

Investing in Connectivity: Where, Why, When, How?

Where should investment be made that links urban and inter-urban transport, such as railway stations, bus terminals and airports?

Thursday, 3 May, 11:45-13:15

SESSION OUTLINE

Seamless transport systems are highly interconnected. The degree of connectivity depends on physical, managerial and institutional characteristics of the system. At the modal level, efficient networks connect places and allocate transport flows with just enough capacity to ensure a balance between ensuring smooth flows and avoiding excessive outlays in infrastructure. Interconnections between modes require well-placed and well-designed switching points. Transport systems are also increasingly integrated with energy and communications systems, adding another layer of complexity to their design and management.

Smart investment in connectivity strikes a balance between providing high-quality service and keeping investment and operational costs under control. This is a common goal, but the path to more connectivity depends on local circumstances, including the current state of the transport system, its governance structure, and framework conditions such as the level of economic development and funding options.

In this session, the panel will provide their view on what investing in connectivity means, as well as debate strategic principles for investing in connectivity. Specific questions include:

- Thinking in terms of mobility systems rather than modes and modal networks, how does this affect views on governance? Coordination is key, but how is it ensured in the institutional setup?
- The mobility concept is evolving from connectivity as bricks, mortar and steel to include issues of information, communications and seamless management. How are decision-makers and stakeholders adapting to this concept?
- Integration of transport systems and communication systems helps provide smoother mobility for transport users with easier access to information before and during their journey. What can be expected in terms of impact on the quality of different transport modes and on users' transport choices?

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