

SESSION KEY POINTS AND QUOTES

Collaboration in Connectivity: Focus on Regions

Friday, 4 May, 10:15-11:45

The Panel

- Monika Jones - Moderator
- Sven Morlok, State Minister for Economic Affairs, Labour and Transport, Saxony, Germany
- Alain Flausch, Secretary-General, International Association of Public Transport (UITP)
- John Horsley, Executive Director, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, USA
- Manoj Singh, Transport Advisor, Planning Commission of the Government of India
- Catherine Ross, Director and Harry West Professor, Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA

Overview of Session

Providing seamless transport between cities in large metropolitan areas or across borders requires co-ordinated responses to technical, institutional and financial issues from a variety of stakeholders from both public administrations and the private sector.

Based on practical case studies, this session examined how these issues can be addressed across institutional boundaries.

Key Points:

- Large megaregions with fast-growing urban corridors offer opportunities for enhancing connectivity in the transport sector. Within megaregions, more seamless transport systems that link cities to regions, regions to megaregions and megaregions to countries can spur global economic growth.
- Regional identities often cross administrative borders. They can be a positive factor in fostering community support for institutions and projects that enhance regional mobility.
- Economic and social factors underpin regional mobility patterns and therefore should be determinant elements of regional transport policy. Cooperation among all levels of authority and integration of land use, social, environmental and fiscal policies are essential to a sustainable regional mobility policy. This requires strong institutions with long term vision and planning cycles as well as effective leadership.

- Ensuring adequate funding for seamless regional transport equally requires a robust governance framework and long-term planning. Improving connectivity between regions is dependent not only on national funding sources, but also on strong commitment from local institutions, backed up by sound appraisal of long-term impacts of funding.

Key Quotes:

"Seamless transport and megaregions allow smooth connections between towns, regions and countries" -Catherine Ross

"We need a transport system which makes it possible for those living in the most rural areas to commute to work." -Sven Morlok

"A smooth flow between Canada and Michigan will become reality because of collaboration." - John Horsley

"Customs facilitation in Europe is the *heaven* of integration." - Manoj Singh

"Customers of public transport do not care about administrative boundaries." - Alain Flausch

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