

Policy Analysis and Outreach Activities - Tough Questions, Smart Answers

Implementation Roadmap 2020

A. Background: New Challenges, Same Urgency

As the urgency of taking action towards sustainable, low carbon transport becomes increasingly apparent in the face of deepening climate and sustainability challenges, our community must position itself as a leader in implementing context-adapted cost-effective solutions.

From the challenges associated with achieving a just transition, leaving behind our current unsustainable patterns of economic behaviour, to overcoming the impact of the global health crisis on sustainable mobility, there are certainly many tough questions that the transport sector is currently grappling with which require meaningful answers. It is from within our Partnership and the wider sustainable, low carbon transport community, as well as from an enhanced collaboration with other communities, that such answers can be found. In the spirit of ***addressing tough questions to find smart answers***, SLOCAT is committed to enabling collective knowledge, advocacy, dialogue, and engagement to catalyse the necessary transformation of our transport and mobility systems.

When the SLOCAT Secretariat team consulted the Partnership on ***new policy analysis and outreach products*** at the 2020 Annual Partnership Meeting held in January, we had no idea the world would suddenly face the COVID-19 pandemic, spreading like wildfire around the globe, causing intense strain on our societies and a level of disruption that will likely change how humanity lives, interacts, works, travels, and moves. This global health crisis is shining a light on the inextricably linked social, economic, and environmental matters our societies must crucially address, as well as on our poor emergency management and preparedness. Against this backdrop, the sustainable, low carbon transport community must capitalise on the nerve struck by this emergency and evolve our narratives, advocacy efforts, and interaction with other communities in the interest of developing comprehensive and integrated approaches to solving the sector's most pressing challenges.

B. Strategic Objectives of these Activities

This set of policy analysis and outreach activities has several key objectives:

Facilitate thought leadership and spur scaled-up action - Help position the transport community inject thought leadership, as well as spread knowledge and technical and social innovation, both existing and necessary, to ensure transport is a global leader in solving climate and sustainability challenges by spreading knowledge and sharing technical and social innovations. In addition, position the wider sustainable, low carbon transport community as a bastion of progress at a moment when humanity faces complete disruption.

Support implementation at national and regional levels - Support decision makers and officials at all levels with useful tools to scale up sustainable, low carbon transport measures, while promoting a multi-sectoral approach that breaks down silos. Moreover, activate levers that can maximise the effectiveness of the individual missions and activities of our partners.

Strengthen the knowledge-policy interface - Offer accessible knowledge for policy-makers and nourish knowledge-based advocacy initiatives. Work to extend the lifespan and impact of SLOCAT's key knowledge products and better connect knowledge, policy analysis and advocacy work streams.

Expose and connect the transport community to other communities - Empower multi-sectoral approaches to addressing the world's major challenges, maximising the potential offered by the transversal nature of transport and mobility.

Curate and deepen the Partnership - Encourage and facilitate collaboration among partners, enabling them to build upon and positively impact each other, while also amplifying their work.

C. Creative Activities, Useful Tools

Contributors to these activities will primarily come from within SLOCAT and the wider sustainable, low carbon transport community. Efforts will also be made to connect with and invite contributions from other groups intrinsically connected to the objectives of transforming transport systems - such as the urban sustainability, renewables, health or behavioural change communities, to name a few.

Some of these activities may be part of a recurring series.

Let's Talk Transport - A series dedicated to enhancing cooperation within the community, among its sectors and modes, and between transport and other communities. Items in this series will be produced in the following formats:

- **Group discussions** - Online fireside chats, webinars, chat-rooms: These dialogues will be curated and facilitated with skilled moderation, while speakers will be encouraged to exchange openly in a conversational style.
- **One-on-One Interviews**: With practitioners accepting to be boldly interrogated on tough questions and proposed solutions in the spirit of the iconic [BBC's HARDTalk](#).
- **The Morning Commute Blog**: A blog series featuring opinion pieces.

Transport Digs Deeper - A series dedicated to deep dives into key topics related to sustainable, low carbon transport. Items in this series will be produced in the following formats:

- **Knowledge pills**: In 2019, the SLOCAT Secretariat introduced the regular use of **infographics**, **case studies**, and **issues briefs** to make our materials more accessible and bridge our policy & knowledge analysis and advocacy workstreams, while amplifying the actions carried out by our partners. This series will further multiply and refine the use of these approaches.
- **Practitioners Take the Lead**: A curated platform for our partners to showcase their work in response to a specific transport and mobility challenge; using a visual medium, such as a short video, or in written formats.

Webinars on multilateral processes and engagement opportunities - The SLOCAT Secretariat will continue the practice of delivering informative webinars around key climate and sustainability processes and engagement opportunities.

D. Tough Question Themes

The overall themes of these activities will revolve around the three dimensions of sustainable development - social, economic and environmental - and from there break down into transport and mobility related sub-topics (tough questions). The three dimensions of sustainable development are inextricably linked and it is critical to make sure they are not addressed in silos.

| <i>Cross-Cutting Themes</i> | <i>Tough Questions</i> |
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| Cost and Accessibility of Public Transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can governments best address core elements of the just transition and “leave no one behind”, while covering the costs of running effective public transport systems? • How can local and regional governments best raise revenue and fund their public transport and mobility systems without negatively impacting access? • Which policies can be implemented to ensure meaningful behaviour change related to transport? |
| COVID-19 global crisis: Impacts and Outlook | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons learnt and rekindled narratives: What lessons should the sustainable, low carbon movement learn from this global crisis? How can we convey that sustainable, low carbon transport, including public transit and walking/cycling, will be central to socio-economic recovery? • Informal transport: How can modes of informal transport, which in many places are the way in which many can access socio-economic opportunities, be sustained in the midst and the aftermath of this crisis? • Public transport: How can we address the stigmatisation of collective public transport born out of this outbreak and its potential consequences on the economic viability of public transport authorities and operators? • Bailout schemes: What can the sustainable, low carbon transport community do to champion industry bailout schemes that maintain progress towards decarbonisation goals? • Socio-economic stimulus plans: What can be done to ensure that any stimulus package (e.g. a new Marshall Plan spirit) which includes public works and infrastructure investment unleash the potential contribution of the transport sector, while responding to the hierarchy inherent to the Avoid-Shift-Improve Framework? • Intergenerational solidarity: We now have two successive generations (Millennials and Gen Z) who have entered the job market in the midst of unprecedented socio-economic crises. What can the sustainable, low carbon transport community do to build intergenerational solidarity, to enable the present and future of these young people? How do we protect existing jobs and increase jobs in our sector? |
| Externalities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we effectively promote positive externalities while reducing negative externalities in the social, economic, and environmental spheres from different modes of transport? |

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| <p>Gender</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How can the transport sector do better to respond to the needs of women and girls (e.g. gender sensitive planning, safety, affordability, access, etc.)? ● Which participatory planning mechanisms can be used to plan transport and mobility systems that better serve the needs of women and girls and help power their livelihoods? |
| <p>Global South Spotlight</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is the intense focus on economic growth preventing meaningful implementation of public transit and walking/cycling infrastructure? How to bend the curve while accelerating sustainable socio-economic development? ● What are successful examples of endogenous and innovative practices that have allowed for leap-frogging counterproductive policy approaches and harmful technologies in the Global South? |
| <p>Inequality</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As inequality in wealth continues to grow exponentially around the globe, which actions can the transport sector take to play a role in reversing these trends? ● Growing unsustainable transport consumption by the wealthy hurts the most vulnerable. What are ways to internalise environmental costs of unsustainable transport options and shift behaviour? |