Developing feasible action plans for urban transport and mobility

The old-fashioned “predict-and-provide” approach to transport planning leads to enormous investments in roads and highways worldwide – and to a growing number of cars using them. Today, quality of life, economic activity and the need to reduce local pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions play a stronger role in urban and mobility planning. Hence, in order to cater for the mobility needs of people and businesses, investments in sustainable transport projects and measures are prioritized by more and more cities. The concept of sustainable urban mobility considers all transport modes (i.e. including cycling, walking, public and individual transport) as well as urban functionalities and development objectives (i.e. quality of life, access for all societal groups, public space, urban logistics, air quality).

What prevents the development of sustainable mobility options?

Lack of budget for funding urban mobility; Limited skilled staff resources; No clear-cut responsibilities; Traditional ways of transport planning focusing solely on infrastructure or individual projects; Lack of stakeholder involvement; Hardships in resolving target conflicts between different road users and urban functions; Lack of vision and strategy for the future of mobility in your city etc.

Barriers (and possible solutions) are as diverse as cities and urban transport system themselves.

Imagine your city in 20 years: What would you want it to look like?

A place where:
- Public transport and cycling infrastructure provide reliable and comfortable access to work places, leisure and health services?
- Air is clean?
- Businesses can prosper?
- Children can safely cross roads and play outside?
- You can walk to do your shopping?

A Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan aims at targeting those barriers and shaping a practical and feasible way forward.

A Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan is a strategic plan designed to satisfy the mobility needs of people and businesses in cities and their surroundings for a better quality of life. It builds on existing planning practices and takes due consideration of integration, participation, and evaluation principles.

Source: Recommendations for Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (EU 2013)

Setting your city on sustainable course regarding land use and urban mobility requires a clear road map – a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) – that lays out a future mobility vision for your city, prioritizes sustainable transport projects and measures, clarifies responsibilities for implementation and sets a robust but flexible finance, funding and implementation plan.
How does MobiliseYourCity support local governments in developing SUMPs?

MobiliseYourCity provides technical assistance to beneficiary cities in order to enable them to develop powerful and feasible strategies to enhance urban mobility. MobiliseYourCity differentiates between two major modes of support:

1. Full-scale support:
   MobiliseYourCity provides tailor-cut technical assistance in order to support the city in organising and conducting the whole SUMP development. However, it is expected that the city maintains strong process ownership and commits the necessary political support and ensures the involvement of all necessary bodies and local expert staff.

2. Mentoring:
   A mentor accompanies the entire SUMP development or certain steps, depending on local needs. Mentors are either consultant advisors or experts from the MobiliseYourCity Community of Practice.

This form of support particularly targets cities with little or no previous SUMP experience. Parallel objective is to institutionalise a strategic approach to urban mobility planning and to build-up the necessary capacities.

SUMP development: Our 5-step approach

1. Inception Phase / Workshop (Kick Off)
   Establishment of a local level, inter-agency core team; agreement on operations plan.

2. Status Quo Analysis & Scenario building
   Assessment of mobility & data, build future development scenarios.

3. Goal Setting & Measure Planning
   Setting targets & indicators, develop integrated measure packages.

4. Plan Validation
   Prepare budgets, validate at technical and political level.

SUMP ready-to-implement

- Mentoring (light support for advanced cities)
- Full scale support (for starter cities)

5. Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation
   Optional, as per individually agreed scope of support.
What comprises the development of a MobiliseYourCity-SUMP?

The MobiliseYourCity-SUMP approach is based on the outcomes of a wide range of EU projects on Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning as well as on the practical experience of the MobiliseYourCity partners on urban mobility planning and cooperation with cities in emerging and developing countries.

**HORIZONTAL ACTIVITIES**

- **MobiliseYourCity** will assure appropriate **COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT** supporting the city in the overall process management and coordinate local and external contributions throughout the SUMP process.

- **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT** is integral part of every MobiliseYourCity-SUMP – this includes tailor-cut training workshops and the connection to an international Community of Practice. Further, the aim of the SUMP process is to strengthen the Capacity for strategic planning and project implementation of the city.

- **PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES** cover due involvement of institutional and other relevant stakeholders as well as civic participation to ensure a wide acceptance of the SUMP and compatibility with the city’s real needs.

- **LINKAGE OF PLANS WITH BUDGETING & FINANCE** to set the preconditions for a diligent implementation and required investments.

**Step 1**

During an **INCEPTION PHASE**, a review of the prevailing situation is undertaken and local key stakeholders will develop a joint understanding of the SUMP development process including specification of activities, responsibilities and milestones.

**Step 2**

An in-depth **STATUS QUO ANALYSIS** will bring light into the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of urban mobility. Political and organisational backing of the SUMP process will be reassured. **FUTURE DEVELOPMENT SCENARIOS** will be built.

**Step 3**

In the **VISION & GOAL SETTING** phase, the city will develop a joint vision for urban mobility and set up targets & indicators to measure access during implementation.

Core part of the SUMP is setting up **INTEGRATED PACKAGES OF MEASURES** in line with the target framework. Positive and negative impacts will be discussed and measures adapted accordingly. There is also a need to address barriers for implementation (such as limited staff capacities or lack of finance) early on.

**Step 4**

The developed and assessed measures will feed into a **BUDGETING & FINANCE PLAN** which reflects different budget scenarios and identifies high priority as well as quick-win measures.

**Step 5**

In order to assure a clear control over SUMP implementation, a **MONITORING & EVALUATION** mechanism will be set-up in order to inform local officials about the current status as well as ensures a due evaluation in order to adapt the implementation process if needed and take-up learning experiences for future SUMPs.
What other benefits you will have with MobiliseYourCity?

- Benefit from tailor-cut support based on the state of the art of urban mobility planning.
- Become part of a vivid Community of Practice and exchange first-hand experience with like-minded cities (find out more on our fact sheet “MobiliseYourCity Capacity Development”).
- Increase the visibility and recognition of your efforts in enhancing sustainable urban mobility by joining a renowned international initiative.
- Benefit from high quality standards and a wide range of activities (events, trainings, access to knowledge material).

How does MobiliseYourCity ensure excellent support quality?

MobiliseYourCity creates high impact by providing standardised (coherence, efficiency) but locally adapted (sustainability and effectiveness) assistance and tools, a broad network of local offices and established partner networks and by creating an enabling environment for investments in urban mobility projects.

MobiliseYourCity draws on long-term experience in working with different government levels by its implementing agencies AFD and GIZ, its technical expert and founding partners ADEME, CEREMA and CODATU as well as a broad network of Knowledge and Network partners.

MobiliseYourCity ensures learning and innovation by regular evaluation & monitoring as well as by maintaining a vivid Community of Practice.

Who and how can one become MobiliseYourCity Partner?

Cities seeking technical assistance, cities that wish to share their knowledge and benefit from the Community of Practice and MobiliseYourCity tools as well as other knowledge and network partners can apply for partnership. Beneficiary partners and knowledge and network partners need to sign the MobiliseYourCity Declaration, in order to state their political ambition in sustainable urban mobility and provide detailed information on their status quo by filling out a questionnaire. Local authorities seeking technical assistance will be obliged to establish an inter-ministerial working group (core team) and allocate staff to the SUMP process. It is further expected that cities contribute own resources for the preparation of supporting studies. The level of commitment will be individually agreed in a partnership agreement.

Find more information on partnership and application modalities at www.MobiliseYourCity.net