



# The Urban Transport Benchmarking Initiative

## BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

The Urban Transport Benchmarking Initiative was launched in November 2003 and aims to promote best practice in urban transport mobility policy in cities across Europe and the Accession countries. The initiative is funded by the European Commission DG TREN and has attracted representatives from more than 30 cities. These representatives are seeking to compare the strengths and weaknesses of their city's transport system with those of the other cities taking part in the initiative in order to learn together and take away practical beneficial knowledge from the exercise. The Urban Transport Benchmarking Initiative is made up of 3 key aspects:

- Common Data Collection and Analysis
- Themed Data Collection and Analysis
- Site Visits to view best practice examples first hand



## PROGRESS UPDATE *Spring 2004*

Since November 2003 the 5 themed working groups have been established and all of them have attended at least one site visit. A set of 25 common indicators have been defined by the project team with input from the participants and data has been collected and submitted by each of the participating cities. The common indicators cover issues such as; population of city, length of public transport network, car ownership and investment in public transport. In addition each working group has defined its own research question and indicators for which the participating cities have collected data. The participants began collecting data in February 2004 and the majority of data has been collected successfully.

The Urban Transport Benchmarking Initiative website can be found at:

[www.transportbenchmarks.org](http://www.transportbenchmarks.org)

For further information about the project or to request further information please e-mail **Sarah Clifford** or **Neil Taylor** at:

[benchmarking@ttr-ltd.com](mailto:benchmarking@ttr-ltd.com)



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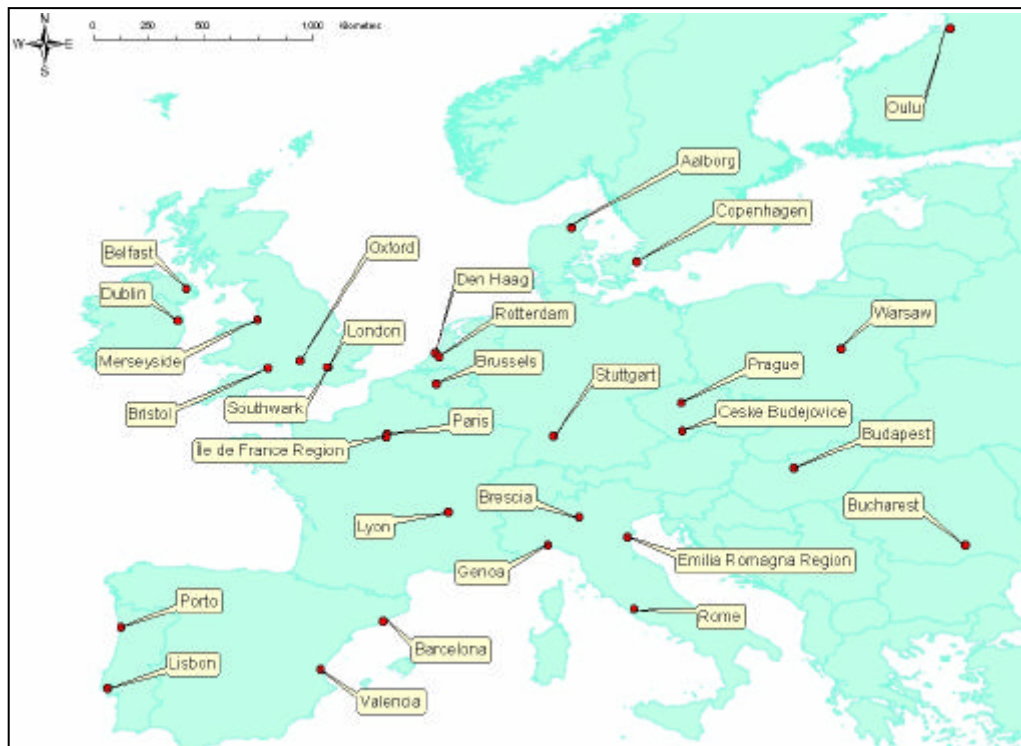
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## THE SITE VISITS

So far a range of cities have hosted site visits in order to enable the participants of each working group to get practical experience of seeing policy measures in practice. The following cities are participating in the benchmarking initiative:



The site visits give the participants the chance to meet their fellow group members and informally discuss any issues that are relevant to the benchmarking project, as well as looking at numerous examples of good practice. This aspect of the project has proved to be an invaluable source for the exchange of ideas, as well as an opportunity for the city representatives to meet people involved in transport outside of their own city.

By the end of May 2004 the following cities will have been visited by groups from the benchmarking project:

- Aalborg
- Barcelona
- Bristol
- Copenhagen
- Dublin
- Helsinki
- Liverpool
- London
- Lyon
- Oulu
- Rome
- Rotterdam
- Valencia



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## THE WORKING GROUPS

The Urban Transport Benchmarking Initiative has a total of 5 working groups and each of them concentrates upon a narrowly defined theme relevant to urban transport:



### Behavioural and Social Issues in Public Transport

**The Cities:** Athens, Bucharest, Emilia Romagna Region, Île de France Region, Lisbon, Paris.

**Key Question:** "What can be done to increase the market share of public transport and retain existing customers?"

**Key themes:** Knowing the market, products and services and communication.



### City Logistics

**The Cities:** Aalborg, Bristol, Genoa, Rome.

**Key Question:** "What are the relationships between cities and freight operators and the ways cities can balance the often conflicting demands of passenger and freight services?"

**Key Themes:** Supply and demand of freight services in the city, the number of freight trips made in the city and the average loading/unloading times.



### Cycling

**The Cities:** Brescia, Copenhagen, Lyon, Oxfordshire.

**Key Question:** Promoting cycling and creating a cycling culture in cities.

**Key Themes:** Culture, marketing of cycling, barriers to cycling, cycling policy and infrastructure.



### Demand Management

**The Cities:** Barcelona, Den Haag, Dublin, Île de France Region, London, Oulu, Southwark, Warsaw.

**Key Question:** "How can cities enforce demand management measures and make these measures acceptable?"

**Key Themes:** Integration of transport and urban planning, parking location and regulation, parking and congestion charging and space restriction & reallocation.



### Public Transport Organisation and Policy

**The Cities:** Belfast, Brussels, Budapest, Dublin, Merseyside, Prague, Rotterdam, Stuttgart, Valencia.

**Key Questions:** Identification of organisational models and financing schemes that account for better performance of public transport.

**Key Themes:** Cost reduction, revenue maximisation, service quality and patronage levels.



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## CONTACT DETAILS

*Transport & Travel  
Research Ltd*

Minster House  
Minster Pool Walk  
Lichfield  
Staffordshire  
WS13 6QT  
UNITED KINGDOM

Tel: +44 (0) 1543 416416  
[www.ttr-ltd.com](http://www.ttr-ltd.com)

*International Association of  
Public Transport (UITP)*

Rue 6 St Marie,  
B-1080 Brussels  
BELIGUM

Tel: +32 26736100  
[www.utip.com](http://www.utip.com)

*The Regional  
Environmental Center for  
Central and Eastern  
Europe (REC)*

Ady Endre út 9-11  
2000 Szentendre,  
HUNGARY

Tel: (36-26) 504-000  
[www.rec.org](http://www.rec.org)

## THE BENCHMARKING PROCESS

### *The Next Steps*

Once all of the data has been collected, it will be sorted, analysed and the results will be presented. The data will be compared using statistical analysis in order to outline differences between the participating cities' urban transport systems and suggest reasons for the variations in performance. The data analysis will be discussed and agreed at the final working group meetings.

The final reports for the project's common indicators and each of the working groups will be made freely available on the project website [www.transportbenchmarks.org](http://www.transportbenchmarks.org) prior to the End of Year Conference that is taking place on June 15th 2004.



## END OF YEAR CONFERENCE

*June 15<sup>th</sup> 2004 in Brussels*

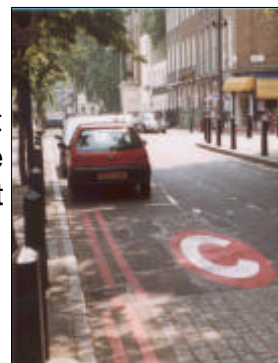
The Urban Transport Benchmarking End of Year Conference will be take place at the Maison des Associations Internationales in Brussels (Rue Washington 40) on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2004. If you are interested in attending then please e-mail the project team on [benchmarking@ttr-ltd.com](mailto:benchmarking@ttr-ltd.com) to book your place. This conference will be the main event for the dissemination of the results from the Urban Transport Benchmarking Initiative's first year and **attendance is free**.

## FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

There will be opportunities for new participants to join the Urban Transport Benchmarking Initiative for the next year of the project. If you are interested in getting involved in the next stage of the Urban Transport Benchmarking Initiative please contact the project team at:

[benchmarking@ttr-ltd.com](mailto:benchmarking@ttr-ltd.com)

or telephone +44 (0) 1543 416416  
and ask for Sarah Clifford or Neil Taylor.



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