

Transition towards an Integrated, Accessible and Smart Public Transport System in Mexico (TranSIT)

Baseline situation

In Mexico, the transport sector generates more than one quarter of the total domestic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Transport is almost exclusively powered by fossil fuels, which have a negative impact on air quality and global warming. The effects of transport are mainly concentrated in Mexico's urban areas, where almost 80% of the population lives.

In the coming years, transport emissions are expected to grow faster than all other sectors due to the increase in the number of cars per capita. This growth accounts for several reasons. One of them is the low quality and inefficiency of public transport services, which lack connectivity, have long waiting times, and overcrowded vehicles. Public transport services are often not accessible and inclusive for everyone, as their design leaves behind disabled people, women, children, and other vulnerable groups. Furthermore, public transport is perceived as unsafe, as it is a space where crimes such as muggings, robberies or sexual assaults take place. Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic led more people to use private transport to avoid infection.

In addition to these causes, at the decision-making level, local governments often lack the information and technical capacity to implement smart and environmentally friendly public transport systems.

The shortcomings of the public transport system stand as a major challenge to Mexico's achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and its advancement towards green and competitive cities. To curb the trend towards private motorised transport, it is necessary to implement high-quality, smart, inclusive, and climate-friendly public transport services that make them more attractive than the private car.

The strategies published so far to promote sustainable urban mobility are still very general. They also provide little practical guidance to states and municipalities on how to implement sustainable public transport systems. Especially in fast-growing medium-sized cities, knowledge, implementation-oriented capacities, and financing resources are required to carry out improvement measures.

The Project in a Nutshell

Project Name	Transition towards an Integrated, Accessible and Smart Public Transport System in Mexico (TranSIT)
Duration	09/2022 - 03/2026
Volume	€ 6 Mio.
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Executing Agency	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Counterparts	Ministry of Agrarian, Territorial, and Urban Development (SEDATU), federal states
Demonstration project areas	Estado de México, Guanajuato, Oaxaca, Puebla, Yucatán

Contribution to the 2030 Agenda



Va-Y-Ven Route in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico. The route is part of a mobility strategy to improve efficiency and introduce climate-friendly, multimodal and social inclusive public transport services in the metropolitan area of Mérida.



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Optibus in León, Guanajuato, Mexico, is an integrated public transport system equipped with free Wi-Fi, GPS tracking and real-time notifications to bus operators. It runs on low emission fuels and has reserved seats for the disabled or people with reduced mobility.

Goal

The project aims to improve the framework conditions for accessible, smart, and climate-friendly public transport in Mexico.

Approach

TransIT aims to develop solutions at the national and subnational level around three areas:

Decision-making tools: Development and improvement of decision-making tools and strengthening of professional competencies of public transport employees in the public and private sector.

Demonstration projects: Implementation of demonstration projects to create hands-on experience at the subnational level and empower actors to independently apply further improvements and replicate measures.

Exchange and transfer: Dissemination of experiences and lessons learned from the demonstration projects in exchange networks.

Throughout the implementation of the demonstration projects, TransIT engages in the following **cross-cutting topics**:

Data and Digitalisation

The collection and analysis of transport data allow for a better understanding of mobility needs, and thus, for evidence-based decision-making on efficient transport management. Digital solutions can greatly contribute to accessible, safe, connected, and multimodal public transport services.

Social Inclusion and Gender Equality

The principles of equity, safety, accessibility, and care must be part of a public transport system that is suitable for all people. Therefore, the gender perspective will be integrated into the planning and operation of public transport systems.

Financing

Appropriate and innovative finance mechanisms and instruments as well as access to finance are crucial to investing in a smart, social, and climate-friendly public transport system.

Electromobility

Electrification is one central pillar for decarbonising the transport sector and consequently, improving air quality, and reducing noise levels and GHG emissions.

Road Safety

Road safety is essential to the well-being of individuals and communities. Public transport systems can help to reduce road traffic risks and accidents by offering safer and more convenient mobility services than private cars.

Partners

The main counterpart of the project is the Mexican Ministry of Agrarian, Territorial, and Urban Development (SEDATU). TransIT works closely with the mobility and transport authorities, the private sector, NGOs, civil society, and academia on state and subnational levels.

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