

SESSION KEY POINTS AND QUOTES

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

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

The Panel

- Conny Czymoch - Moderator
- Anthony Albanese, Minister, Infrastructure and Transport, Australia
- Michael Clausecker, Chairman, Management Board, Bombardier Transportation, Germany
- Peter Hendy, Commissioner, Transport for London, UK
- Koji Kuroda, President, Japan Expressway Company Limited, Japan
- Siebe Riedstra, Secretary-General, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, Netherlands
- Vladimir Yakunin, President, Russian Railways, Russia

Overview of Session

Seamless transport systems are highly interconnected at physically, managerially and institutionally. They are also increasingly integrated with energy and communications systems. Interconnections between modes require well-placed and well-designed switching points. The panel provided their view on what investing in connectivity means, and debated strategic principles for investing in connectivity.

Key Points:

- Increasing urbanisation and related mobility needs are a challenge. Already today, more than half of the world's population live in urban areas. By 2050 the share is expected to grow to more than 70%.
- Investment in transport, and the connectivity it creates, drives economic growth.
- The ongoing urbanisation and development of megacities reinforce the need for mass transit systems as the scope for car-reliant mobility is limited. Rail, one of the fastest growing markets in the world, has a potential to deliver that mobility but will need to provide the connectivity needed by users of the transport system.
- The public transport system needs to be connected not only within cities but also between cities and with cities' peripheries. Suburban lines connected directly to metro lines, as done in Japan, provides users with seamless services.
- Many countries face the challenge of ageing infrastructure and maintaining the service level of existing infrastructure is important.

- Integration of transport systems and communication systems helps provide smoother mobility for transport users with easier access to information before and during their journey. Indeed, investments should not only be directed at traditional infrastructure but at communications (ICT) at the same time. This will also help manage and improve the efficiency of the existing infrastructure.
- There is a need to think in terms of mobility systems rather than modes and modal networks. For that, integrated governance is critical and this can be established by a political champion (such as in London), an integrated authority (such as the new ministry in the Netherlands) or stronger national government involvement.
- As investments have a life-time of more than 30 years, long-term planning is important. The challenge then is to break the nexus between political cycle and investment cycle. Long-term planning enables the coordination and development of infrastructure.
- The challenge is to maintain the support from government, the business community, wider stakeholders and the public for continued investment. Mobilising support from the business community can help.

Key Quotes:

"Mayors have to have a long-term vision of growth." - Peter Hendy

"Communication technology is a form of transport." - Minister Albanese

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