

Key Messages from the 2010 Forum

Transport and Innovation: Unleashing the Potential

Transport Ministers met in May at the 2010 International Transport Forum with leaders from industry, civil society and research, to discuss ways of strengthening innovation efforts to further improve the transport sector's performance. Innovation in policies, processes and technologies is key to accelerating recovery from the economic crisis and to putting transport on a path of greater productivity and sustainability.¹

A vision for transport

Transport is an essential facilitator of economic growth and social interaction. Bolstered by innovation across the sector, transport will remain fundamental to independent living, to trade and to social cohesion, as well as a positive force for integration and economic development. The vision for transport is that the sector will fully realise its potential to be safe, clean, interconnected, secure and accessible, and provide for the smooth flow of passengers and freight.

To realise this vision, transport must now embark on an ambitious and continuous process of transition. Several parallel and co-ordinated transition pathways must be established, encompassing policy action, research road maps, industry initiatives and business investments.

Getting to the transport system of the future

Meeting these ambitious goals requires bold, innovative action now. Priorities include:

- Improving logistics and intermodality within and across borders through new, integrated approaches, employing interoperable technologies that will enable increased electronic exchange of information.
- Better managing congestion, including new mechanisms that lead towards more efficient use of network capacity, ensuring strong linkages between land use and transport planning, and applying innovative traveller information and traffic management systems supported by mobile communications and other technologies. Air traffic management can be significantly improved, for example by introducing new systems to allow more aircraft to fly more closely together on more direct routes, reducing delays, with benefits for the environment through reductions in carbon emissions, fuel consumption, and noise.
- Preserving open markets and competition in the provision of services, including in the deployment of innovative technologies.

¹ These Key Messages are supported by a Secretariat Background Paper and by analytical work on transport and innovation carried out for the 2010 International Transport Forum, which are available at www.internationaltransportforum.org/2010.

- Reducing transport’s impact on the environment and climate change through the promotion and use of integrated policy approaches that include alternative fuels and energy sources, measures that encourage transport behaviour change, more intensive use of public transport for urban and inter-urban travel, and the promotion of fuel-efficient technologies and designs across modes. As a result, transport will emit significantly less greenhouse gas and be far less dependent on fossil fuels, with transport activity increasingly decoupled from the consumption of carbon-based fuels. As one example, in rail, energy recovery systems and advanced efficient drive systems based on hybrid technology show significant carbon mitigation potential.
- Enhancing passenger and freight transport, notably through use of advanced innovative technologies such as intelligent transportation systems (ITS), to increase the performance and service quality of the transport system.
- Improving the accessibility of transport services and networks for all users of the system – a growing priority given the unmet demand for transport in rapidly growing emerging economies, as well as the ageing population in more mature economies.
- Continuing to reduce deaths and injuries – especially on roads – through a systems approach to the development of safety policies, including improved enforcement of safety measures and increased use of advanced technologies, such as advanced driver assistance systems and co-operative vehicle highway systems, as well as collaboration on the adoption of technologies and practices to combat distracted driving.
- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of transport security systems through advanced scanning and screening techniques and procedures, and improved information exchange, while ensuring respect for individuals and their privacy.

Unleashing transport’s potential for innovation ...

Both public and private actors must stimulate and encourage innovation. Industry will innovate to compete in the market, meet regulatory requirements and generate profit. Governments should incentivise and promote innovation through outcome-based policy that drives industry innovation. Ways to improve outcomes include:

- Setting clear policy targets and ensuring strong commitment towards them.
- Improving co-ordination across modes, between countries and regions, and among different levels of government and international organisations.
- Ensuring a legal, regulatory and fiscal framework – harmonised across jurisdictions where needed – that incentivizes appropriate investment in innovation and encourages the application of new ideas. Harmonising performance standards will allow for more universal application of innovative technologies and systems (e.g. ITS).
- Integrating new ideas and technology into relevant public-sector processes, including procurement and investment plans.
- Providing for appropriate levels of basic education and research to ensure a workforce that is endowed with the necessary skills and knowledge in the transport sector to generate and adapt to new ideas.
- Investing strategically in research and development of global significance, including in pilot projects aimed at the deployment of innovation and sharing of best practices. Enhanced

collaboration within countries and regions, throughout industries and across borders will help to ensure that R&D resources are optimised.

- Building intellectual property regimes that provide incentives for investment in innovation and protect innovators while enabling new ideas to be disseminated. These should incorporate risk management and liability measures that adequately address the risks associated with new innovations.
- Ensuring strong political commitment to innovation in transport, and effective public communication to encourage and sustain public support for innovation.
- Fostering more open innovation systems that facilitate collaboration between public and private actors.
- Creating new partnerships, involving all actors in the transport sector – industry, consumers, stakeholders and researchers – to build support and impetus for innovation.
- Better connecting academic research and industry innovation, which can help accelerate the technological development, commercialisation, and market deployment of innovation in the transport sector.

... through partnerships to promote innovation

Enhanced international co-operation and partnerships involving Governments, regional bodies, industry, associations, companies and research institutions will help promote innovation in transport. International transport stakeholder organisations and intergovernmental bodies are invited to contribute to a new dynamic in the sector.

Transport Ministers can help to ensure the ability of the sector to serve the needs of society and the economy by setting a policy and institutional framework in which innovation can flourish, and by leading national, regional and international partners in the development, deployment and diffusion of new technologies, practices, policies and ideas in the sector.

The International Transport Forum should continue to act as a catalyst in this process, encouraging innovation in the sector, highlighting policy options, disseminating examples of good practice and facilitating dialogue with industry and other stakeholders.

The sector can and will improve its performance to better serve the needs of transport system users. Innovation is an essential tool in allowing the sector to meet the needs of society. Transport and Society will be the theme of the 2011 International Transport Forum.