

CIVITAS

Sustainable and smart mobility for all

2030



CALL FOR SPEAKERS

CIVITAS Forum Conference

15 – 17 September 2026

Thessaloniki, Greece



**CIVITAS
MUSE**

Sustainable and smart mobility for all



THE CIVITAS INITIATIVE
IS CO-FUNDED BY
THE EUROPEAN UNION

About the CIVITAS Forum Conference

The **CIVITAS Forum 2026** returns as a vibrant three-day conference and the flagship event of the **CIVITAS Initiative**. From **15 to 17 September 2026**, the CIVITAS community will gather in the coastal city of **Thessaloniki, Greece**, to exchange practical solutions and build partnerships that accelerate the transition to sustainable, smart and inclusive urban mobility across Europe.

Since its creation in 2003, the **CIVITAS Forum** has established itself as a leading platform where participants learn from mobility leaders and experts, share ideas grounded in real-world experience, and connect with the key actors shaping the future of urban mobility. The Forum brings together city authorities, policymakers, practitioners, planners, researchers, civil society and industry – all working to make urban mobility cleaner, safer and more resilient.

Forum theme

Roots & Routes: Moving Forward to a Competitive, Connected and Resilient Urban Mobility

Call for speaker contributions

We invite proposals for speaker contributions that showcase implementation experience, evidence and transferable lessons and solutions. In line with the **EU Urban Mobility Framework**, priority will be given to contributions that support mobility that is **safe, accessible, inclusive, affordable, smart, resilient** and **zero-emission** – with a clear focus on hands-on takeaways that cities can apply.

Why Thessaloniki?

Home to around one million people, Thessaloniki is Greece's second-largest city and a strategic economic, innovation and transport hub for Southeast Europe. As the capital of the Region of Central Macedonia, it combines a rich cultural identity with an increasingly ambitious, forward-looking urban mobility agenda.

In 2021, Thessaloniki adopted an ambitious Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) with a clear vision: a vibrant, resilient and functional urban environment where residents and visitors can move easily through combined alternative transport modes, while enjoying open seafronts and greener public spaces.

Key highlights of Thessaloniki's mobility transformation include:

- Prioritising walking and reallocating public space, including low-traffic areas and pedestrian routes
- Advancing multimodality, including electric car- and bike-sharing and mobility hubs
- Serving as a large-scale ITS testbed for cooperative mobility services

- Rolling out a city-wide Mobility as a Service (MaaS) approach integrating public transport and shared mobility

More details on the programme, registration and practical information will follow in due course. In the meantime, keep an eye on the [CIVITAS Forum 2026](#) page on our website – updates on speakers and additional information will be posted in the coming months.

How the programme is structured

The programme includes plenaries and parallel sessions aligned to the three programme focus areas:

- **Programme focus 1 – Planning & Strategic Pathways:** policy, planning, governance, long-term design.
- **Programme focus 2 – Services, Operations & Technology:** operational solutions, deployment, technology in practice.
- **Programme focus 3 – Enablers:** people, governance, finance, skills, and capacity to deliver.

Parallel sessions will be curated with a **mix of invited speakers** and **speakers selected through this call**.

If you are interested in presenting at the **CIVITAS Forum 2026**, please ensure your proposal fits within one of the programme focus areas outlined above and aligns with one of the session topics listed below. Contributions must also support the Forum’s umbrella theme – **competitive, connected and resilient** urban mobility – and be clearly consistent with the relevant session description. Further details are provided in the annex. Each session is mapped to its corresponding programme focus area and the relevant umbrella theme topic(s).

Please note that speakers must be able to attend the Forum in person in Thessaloniki.

Sessions open to abstract submissions

Umbrella topic	Main Session topics
Competitive	S1. Transforming Public Transport Systems: Innovation, Markets & Partnerships
	S2. Financing the Future of Urban Mobility: Funding, Procurement & EU Support
	S3. Mobility Skills & Workforce for the Transition
	S4. Fostering Urban Mobility Innovation: Start-ups and SMEs
	S5. Sustainable Tourism Mobility
Connected	S6. Shared & Micro-Mobility Shift: New Mobility Services in Cities

	S7. CCAM for Cities: From Testbeds to Procured Services
	S8. Data-Driven Mobility: AI, Digital Twins and Urban Transport
	S9. City-Region Connectivity and TEN-T Urban Nodes: Integrated Planning and Cross-Border Coordination
	S10. Urban Freight Data Connectivity and System Operations: From Data Sharing to Measurable Outcomes
	S11. Future EU Member States: Innovation in Urban Mobility
Resilient	S12. Inclusive & Accessible Public Transport for All
	S13. Active Mobility for Liveable, Healthy Cities
	S14. Future-Ready Last-Mile Logistics: Cycling, Micromobility and Urban Air Mobility
	S15. The Energy-Mobility Nexus: Powering Urban Transport Transitions
	S16. Safe Streets for All: Vision Zero in Urban Areas

**Details of the sessions are presented in the annex.*

Types of sessions (to be confirmed during session development)

CIVITAS Forum sessions are developed and coordinated by **session leaders**, who will define the final session format once speakers are selected and the session preparation phase begins. Applicants submitting individual presentations or joint proposals are **welcome to suggest a preferred format**, but please note that the final decision will be made during the session-building phase to ensure coherence, feasibility, and alignment with the conference programme.

Applicants may indicate one of the following session formats:

- **Panel session:** A structured discussion moderated by a chair and featuring multiple speakers. Speakers are invited to contribute complementary perspectives on the session topic. Short, focused inputs supported by clear, professional visuals are encouraged to stimulate discussion and maximise value for participants.
- **Interactive session:** Designed to actively engage with participants, suitable for workshops, roundtables, co-creation activities, or other participatory formats. Applicants are encouraged to propose interactive approaches that foster dialogue, exchange and hands-on learning. The final interactive format will be agreed with the session leader and organisers during the preparation phase.

Please note that support for session design and technical requirements will be provided by the conference organisers. Practical guidance and any necessary adjustments to the proposal will be communicated to confirmed speakers ahead of the event.

Submission Guidelines and Process

Please review the following guidelines carefully to ensure your proposal aligns with the expectations and standards of the **CIVITAS Forum 2026**:

- **Joint submissions:** If you collaborate with others on a joint presentation / session, please coordinate with your fellow contributors and submit one consolidated proposal. Clearly describe each contributor's role and expected input.
- **Limit duplicate speaker appearances:** To ensure a diverse programme, we will aim to limit repeated appearances of the same speaker across sessions. Where possible, please avoid submitting the same speaker in multiple proposals.
- **Highlight implementers and diverse voices:** We strongly encourage contributions from cities, public authorities, technology providers and other practitioners directly involved in implementation, showcasing real-world application and results.

Organisers' note: The organising committee reserves the right to request adjustments to proposed session formats and/or content. This may include suggesting format changes or combining proposals to improve coherence and thematic coverage.

Tip: *Keep your proposal clear, focused and evidence-based, highlighting practical lessons and transferable results.*

Timeline

Deadline	Description
26 February 2026	Call opens
7 April 2026 (17:00 CET/CEST)	Submission deadline
15 May 2026	Notification of results
Late May-June 2026	Session curation meetings
15 July 2026	Final speaker confirmation + bios
1 September 2026	Slides submission deadline
15-17 September 2026	CIVITAS Forum 2026

(If organisers adopt a different schedule, these dates can be adjusted without changing the evaluation logic.)

Criteria

The following **criteria** will be considered:

- Alignment between the session description and your proposed contribution.
- Innovation embedded in the proposed presentation, including solutions, methodologies, and strategies presented.

- Relevance to the goals and activities of the CIVITAS Initiative and the CIVITAS Community, as a whole.
- Proficiency in communication and/or demonstrated speaking skills and experience.
- While participation from individuals involved in sustainable urban mobility initiatives beyond the CIVITAS network is encouraged, priority will be given to presenters associated to the CIVITAS Community (CIVITAS projects, CIVINETs, members of the CIVITAS Network of cities, etc.).

Evaluators

All submitted applications will be evaluated by the **CIVITAS Programme Committee** (formed by the main organisers, in cooperation with the European Commission).

Should you have any questions, please contact the CIVITAS Forum Conference organising team at forum@civitas.eu.

Proposal Form

Mandatory questions are marked with *

PART I – YOUR CONTACT DETAILS ¹	
Name *	
Organisation *	
Email *	
Telephone *	
CIVITAS Affiliation *	<input type="checkbox"/> Member of the CIVITAS Network of Cities <input type="checkbox"/> CIVINET: if you checked this box, indicate here the name of the CIVINET you are representing <input type="checkbox"/> CIVITAS Project: if you checked this box, indicate here the name of the CIVITAS Project you are representing <input type="checkbox"/> Official Partnership/Collaboration with the CIVITAS Community: if you checked this box, indicate here the name of the partnership you are representing <input type="checkbox"/> Other (no CIVITAS affiliation)

PART II – YOUR CONTRIBUTION	
Presentation title *	
Session you want to submit your abstract for * (<u>Select only one.</u>)	<p>Umbrella Topic: Competitive</p> <input type="checkbox"/> S1. Transforming Public Transport Systems: Innovation, Markets & Partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> S2. Financing the Future of Urban Mobility: Funding, Procurement & EU Support <input type="checkbox"/> S3. Mobility Skills & Workforce for the Transition <input type="checkbox"/> S4. Fostering Urban Mobility Innovation: Start-ups and SMEs <input type="checkbox"/> S5. Sustainable Tourism Mobility

¹ Here you should indicate the contact information of the main contact person to approach regarding the application (please only indicate one, even if you are proposing more than one speaker in your contribution).

	<p>Umbrella Topic: Connected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> S6. Shared & Micro-Mobility Shift: New Mobility Services in Cities <input type="checkbox"/> S7. CCAM for Cities: From Testbeds to Procured Services <input type="checkbox"/> S8. Data-Driven Mobility: AI, Digital Twins and Urban Transport <input type="checkbox"/> S9. City-Region Connectivity and TEN-T Urban Nodes: Integrated Planning and Cross-Border Coordination <input type="checkbox"/> S10. Urban Freight Data Connectivity and System Operations: From Data Sharing to Measurable Outcomes <input type="checkbox"/> S11. Future EU Member States: Innovation in Urban Mobility <p>Umbrella Topic: Resilient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> S12. Inclusive & Accessible Public Transport for All <input type="checkbox"/> S13. Active Mobility for Liveable, Healthy Cities <input type="checkbox"/> S14. Future-Ready Last-Mile Logistics: Cycling, Micromobility and Urban Air Mobility <input type="checkbox"/> S15. The Energy-Mobility Nexus: Powering Urban Transport Transitions <input type="checkbox"/> S16. Safe Streets for All: Vision Zero in Urban Areas
<p>Type of presentation² *</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Panel Session <input type="checkbox"/> Interactive Session
<p>Abstract *</p> <p>[max. 500 words]</p>	

² Please note that the programme may change and therefore session types will be decided at a later stage. You can indicate the types of presentation you think best suited to your content, but please note that the final decision will be made by the CIVITAS Programme committee in order to ensure the best fit into the final programme.

<p>In case of joint application, please indicate the type of collaboration.</p> <p>[list all collaborators' names, roles/projects, and contributions]</p>	
<p>Speaker information*</p> <p>[for each speaker, provide a short biography focusing on their relevant experience and expertise. Max 200 words per speaker]</p>	<p>Speaker 1: (name, title, organisation, project) Short Bio:</p>
	<p>Speaker 2 (if applicable): Short Bio:</p>
	<p>Speaker 3 (if applicable): Short Bio:</p>
<p>Three learning outcomes (bullet points): “Participants will be able to...”.</p>	

Completed forms should be sent to forum@civitas.eu no later than 31 March 2026, 17:00 Brussels time (CET/CEST).

ANNEX**S1. Transforming Public Transport Systems: Innovation, Markets & Partnerships**

- **Umbrella topic: Competitive**

*This session will mainly focus on **services, operations and technology**, and on the **enablers for delivery** (people, governance, finance and skills).*

Brief description:

This session seeks practical insights into modern public transport systems, understood as a blend of service design, operational excellence, digital tools and fit for purpose governance. Contributions may cover real time information, ticketing and account-based systems, operations control upgrades, occupational and maintenance transitions linked to fleet modernisation, and the integration of on-demand and sharing services as feeders where they demonstrably strengthen, rather than weaken, collective mobility.

Applicants are encouraged to address market design and practical governance, including contracting approaches that reward performance and ridership outcomes, partnership frameworks with mobility providers, data sharing agreements, and institutional models that enable integration, including through mobility hubs. The session also welcomes examples where public transport innovation improves equity outcomes, such as better coverage and safer access, and climate outcomes, such as mode shift and reduced car dependence.

Submissions should be explicit about implementation barriers, including procurement complexity, legacy systems, labour constraints and funding, and explain how these were mitigated. The aim is to generate a realistic playbook for cities that want to move from pilot projects to durable service transformation consistent with EU policy direction towards cleaner, smarter and more resilient mobility systems.

S2. Financing the Future of Urban Mobility: Funding, Procurement & EU Support

- **Umbrella topic: Competitive**

*This session will mainly focus on the **enablers for delivery** (people, governance, finance and skills).*

Brief description:

This session is designed as a “how cities did it” exchange, focusing on delivery mechanisms rather than overviews of funding opportunities. Contributions should present concrete financing or procurement pathways used to implement mobility measures, including public transport modernisation, fleet transition, active mobility infrastructure, mobility hubs, urban logistics interventions and digital platforms. Proposals could address blended finance approaches, such as public budgets, user revenues, green bonds, public private partnerships and EU grants, and explain how cities build credible, phased investment pipelines.

A specific focus is on innovation procurement. This includes pre-commercial procurement and public procurement of innovative solutions as tools to develop and buy solutions that are not yet fully market ready, while sharing risks and supporting SMEs and start-ups. Applicants should, where possible, provide the procurement storyline, including problem definition, tender design, evaluation approach, contract structure and what changed after implementation. The session also welcomes contributions from EU programme

implementers to clarify how cities can navigate complementarities between funding programmes and meet their requirements.

The intended outcome is a set of actionable procurement and finance patterns that other cities can reapply, aligned with EU objectives for faster deployment of clean, smart and resilient urban mobility.

S3. Mobility Skills & Workforce for the Transition

- **Umbrella topic: Competitive**

*This session will mainly focus on the **enablers for delivery** (people, governance, finance and skills).*

Brief description:

The urban mobility transition is constrained not only by technology and finance, but also by people, including recruitment, retention and the ability to reskill. This session invites contributions on workforce strategies that make the transition deliverable and fair. Proposals should cover reskilling and upskilling for electrified fleets, digital operations and data enabled planning, organisational change in operators and city administrations, and new roles emerging from mobility hubs, multimodal systems and integrated planning.

Proposals could address two specific areas. The first is women's participation and equal opportunities in transport employment, with practical actions that increase recruitment and retention. The second is the workforce implications of automation and digitalisation, including role redesign, safety oversight and social dialogue. Contributions are encouraged to make links to labour and skills shortages in the EU and to present measurable outcomes such as training completion, retention rates, safety performance, job satisfaction or diversity metrics.

The session aims to produce a replication-oriented set of practices, including partnerships with vocational schools and universities, operator led academies, regional skills alliances and management approaches that improve job quality and diversity while enabling system modernisation.

S4. Fostering Urban Mobility Innovation: Start-ups and SMEs

- **Umbrella topic: Competitive**

*This session will mainly focus on **services, operations and technology**, and on the **enablers for delivery** (people, governance, finance and skills).*

Brief description:

This session spotlights start-ups and SMEs as practical engines of urban mobility innovation and focuses on the hard part, which is scaling up from pilots to replicable deployment that delivers public value. Contributions should explore what it takes to become deployment ready, looking across multiple cities. This includes integration of public transport and public space management, interoperability and standards constraints, and credible evidence of impact on safety, accessibility, emissions and system efficiency. Proposals are encouraged to show how cities can be effective partners through living labs and sandboxes designed for learning, with clear requirements, data sharing agreements and realistic pathways to mainstreaming.

A dedicated angle is the scale up and finance bridge, focusing on how innovators balance investor expectations, such as unit economics, regulatory risk and scalability, with public sector realities, such as tender rules, risk allocation and service continuity. Relevant EU scale up-support, for example through the European Innovation Council, may be addressed where it tangibly supports deployment and SME growth. The session prioritises narratives explaining why scaling up succeeded or failed and aims to explore replicable partnership and procurement patterns that strengthen Europe's competitiveness while addressing city objectives.

S5. Sustainable Tourism Mobility

- **Umbrella topic: Competitive**

*This session will mainly focus on **planning and strategic pathways**, and on the **enablers for delivery** (people, governance, finance and skills).*

Brief description:

Tourism can overwhelm city mobility systems through peaks, clustering and competing access needs, for example from coaches, cruise flows and event surges. This session places demand and capacity management at its core. Contributions should show how cities anticipate and manage visitor travel patterns, including access strategies for historic centres, coach management through routing, parking and timed access windows, multimodal capacity planning during peak periods, and information and ticketing design that encourages tourists to use public transport, walking and cycling.

Submissions should highlight cross-sector governance across domains such as transport, tourism, heritage and traffic control/management, and explain how cities balance visitor experience with residents' quality of life. The session also welcomes relevant examples linked to the EU tourism transition agenda priorities, including the green transition, digital transition, resilience and inclusion, and skills, and how mobility supports these aims.

Applicants should explain the metrics used, such as congestion reduction, emissions, resident satisfaction, visitor mode share and safety outcomes. The objective is to identify transferable practices that help cities keep tourism economically beneficial while aligning with sustainable urban mobility principles, particularly where tourism pressure affects public space, safety and climate targets.

S6. Shared & Micro-Mobility Shift: New Mobility Services in Cities

- **Umbrella topic: Connected**

*This session will mainly focus on **services, operations and technology**, and on the **enablers for delivery** (people, governance, finance and skills).*

Brief description:

Shared micromobility and new mobility services can support mode shift when they are managed as part of a coherent system, rather than treated as an unmanaged add-on. This session seeks contributions that show how cities put integration into practice, including mobility hubs and station-area design, first and last-mile service planning, fleet deployment rules that support system goals such as coverage, equity and reliability, and data-sharing models that help cities manage safety and public space.

Proposals should discuss the regulatory building blocks, including licensing models, parking and geofencing approaches, enforcement and user education, and alignment with wider

Urban Vehicle Access Regulations and demand management measures. Digital integration is relevant where it improves user outcomes, for example journey planning, payment and real-time availability, and where it aligns with broader data-sharing directions, including the European Mobility Data Space.

Applicants could also address aspects related to inclusion, including accessibility for people with disabilities, pricing approaches and neighbourhood coverage beyond high-demand corridors. The session will prioritise contributions with evidence from cities, including approaches that reduce nuisance, improved multimodal connectivity, institutional lessons and financial sustainability. The aim is not to promote a specific operator model, but to present transferable solutions on, for example, governance and integration.

S7. CCAM for Cities: From Testbeds to Procured Services

- **Umbrella topic: Connected**

*This session will mainly focus on **services, operations and technology**, and on the **enablers for delivery** (people, governance, finance and skills).*

Brief description:

This session focuses on connected, cooperative and automated mobility, known as CCAM, from a city-perspective, in particular cases where it demonstrably improves public outcomes such as safety, accessibility, efficiency and reliable collective mobility. The core question is how to move from pilots to services that cities can confidently put in place, regulate and integrate into the wider network. Contributions are invited from European city-testbeds and deployments that can translate experience into a practical city checklist. This should cover how to select the right use case and operating area, define service requirements and responsibilities, establish a credible safety and incident management approach, and ensure interoperability and data governance that prevent lock-in.

Proposals should focus on lessons that are useful for public authorities, including procurement and contracting models for autonomous shuttle and feeder services, performance expectations, operational supervision concepts, interfaces with “standard” public transport operations and street management, and user acceptance approaches that address inclusion and trust. Submissions are also encouraged that identify regulatory and permitting barriers and explain how they were addressed in practice, including Living Lab updates where these generate transferable lessons. The aim is a grounded discussion of deployment that connects policy context, testbed evidence and procurement reality, and clarifies what solutions are feasible for cities in the 2026 to 2030 timeframe.

S8. Data-Driven Mobility: AI, Digital Twins and Urban Transport

- **Umbrella topic: Connected**

*This session will mainly focus on **planning and strategic pathways, services, operations and technology**, and the **enablers for delivery** (people, governance, finance and skills).*

Brief description:

This session starts from planning and policy outcomes and then connects to the tools. The core question is how cities can use data to plan, monitor and manage mobility more effectively. Contributions are invited in three areas. The first is data to support SUMP design and monitoring, including how cities define indicators, baselines, targets and evaluation. The second is cross-actor data sharing and governance, including agreements, privacy and trust

models, interoperability, and practical pathways that align with the European Mobility Data Space. The third is applied digital tools, including analytics, AI-assisted demand forecasting and digital twins used to test interventions and improve operational decisions such as traffic management, public transport performance and logistics optimisation.

Applicants should demonstrate how data approaches drive decisions, rather than focussing on data for their own sake. The session welcomes both city-led implementations and project-driven methods, but proposals should specify the data sources used, the governance model explaining who shares what and why, how bias and accessibility are addressed, and what changed in policy or operations as a result. The intended output is a pragmatic set of approaches for moving from fragmented datasets to decision-grade intelligence in a way that cities can replicate, supporting EU objectives for smart, connected and accountable urban mobility delivery.

S9. City-Region Connectivity and TEN-T Urban Nodes: Integrated Planning and Cross-Border Coordination

- **Umbrella topic: Connected**

*This session will mainly focus on **planning and strategic pathways, services, operations and technology**, and the **enablers for delivery** (people, governance, finance and skills).*

Brief description:

This session focuses on how cities and regions translate mobility strategies into delivery across wider city regions, where commuting patterns, services and investment needs extend beyond administrative boundaries. Contributions should show how integrated planning connects land use, network design, service planning and investment sequencing to make sustainable mobility the easiest choice in daily life. A key framing is the TEN-T urban node logic. This considers how urban nodes function as interfaces between long distance networks and local and regional mobility, and how cities can use their planning and monitoring processes, including mobility indicators and implementation governance, to remove bottlenecks and improve multimodality, particularly at major hubs and interchange points.

A specific focus is on cross-border coordination, where fragmentation directly affects people's everyday mobility. Proposals are invited to demonstrate practical approaches to continuity of mobility across borders, including integrated or linked passenger information with disruption management and alternative connections, ticketing and fare integration, or interoperable arrangements that still allow a single and coherent customer journey, aligned timetables and connection policies, and day to day operational coordination between responsible authorities and operators. Interventions should explicitly address governance, including who decides, who funds and who operates, data sharing and standards choices, including APIs and agreements that enable continuity, and how cross-border arrangements remain robust during disruptions.

Expected outputs for cities from this session should be clear and transferable. These could include a city region integration checklist covering governance, funding, contracts, operations and monitoring, a cross-border continuity blueprint setting out ticketing, information and operations roles and minimum data interfaces, a set of measurable KPIs covering reliability, accessibility, emissions and multimodal performance aligned with urban node monitoring logic, and a shortlist of replicable delivery patterns such as coordination

mechanisms and hub and service integration models suitable for peer learning and procurement-ready follow up.

S10. Urban Freight Data Connectivity and System Operations: From Data Sharing to Measurable Outcomes

- **Umbrella topic: Connected**

*This session will mainly focus on **planning and strategic pathways, and services, operations and technology.***

Brief description:

Submissions are encouraged that explore governance arrangements led or coordinated by public authorities that balance public objectives with market sensitivity. These could cover data minimisation, access rights, cybersecurity, privacy and accountability, while still enabling measurable improvements in freight performance. Proposals could address the public authority use case, explaining what decisions cities can make with the data, how it changes day to day operations, and how it supports longer term freight planning and regulation.

The session explicitly welcomes contributions that position local solutions within the European approach on data. This includes the European Mobility Data Space, with its federated sharing and interoperability building blocks, ITS requirements for making key road, travel and traffic data available digitally, and freight digitalisation, including regulatory information exchange under eFTI where relevant. Interventions could specify KPIs and report outcomes that can be compared across contexts, such as reduction in illegal or unsafe loading, reduced dwell time and double parking, improved delivery reliability and estimated times of arrival, reduced freight vehicle kilometres in dense areas, and increased share of zero emission last mile activity supported by better operations, planning and enforcement.

S11. Future EU Member States: Innovation in Urban Mobility

- **Umbrella topic: Connected**

*This session will mainly focus on the **enablers for delivery (people, governance, finance and skills).***

Brief description:

This session spotlights cities in EU candidate and partner countries and their work on innovative solutions and approaches on sustainable urban mobility. It invites proposals discussing how cities incorporate or are inspired by core European approaches, such as SUMP style integrated planning, road safety governance and clean fleet modernisation, while working within their distinct institutional, financial and infrastructure constraints. Contributions may include resilient mobility management in crisis contexts, redeveloping transport systems with low emission priorities, public transport reforms, and the role of EU supported knowledge exchange and research and innovation cooperation.

Applicants should focus on transferable lessons, including how to build institutional capacity, how to prioritise investments and how to engage communities while improving service reliability and safety. The session also encourages dialogue between EU cities and cities in EU candidate and partner countries on methods of monitoring and evaluation, including indicators and benchmarking, to support credible implementation and alignment.

The intended outcome is two directional learning. EU cities gain insight into resilient delivery under pressure, while partner country cities gain practical approaches for aligning local

action with European frameworks and improving access to collaboration opportunities within the European sustainable mobility community.

S12. Inclusive & Accessible Public Transport for All

- **Umbrella topic: Resilient**

*This session will mainly focus on **planning and strategic pathways**, and on the **enablers for delivery** (people, governance, finance and skills).*

Brief description:

Public transport is essential not only for decarbonisation but also for social inclusion and participation, including access to jobs, education, services and public life. This session invites contributions that demonstrate how cities and operators are successful in making public transport more attractive for all. Topics may include universal design and step free access, safer vehicles, stops and interchanges, including design that responds to gender and age-related needs, fare and ticketing policies that reduce affordability barriers, and service models that improve coverage for underserved areas and groups, such as low-density communities, night-time users, older people and people with disabilities.

Submissions could highlight governance and planning levers, including embedding inclusion targets into SUMP, co design with user groups, accessibility KPIs and monitoring, and coordination with land use and social services. Applicants are encouraged to bring evidence of impact, including what changed in ridership, accessibility metrics, user satisfaction and perceived safety, and to share implementation details such as stakeholder partnerships, training, operations and enforcement. The session should support learning that is transferable across city sizes and regions, consistent with CIVITAS' emphasis on practical replication and city to city learning.

S13. Active Mobility for Liveable, Healthy Cities

- **Umbrella topic: Resilient**

*This session will mainly focus on **planning and strategic pathways**, and on the **enablers for delivery** (people, governance, finance and skills).*

Brief description:

This session invites city led and evidence-based examples of how to make walking and cycling the default options for short trips. Contributions should address the full policy delivery chain, including strategy and targets, street reallocation, network continuity, universal design across ages and abilities, and measures that reduce real and perceived risks. Applicants are encouraged to go beyond isolated infrastructure and describe integrated packages through co-creation, such as school streets, low traffic neighbourhoods, junction treatments, parking and speed management, and maintenance regimes, paired with engagement and enforcement methods that made change stick.

The European Declaration on Cycling provides a timely policy compass. Proposals could reflect how cycling and walking deliver co-benefits for safety, air and noise, and quality of life, and explain how cities measure progress, for example through mode share, collision reduction and perception surveys. The session also welcomes contributions on linking active mobility to public transport through mobility hubs and first and last mile solutions, and on ensuring equitable distribution of investment across the city, and not only in the core centres. The goal is to identify practical replication-ready solutions aligned with CIVITAS' emphasis

on learning transfer, with clarity on what resources, stakeholder coalitions and political choices enable rapid up scaling.

S14. Future-Ready Last-Mile Logistics: Cycling, Micromobility and Urban Air Mobility

- **Umbrella topic: Resilient**

*This session will mainly focus on **services, operations and technology**, and on the **enablers for delivery** (people, governance, finance and skills).*

Brief description:

This session focuses on the delivery models and modes that cities can deploy to reduce freight impacts while keeping urban economies functioning, explicitly reflecting e-commerce growth and the intensification of parcel and returns flows. Contributions should address how cities shape last mile outcomes through a mix of planning tools and operational rules. This may include consolidation and micro hubs, parcel lockers and pick-up and drop-off networks, zero-emission delivery zones and access requirements, and curbside and kerbside loading strategies that respond to competition for scarce public space. Proposals should demonstrate how freight is integrated into the SUMP framework through dedicated urban logistics planning and structured collaboration with private stakeholders.

A core aspect is the role of cycle logistics and cargo bike solutions, including safe network design and kerbside interfaces, and clarifying how micromobility ecosystems intersect with freight in terms of safety, routing and infrastructure compatibility.

Contributions could also address how cities consider, regulate and integrate urban air mobility for logistics within a wider last mile system. In this case, proposals should remain focussed on delivery constraints. These include designated infrastructure needs, integration with existing logistics chains and hubs, safety and noise and community acceptance, data and coordination needs, and regulatory integration, including U space requirements where relevant, with realistic use cases rather than speculative future visions. Examples could include time critical deliveries or hard to reach locations, where clear public value and operational feasibility can be demonstrated.

Expected outcomes should be explicit, quantified and comparable across city types. Examples could include reductions in tailpipe carbon dioxide and air pollutants from last mile activity, reduced freight vehicle kilometres in dense areas through consolidation and mode shift, improved road safety outcomes around loading and cycling interactions, and improved network reliability through better freight and kerbside management. Where urban air mobility is included, proposals should also report on relevant indicators such as noise exposure, safety assurance measures, reliability, and any net emissions impacts once energy use is accounted for.

S15. The Energy-Mobility Nexus: Powering Urban Transport Transitions

- **Umbrella topic: Resilient**

*This session will mainly focus on **services, operations and technology**, and on the **enablers for delivery** (people, governance, finance and skills).*

Brief description:

Decarbonising urban mobility requires synchronising fleet transitions with energy infrastructure, permitting and investment decisions. This session invites contributions that

bridge transport planning and energy systems. Proposals may address depot and on-route charging strategies for buses, charging for taxis, shared fleets and logistics, local grid constraints and solutions such as smart charging concepts, load management and coordination with distribution system operators, and alternative refuelling where relevant, for example hydrogen for specific use cases.

Submissions should situate solutions in the EU policy environment, including the Clean Vehicles Directive and its signals on procurement, AFIR infrastructure obligations, and city policy packages such as zero emission zones or fleet requirements. Applicants should highlight partnership models involving cities, operators, utilities and private investors, and share lessons on de-risking delivery, including permitting, procurement, contract structures and phasing. Proposals may reference relevant European partnerships, for example 2Zero, as an innovation pipeline, but the core session priority is city implementation and scalability rather than partnership/programming approaches.

The session aims to identify transferable approaches for avoiding infrastructure bottlenecks that slow down fleet transition and to explore how cities build credible and investable electrification roadmaps.

S16. Safe Streets for All: Vision Zero in Urban Areas

- **Umbrella topic: Resilient**

*This session will mainly focus on **planning and strategic pathways**, and on the **enablers for delivery** (people, governance, finance and skills).*

Brief description:

This session focuses on how cities reduce road fatalities and serious injuries by applying the Safe System approach through street design, speed management and governance. Proposals should prioritise low tech and high impact interventions, such as citywide speed reductions, self-explaining streets, protected crossings and junction treatments, safe routes to schools, and reallocation of space to reduce exposure and conflict. Contributions should describe political and institutional strategies that enable action, including interdepartmental coordination, enforcement partnerships, community involvement and systematic safety auditing, rather than relying on vehicle technology narratives.

Data is welcome as an evidence tool, for example crash analysis, near miss mapping and risk prioritisation, but the core session is about designing and governing safer streets. Proposers could also address issues related to equity, including which neighbourhoods receive safety investment, how to reduce disproportionate risk for children and older people, and how safety improvements strengthen walkability, cycling uptake and public space quality.

The session seeks to identify transferable lessons, including which measures deliver the largest safety gains, how to manage public acceptance, how to embed safety targets into SUMP, and monitoring processes consistent with EU Vision Zero ambitions.