

Clean, Safe and Accessible Transport for Africa: *Africa Sustainable Transport Forum*

ASTF –Conversation Series

“The Transformative Potential of Sustainable Transport in Africa”

The ASTF Conversation Series is designed to be an exchange where themes of particular importance and growing relevance to transport and mobility in Africa can be discussed.



1. Context – ASTF

The World Bank, UN-Habitat, UNEP and the Government of Kenya are launching the “**Africa Sustainable Transport Forum**” to provide a platform for high-level attention and policy dialogue on access to environmentally sustainable transport in Africa.

The goal of the Forum will be to “integrate sustainable transport into the region’s development and planning processes and increase the amount of funding going to sustainable transport programs in Africa – to improve access to transport, reduce air pollution and climate emissions, and improve road safety and health.”

The Africa Sustainable Transport Forum (ASTF) will mainstream the concepts of sustainable transport and inclusive green growth into transport policies in Africa

The Forum will be a high-level platform for discussion and policy decision-making, coupled with on-the-ground activities, south-south exchanges, demonstration projects and pilot programs. Over the first year of the ASTF, it will hold the *1st Ministerial and Experts Conference on Sustainable Transport*, October 28-30, 2014 in Nairobi and develop a **Sustainable Transport Action Plan for Africa** for discussion and review at the Conference. In subsequent years, the Forum will host periodic Ministerial conferences, along with Sub-Regional workshops. Forum activities will include:

- Sharing of policies, knowledge and best practices, along with training, tools, and staff exchanges
- Regional conferences and workshops
- Development of networks and access to expertise and demonstration projects and pilot programs
- Access to funding and investment for sustainable transport infrastructure

The initial focus of the ASTF will be on urban transport, including public transport, non-motorized transport, air quality and health, and energy and climate change.

The goals of the 1st ASTF Conference are to:

- Shape the initiative
- Share best practices from Africa
- Develop Framework for Action
- Plan follow-on activities
- Develop partnerships

2. **ASTF Conversation Series.**

The **ASTF ‘Conversation Series’** is designed to be an exchange where themes of particular importance and growing relevance to transport and mobility in Africa can be discussed.

Undoubtedly the negative externalities of unsustainable transport are felt most prominently in developing countries. The associated ill-health, congestion and loss of productive time tend to disproportionately affect those who are most vulnerable in communities, and who typically are the least likely to be included in the decision making processes which affect them.

The ASTF ‘Conversation Series’ seeks to provide a discussion platform conducive to understanding and advancing the current narrative around transport.

The **ASTF ‘Conversation Series’** seeks to provide a discussion platform conducive to understanding and advancing the current narrative around transport and linked issues such as poverty eradication, environmental safeguarding, equitable access for all and the full transformative potential of sustainable transport for people, places, our environment and our economy.

Understanding the complex existing and emerging relationships which impact on the potential to achieve sustainable transport systems in Africa, requires consolidating existing available information, identifying data gaps and the facilitation of knowledge sharing. A practice of data availability and open and inclusive dialogue surrounding these issues can catalyse partnership, participation and research, ultimately supporting informed policy making.

The format of the Series is designed to facilitate inclusive and dynamic conversation, allowing for targeted input from experts to inform on the latest available information and thinking on the issue under discussion - and broad contributions from academic, civil society, private sector, field and policy spheres.

The Series’ sessions will address several pre-determined topics applicable to the theme. These topics are selected with a view to facilitating information exchange on what is the current available knowledge on this topic, what do we know and what remains to be determined? What does the current understanding indicate and what is happening right now in Africa in relation to this area?

Outcome

It is the intention of the ASTF Secretariat that the **ASTF ‘Conversation Series’** will serve to inform projects, partnerships and new research around transport in Africa. It is the view that the Series will also act as an enabling platform for on-going exchange of knowledge and information thereby serving to inform decision making at all levels.

The conversation including key questions and knowledge gaps will be captured in a follow-up **Issues Paper** which will be made available to all ASTF partners via the ASTF website.

The themes can be re-visited and the dialogue kept live through an associated web-based forum where partners and individuals can exchange and communicate with each other.

Future sessions of the ASTF Conversation Series will build upon previously discussed themes and also introduce contemporary issues and emerging topics for discussion related to transport in Africa.

3. Introduction to the Themes.

The overarching theme for the first sessions of the ASTF Conversation Series is the **‘Transformative Potential for Sustainable Transport in Africa’**. This theme has been chosen to allow for exploration of the broad opportunities that come with sustainably planned and implemented transport solutions, and how these opportunities can be identified, researched and leveraged as a catalyst for change in Africa.

Three distinct themes have been chosen for discussion. These themes address a spectrum of issues central to the transformative potential of sustainable transport in Africa from the examination of transport through as tool of empowerment for **marginalised groups**, harnessing the potential of Africa’s **ICT** revolution in improving transport conditions, and accessing the required **financing** for realisation of a sustainable transport vision.

1. The Empowering potential of Transport – Gender, Marginalized Groups and Equitable Access.

This session will cover issues central to how clean, safe and accessible transport can contribute to more equitable societies. The session will examine how transport as *access* can enhance gendered participation and connect marginalised communities with education and employment opportunities. Central to the discussion will be how empowerment through access can be facilitated by a Human Rights based approach to transport and mobility.

2. The Emerging ICT Revolution in Africa and What it Can Mean for Transport.

The growing ICT sector and availability of open source data is spurring creative innovation in the transport sector across Africa. This session explores how this phenomenon can be used and made available to enhance and improve transport and mobility in Africa.

3. Financing

If the goal of the ASTF is to “integrate sustainable transport into the region’s development and planning processes and increase the amount of funding going to sustainable transport programs in Africa.” then we need to ask ourselves where does the funding come from, what are the barriers to investment and how do the different players collaborate to meet our sustainable transport agenda?

This session addresses the existing transport investment patterns in Africa and explores ways public private partnerships can act as a conduit to realising sustainable transport in Africa.

4. Schedule and Logistics.

Venue: Conference Room 9 - located upstairs from the main lobby.

Capacity: 90 people

Invite: This event requires no invite. All are welcome.

Interpretation: There will be no interpretation services for this event.

Time: Each session will run for 1hr 30mins

Refreshment: 10 minute break

5. Agenda

“The Transformative Potential of Sustainable Transport in Africa”	
Session Title	Conversation Themes
<u>Session 1</u> The Empowering potential of Transport – Gender, Marginalized Groups and Equitable Access. 11:30 – 13:00	<i>Equitable Access For All</i> – A Human Rights based approach to transport in Africa.
	<i>Gender</i> – Transport as central to achieving gendered participation in economic and decision making activities
	<i>Urbanisation</i> - Marginalised groups and a ‘right to the city’
<i>LUNCH BREAK</i>	
<u>Session 2</u> The emerging ICT revolution in Africa and what it can mean for transport 14:00 – 15:30	<i>Existing Data Gaps</i> - evidence based transport planning and the potential for Open Source Data
	<i>Emerging ICT solutions for transport</i> – as they are working in Africa
	<i>The Role of Cities</i> in facilitating ICT innovation in the transport sphere
<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>	
<u>Session 3</u> Financing 15:40 – 17:10	Current Investment Patterns for Transport in Africa
	Public Private Collaboration – a mechanism to foster, strengthen and generate partnership
	What is the role of the Public Sector in influencing private sector investment

