designing effective transport solutions.

The primary goal of this cooperation platform is to foster an open and collaborative environment where all participants can work together to identify common challenges, share innovative ideas, and formulate actionable solutions. By regularly convening through cyclical meetings, the group will engage in ongoing dialogue, discussing key transport issues (fragmentation of public transport systems, coordination across municipalities, unified fare and information systems, sustainability and reduced car dependency, traffic management, infrastructure investment and maintenance, accessibility and inclusivity, technological integration, stakeholder collaboration), exploring best practices, and aligning strategies for a cohesive transport network across the metropolitan area. These meetings will serve as a space for negotiation, decision-making, and coordination among the various stakeholders involved in public transport. Through these interactions, the platform will develop a unified vision for the region's transportation system, ensuring that any proposed solutions are sustainable, efficient, and beneficial for the entire metropolitan community.

In order to expand on the decision-making process and how it will function within the Cooperation platform for the development of metropolitan public transport, it is important to consider the balance between formal structures and voluntary collaboration. This aspect of the solution can be shaped through various decision-



	<p>making mechanisms, which can differ depending on the context and needs of each metropolitan area, for example: transport master plans, operational and financial plans, and regulatory frameworks. Decisions could be made by building consensus among the stakeholders. In this approach, major decisions such as infrastructure investments or route changes would be made based on a collaborative agreement with the goal of achieving alignment on a shared vision without imposing rigid rules. To tackle specific challenges like technological integration, accessibility, or sustainability, smaller working groups or task forces could be formed within the cooperation platform. These groups would operate more autonomously and focus on specific areas of transport planning, providing recommendations that can then be reviewed and approved by the larger group. Within these task forces, leadership could rotate, ensuring that all stakeholders have an equal opportunity to contribute and that decisions are not overly centralized.</p> <p>Each metropolitan area may face unique challenges, so the decision-making processes might vary from region to region. Some areas may prioritize formal decision-making, while others may rely more heavily on voluntary collaboration. The platform should allow for flexibility, enabling each region to adapt the structure to fit its specific needs and governance models.</p> <p>Ultimately, the establishment of this cooperation platform will enable metropolitan areas to overcome transport-related challenges in a collaborative and transparent manner, leading to the creation of more integrated and accessible public transport systems that meet the needs of all residents and visitors.</p>
Innovativeness and uniqueness of new solution	<p>The uniqueness of the platform lies in its collaborative approach to transport planning. By facilitating communication and data-sharing among all participants the platform creates an inclusive and transparent environment. This openness allows for a better understanding of transportation needs, challenges, and opportunities. Moreover, the platform's collaborative nature empowers individuals and organizations to contribute to decision-making processes. Rather than imposing top-down decisions, the platform enables active participation from all interested parties, allowing their actual needs and expectations to be taken into account. This model offers greater flexibility and quicker responses to changing conditions. Participants can share information, experiences and propose solutions that are tailored to local challenges. The result is a more efficient, sustainable and equitable transport system that benefits all parties involved.</p>



<p>Improvement of the selected tool</p>	<p>The results of the pilot action played a pivotal role in the development of the new solution, the <b>Cooperation platform for the development of metropolitan public transport</b>. By analysing and assessing the experiences of regions like Stuttgart and Berlin Brandenburg, the pilot action offered critical insights into the integration of various transport systems and the challenges associated with creating an efficient, user-friendly, and sustainable metropolitan public transport network.</p> <p>The pilot action provided valuable data on issues such as harmonizing ticketing systems, optimizing line numbers and stop names, and improving data management, all of which were key areas requiring enhancement in the Warsaw Metropolis. The successful integration of bus systems in the Stuttgart Region provided a valuable benchmark. Additionally, insights from Berlin Brandenburg's data collection and sustainable planning strategies played a key role in shaping the platform. These insights highlighted practical challenges, such as local regulatory differences, varying transport usage patterns, and the need for flexibility in system design to accommodate the region's diverse infrastructure.</p> <p>Drawing from these tools, the cooperation platform was developed as a solution not only to address these challenges but also to foster a more collaborative and adaptive transport system for the Warsaw Metropolis and other interested metropolitan areas. The solution was carefully tailored to meet the unique needs and challenges of the various metropolitan areas.</p> <p>Improvements and innovations of the new solution compared to existing tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>enhanced collaboration:</b> It serves as a dynamic tool for improving coordination ensuring that different transport services work together more efficiently.</li><li>■ <b>flexibility:</b> The cooperation platform design allows for the integration of various transport modes (e.g., buses, trains, trams) in a way that can be scaled as the network expands or as the region's needs evolve.</li><li>■ <b>bottom-up action:</b> Unlike traditional top-down approaches often seen in public transport systems, the new platform encourages involvement from the entities it serves.</li><li>■ <b>collaboration between transportation entities and local government units:</b> The new platform fosters closer collaboration between local governments and a variety of stakeholders,</li></ul>
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	<p>including consulting companies and transport organizations. This multi-stakeholder collaboration ensures that the transport system is not only efficient but also equitable, including those of the marginalized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>sustainability:</b> The new solution also enhances sustainability by incorporating more efficient, eco-friendly transport options, aligned with the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans.</li></ul>
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### 3. Joint development and project management

The process of development of new solution	<p>The new solution was jointly developed between the members of the study cluster: Strengthening Metropolitan Governance through Integrated Public Transport Management and during the Regional Stakeholder Meeting in Warsaw Metropolitan Area on December 2, 2024. The City of Warsaw in co-operation with Warsaw Metropolis Association coordinated the whole process.</p> <p>The concept for the new solution was officially presented at a project meeting held in Berlin on February 27, 2025. During this meeting, members of the project had the opportunity to engage with the proposal, ask questions, and provide feedback. This interactive exchange provided valuable insights into the potential impact of the proposed solution.</p> <p>Following the presentation, participants engaged in a series of intensive workshops, where all actively discussed the proposed solutions in detail. These workshops were organized in smaller groups to encourage focused, collaborative discussions, enabling each participant to contribute their expertise and insights. The aim was to refine the concept and explore various approaches to ensure the solution would be both effective and feasible.</p> <p>Based on the feedback and insights gathered during the meeting and workshops, the City of Warsaw finalized the new solution by the first half of March 2025.</p>
Methods of work	<p>The City of Warsaw developed the new solution based on the pilot action, which demonstrated the need to accelerate efforts toward integrating public transport across the Warsaw Metropolitan Area.</p> <p>The “Transport in the Warsaw Metropolis” conference, held on December 2, 2024, at the Targowa Creativity Center, was a central event for engaging with stakeholders. The conference brought together 112 participants, including representatives from the Warsaw Public Transport Authority (ZTM), county-commune unions,</p>



	local governments, transportation experts, and local media. These discussions served as a platform to assess the current state of public transportation and to explore potential future developments, particularly in terms of integration and connectivity. Throughout the conference, numerous participants expressed the need for ongoing collaboration to further integrate public transport in the metropolitan area. The willingness of stakeholders to continue working together was a key outcome of the discussions, highlighting a strong commitment to long-term cooperation and planning.
The reflection of the initial work set-up and time plan	In terms of the new solution, the initial work set-up and time plan were successfully achieved as planned. The months from December 2024 to March 2025 were dedicated to the evaluation of the pilot action. During this period, the focus was on assessing the transferability of the pilot results and analysing the feasibility of implementing the outcomes across different metropolitan regions in Central Europe. Additionally, this phase involved the joint development of a new solution for metropolitan public transport in the region.
Problems and deviations	There were no problems or deviations during the development of the new solution which would cause delays in its finalisation and the whole project.

## 4. Strengthening metropolitan cooperation and governance

Impact on metropolitan cooperation and governance	The new solution, cooperation platform for the development of metropolitan public transport, significantly strengthens metropolitan cooperation and governance by fostering a collaborative, inclusive, and efficient framework for transport planning and management. It aims to address key challenges such as fragmentation, inefficient coordination, and the lack of inclusivity in decision-making processes, which are often experienced in metropolitan areas with complex transport networks. The platform not only enables more efficient public transport systems but also contributes to long-term sustainability, equity, and adaptability.
Involvement of metropolitan stakeholders	The involvement of metropolitan stakeholders is a central aspect of the new solution. The platform is designed to be highly collaborative, ensuring that a wide range of stakeholders are actively engaged in its development, implementation, and ongoing evolution. This inclusive approach fosters ownership, enhances the





	<p>quality of decision-making, and increases the likelihood of successful outcomes.</p> <p>Stakeholder list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>local and regional governments</b> (they play a crucial role in shaping the public transport system, setting policies, and providing funding);</li> <li>■ <b>transport operators and authorities</b> (transport operators, including public transport authorities, train companies, bus operators, and other private and public service providers, are critical for ensuring that the cooperation platform leads to practical improvements in the transport system);</li> <li>■ <b>technology and data providers</b> (given the importance of data sharing and technology in the operation of the cooperation platform, technology providers and data management experts will be key participants in its development and implementation);</li> <li>■ <b>private sector, businesses and transport providers</b> (private sector players, including businesses involved in logistics, car-sharing, bike-sharing, and other mobility services, will be key partners in creating a truly integrated transport network);</li> <li>■ <b>citizens</b> (the active involvement of citizens ensures that the transport system reflects the real needs of its users, particularly in terms of accessibility, affordability, and convenience, e.g. citizens provide opinions and suggestions through surveys or public events focused on the integrated system; transport preferences and mobility behaviours can also be analysed indirectly through indicators like traffic intensity, bus stop frequency, or bus line availability).</li> </ul>
Contribution to the Common Metropolitan Vision	<p>The cooperation platform for the development of metropolitan public transport aligns well with the Common Metropolitan Vision (CMV), especially in areas of governance, collaboration, sustainability, and inclusivity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>governance and metropolitan cooperation:</b> CMV emphasizes the importance of effective governance and cooperation among diverse stakeholders within metropolitan regions. The platform fosters this by creating a collaborative environment where city planners, local authorities, transport operators, and citizens can co-create solutions for metropolitan public transport.</li> <li>■ <b>sustainability and efficiency:</b> Both CMV and the platform prioritize environmentally sustainable solutions. The platform</li> </ul>



	<p>promotes eco-friendly transport options, aligning with CMV's commitment to environmentally responsible urban development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>inclusivity and equity:</b> CMV stresses the need for balanced and inclusive development, ensuring all social groups have access to essential services. The platform supports this by encouraging equitable transport services that are accessible to diverse communities, including marginalized groups.</li> <li>■ <b>integration and mobility:</b> CMV underscores the need for integrated transport systems and efficient mobility across metropolitan areas. The platform's focus on integrated ticketing, harmonized routes, and scalable transport modes directly contributes to these goals, improving connectivity across the metropolitan area and potentially other regions.</li> </ul> <p>In summary, the platform addresses the core principles of CMV by promoting inclusive, sustainable, and well-coordinated transport solutions that enhance metropolitan cooperation and governance.</p>
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## 5. Replicability to other metropolitan areas

Replicability to metropolitan territories	<p>The new solution is intentionally designed with replicability in mind, aiming for ease of adaptation not only within the Warsaw Metropolis but also for other metropolitan areas, both within and outside the project scope. The adaptability and scalability of this solution make it a valuable model for other MAs striving to enhance their urban mobility.</p> <p>Below is an overview of key elements that can be leveraged to transfer this solution to other metropolitan areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>collaborative decision-making</b> - the new solution emphasises cooperation between various stakeholders and creates a model that can be easily applied to other cities. The platform promotes transparency, joint planning, and coordinated implementation, which is critical for effective transport management in any metropolitan area.</li> <li>■ <b>sustainable mobility</b> - the new solution focuses on a sustainable approach to urban mobility in order to generate solutions that improve the quality of life of residents and encourage them to use public transport that is convenient for them.</li> <li>■ <b>compatibility</b> - the new solution can be adapted to the current transport situation of the metropolitan area and focus on the</li> </ul>
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	<p>challenges that are most important. Metropolitan areas, regardless of their current level of public transport development, can still benefit from the new solution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>user-centric design</b> - the new solution focuses on a positive user experience, with easy access to information and intuitive interfaces, making it adaptable for any MA seeking to improve public transport.</li><li>▪ <b>adaptable legal frameworks</b> - the new solution is designed to be flexible, allowing it to adjust to different policies, service standards or funding models. This makes it suitable for various types of MAs with different governance structures.</li><li>▪ <b>free/low cost and voluntary</b> - it does not require large financial investment, and each local government unit can decide independently whether to participate in the platform.</li></ul>
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## 6. Uptake of new solution

Uptake of new solution	<p><b>An example of using the new solution - a cooperation platform in the Warsaw Metropolitan Area.</b></p> <p>The pilot action and the "Analysis of the Possibilities of Integrating Bus Transport in the Warsaw Metropolis" clearly highlight the pressing need for a unified metropolitan transportation system in the Warsaw Metropolitan Area. This system must be accessible to all residents and tailored to meet their needs. The proposed solution, a collaborative platform, aims to address these challenges. The platform will serve as a forum for dialogue, bringing together representatives from each of the 9 counties within the Warsaw Metropolis, the City of Warsaw, and the major transportation organizers and authorities. This focus group, though small, will represent a diverse range of stakeholders, enabling swift, efficient, and effective decision-making on crucial transport development issues.</p> <p>The group was formed by the Board of the Warsaw Metropolis Association, with the first meeting scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 2025. The upcoming meeting will serve as an introductory session, where participants will discuss the key principles of cooperation, a preliminary schedule of activities, and the thematic scope of the team's work. The tasks ahead will be outlined to ensure a clear understanding of the platform's objectives and expected outcomes. Participants will also be introduced to the</p>
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	<p>internal metropolitan team at the Warsaw Public Transport Authority, who will be responsible for formal issues and group work. This will provide clarity on the roles and responsibilities of each team member. Additionally, the frequency and schedule of subsequent meetings will be established to ensure effective communication and ongoing progress throughout the group's work. Following this initial session, subsequent meetings will be organized on a regular basis, depending on the evolving needs of the region, until a formal metropolitan union is established or until the goal of creating an efficient, integrated public transport system across the Warsaw Metropolis is successfully realized. At the same time, efforts are underway to develop a legal framework for the region - the "metropolitan act." This legislation is intended to lay the foundation for the creation of a metropolitan union, which will play a crucial role in enabling and facilitating the financing and coordination of public transport services across the metropolitan area.</p>
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## 7. Summary of new solution

Summary	<p>The new solution, the cooperation platform for the development of metropolitan public transport, is an integrated, collaborative tool designed to enhance the planning, development, and operation of public transport systems across metropolitan areas. The platform fosters a collaborative space for key stakeholders: city planners, government authorities, transport operators, environmental groups, technology providers, and citizens, to share data, exchange ideas, and actively participate in transport decision-making. Its primary goal is to improve the efficiency, sustainability, and inclusivity of metropolitan transport networks, ensuring all perspectives are considered.</p> <p>This platform stands out due to its collaborative nature. Unlike traditional, top-down transport planning approaches, it encourages bottom-up involvement from local governments, businesses, and citizens, creating a more inclusive and transparent process. The platform promotes flexibility, allowing for scalable integration of various transport modes (buses, trains, trams) and adaptability to regional needs. It also emphasizes sustainability by supporting eco-friendly solutions aligned with Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans.</p> <p>The platform improves existing tools by offering enhanced coordination among different transport services, allowing for harmonized ticketing, optimized routes, and better data</p>
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management. It fosters stronger collaboration between local authorities, transport operators, and private entities, ensuring more efficient and equitable transport systems. Additionally, it provides greater flexibility for responding to changing transport conditions and expanding networks.

The platform strengthens governance by creating a dynamic environment where multiple stakeholders can co-create solutions, building trust and commitment among participants. This collaboration reduces fragmentation, improves decision-making, and leads to a more effective transport system that meets the needs of all users, including marginalized groups.

The new solution is designed to be replicable in other metropolitan regions due to its flexible structure. It can be adapted to different transport situations, legal frameworks, and governance models, making it suitable for metropolitan areas of varying sizes and levels of public transport development. Key elements such as collaborative decision-making, sustainable mobility, and a user-centric design ensure it can be easily implemented elsewhere.

The cooperation platform is already being put into action in the Warsaw Metropolitan Area, addressing critical transportation challenges identified in the pilot action and the "Analysis of the Possibilities of Integrating Bus Transport in the Warsaw Metropolis". These assessments highlighted the urgent need for a unified, accessible, and efficient metropolitan transportation system that meets the diverse needs of residents across the region. The platform will serve as a dynamic forum for dialogue among representatives from each of the 9 counties within the Warsaw Metropolis, the City of Warsaw, and key transportation organizers and authorities. This focus group, though small in size, includes a broad spectrum of stakeholders, ensuring that decisions are well-informed and reflect the region's diverse needs. By fostering collaboration among local governments, transport providers, and other key actors, the platform is designed to accelerate the creation of an integrated, user-friendly public transport system.

This approach to metropolitan transport planning can be a model for cities across Europe and beyond, enabling more efficient, inclusive and sustainable transport systems.