



4-7 JUNE

**BARCELONA 2023**

GLOBAL PUBLIC  
TRANSPORT SUMMIT

# UITP Global Public Transport Summit 2023

## Call for Abstracts for the Congress programme Guidelines

### 1. The programme of the UITP Global Public Transport Summit

The programme of the UITP Global Public Transport Summit is steered by a Programme Committee on behalf of the UITP Policy Board.

In addition to this call, UITP will release a Call for Posters at a later date for the UITP Global Public Transport Summit which is open to academics and researchers and also a Call for Abstracts for the expo sessions at the exhibition, dedicated to the Summit exhibitors.

#### Call for Abstracts for the Congress programme

The Programme Committee, together with the Secretariat of UITP, is identifying the focus of around 70% of the sessions of the Congress part of the event. The call for sessions restricted to UITP committees has been launched for this purpose. The Programme Committee is also identifying a number of high-level and headline speakers which will be featured in the programme.

Abstracts submitted for sessions for the Congress are expected to focus on the streams and topics, which are described and listed below. **It should be noted that the number of abstracts which will be accepted is limited. Traditionally, there are a very high number of submissions for this call while the number of slots available is relatively low.**

This is a call for individual proposals of speeches, open to individuals from any organisation, regardless of their membership in UITP. Selected papers will be assigned by the Summit Programme Committee to the relevant session.

## 2. Introduction to the theme 'Bright Light of the City'

**'Bright Light of the City'**, the theme of the Global Public Transport Summit 2023

The event programme will reflect the work programme and the theme **'Bright Light of the City'**.

*Barcelona is a city where light shines brightly through its rich Mediterranean culture, beautiful architecture, art, food and social activities.*

*One pivotal element which allows people to embrace the magic of this charming city is through its well-connected public transport system.*

**Public transport is the 'Bright light of the city'. It gives passengers the freedom to discover the city, to commute, meet friends & family, or navigate wherever you need to go. Public transport brings light to any city and energises the lives of all those who use it.**

*It provides more than a necessary service; it brightens the urban landscape. It is simply the brightest decision you can make to move around the city.*

### Topics for the Global Public Transport Summit 2023 programme

Building upon this, the programme of the Summit will show how public transport interacts with the life of the city and is **fully part of the urban experience**. It will also **put the customer and its impact on people lives at the heart of the discussions**.

Both the impact of public transport on the city and customers will be addressed through the lenses of the main challenges faced by the sector at the moment. Abstracts are expected to address these two dimensions while considering the **new normal, digital transformation, decarbonization and resilience**.

The programme of the Summit will revolve around these six main topics.

#### 1. Public transport and urban life

Public transport and urban mobility are critical components of the urban environment, local economies and city's life. **Public transport can transform urban life and steer the social and economic dynamic of cities** and territories. Transport investment has the ability to **unlock change in cities**.

To address future and ongoing challenges such as urbanisation and climate change, it is crucial for our sector to help optimise limited **urban space** with the goal of building **more liveable cities**. How do we do that? With **inclusive urban planning**, that **prioritises mass public transport** as the backbone of the city and complementing this with **active modes, on demand and shared services**.

Public and sustainable urban transport modes and planning can support and improve **social inclusion**.

- Transforming urban life with public transport, unlocking changes in cities with public transport, public transport projects and their urban environment
- Articulating urban transport policies to improve accessibility and equity for more inclusive, liveable & competitive cities
- Ensuring complementarity between public transport, walking and cycling, and shared and collective mobility in the urban fabric
- Automated mobility in the city
- Taxi and ride-hailing also keep cities moving
- Public transport lifestyle, active travel, and health
- Road safety
- Integrating the health benefits of public transport intervention
- Corporatisation of informal transport
- Stations and interchanges
- Suburban and regional mobility

## 2. Renewing the public transport experience with a greater customer focus

Public transport is **a service provided by people for people**: the happiness of both the **staff** and **customers** are essential to the success of our business in the long run. It is a priority for public transport to **accelerate its journey towards customer centricity** in all aspects of its business and to provide a **renewed public transport experience** which will support the recovery of the ridership following the pandemic

The way forward must systematically consider passengers both current and potential, at the center of initiatives. Delivering **people centred mobility** will highlight how public transport can **put people first** and impact their wellbeing positively in all respects.

- Inclusive mobility planning
- Prioritising health and safety
- Diversity in public transport, women in public transport
- Engaging with the connected customer
- (Restablishing trust)
- Creative mobility & art in transit
- The ongoing challenge of delivering excellent customer experience (from travel information, ticketing and payment to in trip services and experience, etc.)

## 3. Digital Transformation

**Hyperconnectivity, big data, artificial intelligence** and the **internet of things** are accelerating the transformation of society and public transportation in particular. The

digital transformation of the sector is ongoing and impacting all aspects of urban mobility and of the public transport business. It has an impact on **services** and the **redefinition of public transport, operations**, and the **workforce** for instance.

- Training the workforce of tomorrow
- Data and digital sovereignty
- Data collection and management
- Deploying connected and automated mobility, from urban and regional rail to road transport, and their related challenges
- Asset management and maintenance
- Intelligent energy management systems

#### 4. Decarbonisation and low emissions

The programme is expected to highlight our sector's commitment to deliver urban mobility transport systems which dramatically reduce local and global emissions.

This requires continued effort to **decrease the emissions of public transport** operations at **the local and global level**. Thus delivering on **climate and health objectives**.

- Deployment of fleets of electric buses
- Reduce local air and noise emissions
- Vehicle propulsion and technology
- Urban transport systems management
- Communication and advocacy concerning Public Transport and the climate benefits
- The evolution of energy production and markets and the impact on public transport
- Decarbonising cities and their transport system
- Energy for clean public transport
- Green financing

#### 5. Resilient urban and public transport

The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need to build a resilient transport system. This means building – by design whenever possible, the ability to react, manage and adapt to external events.

External events such as pandemics, extreme weather, and other behaviours and attacks can threaten the integrity of networks and services.

- Creating a safe and secure mobility ecosystem, ready to face threats to its integrity from behaviours and attacks, monitoring threats and building security by design.
- Cybersecurity
- Adjusting and strengthening our services, making them more resilient, by developing more flexibility in our operations, exploiting the opportunity of a redefined public transport sector by implementing various sustainable urban transport mode.
- Greater resiliency of shared and collective mobility avoiding a systematic fall back on the private car.
- Building a healthy public and urban transport system. By showing the resilience, of our sector which delivers on its objectives of supporting health and safe public transport
- Resilient governance models are required to enable the necessary agility of public transport
- Health and safety of workers and travelers
- How to manage future pandemics
- Building resilient cities

## 6. New normal

In a world where change and crisis must be continuously expected, mobility patterns are changing, and so is city life. Public transport has to adapt and create a framework for this so called New Normal situation.

How can we restructure **business models**, or improve **financial sustainability** to ensure the mobility services we offer are sustainable and for life? The sessions under this stream will explore how to tackle this challenge.

- Rebuilding transport finances after COVID-19: the evolution of funding and investment strategies, public private partnerships, managing risks
- Changing cost structures and their impact
- Complementary revenue sources for public transport
- The evolution of contracts and governance (role of authorities, risks, business models, tender processes, etc.)
- Fare policies
- Supporting the financial resiliency of the sector in a New Normal.
- Managing the demand for mobility, addressing the challenge of peak hours and planning for the changing pace of cities
- Restoring trust and getting back our customers.
- The management and legacy of the COVID-19 pandemics on our sector  
New challenges to secure skills and workforce for public transport

Through these topics, the programme of the event is expected to reflect activities which are developed by UITP and its members in the framework of the Integrated Global Work Programme *Mobility for Life*.

### 3. Rules for submissions

Applications for abstracts must comply with the following rules:

1. Applicants are requested to submit their applications online via the dedicated website ([www.uitpsummit.org](http://www.uitpsummit.org)). Applications made through other channels will not be evaluated.
2. If papers have more than one author, only one of them can benefit from the preferential conditions granted to speakers to attend the Summit.
3. Individuals are allowed to submit only one application to the call for abstracts.
4. A selected speaker is not allowed to designate a substitute in case he/she is not available. It is up to the Programme Committee or UITP Secretariat to make such a decision if relevant.
5. All documents are to be submitted in English only.
6. UITP does not cover travel and accommodation costs but speakers will enjoy a premium registration fee policy: free-of-charge registration for the speakers attending the UITP Global Public Transport Summit for the day of their presentation only; a reduced registration fee applies in other cases.
7. Selected speakers must commit to promoting the Summit using the communication tools provided by the UITP Secretariat.
8. UITP has the exclusive copyright of all selected applications (abstracts and full presentations).
9. Speakers must be aware that the Summit Programme Committee reserves the right to cancel their participation if they do not comply with the speakers' guidelines which they will receive once they are selected.

#### Consideration for the evaluation of applications

The programme to be defined by the Programme Committee will combine sessions and papers in a way to reach the expected quality and range to cover the priority topics of the call.

When evaluating applications, the Programme Committee will pay particular attention to the following aspects:

1. The Summit audience is made primarily up of transport professionals, policy officials and decision makers involved in urban and public transport. Preference

- will be given to applications focusing on systems, actions and policies of practical value with results and/or effects which can be measured.
2. Applications promoting specific commercial products will only be accepted for Expo Sessions.
  3. UITP is eager to promote a diversity of profiles. The SPC will give consideration to geographical balance in building the programme.

For many years UITP has been strongly committed to **promoting gender equality** in public and urban transport and we specifically encourage female professionals to respond to the call for abstracts. We aim to **increase the presence of women in the programme** compared to our last edition of the Summit, where women comprised 44% of the Congress speakers.

The public transport sector offers attractive career paths for the **youth**. The Summit programme aims at providing opportunities and visibility for a diverse range of professionals, in particular **young professionals**. Submission from professionals under 35 of age are therefore encouraged.

## 4. Congress programme framework

It is our aim to offer various types of sessions for participants to enjoy a lively and engaging event. All types of sessions can take several forms. They can be organised as lecture or theatre sessions with presentations, Q&As and discussions involving the audience, roundtable sessions with a discussion around a topic, Pecha Kucha sessions<sup>1</sup>, etc.

**For this reason, authors proposing abstracts may be selected to join roundtable sessions rather than lecture sessions with presentations, for instance.**

## 5. Milestones

- Call for abstracts for the Congress opens on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2022 and closes on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2022.
- Speakers will be notified whenever or not their abstracts are selected by end of 2022.

For any questions, please contact: [speakers.summit@uitp.org](mailto:speakers.summit@uitp.org)

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<sup>1</sup> Pecha Kucha is a presentation style in which 20 slides are shown for 20 seconds each (6 minutes and 40 seconds in total)