

The Future Is
**PUBLIC
TRANSPORT**

▶▶▶ **Invest in public
transport.
Invest in our
future.**

2023 Coalition Statement



The Future Is PUBLIC TRANSPORT

▶▶▶ ***We need to increase investment in public transport if we're going to stop the climate crisis***



“ In 2021, mayors, unions and civil society united at COP27 and issued a **statement** to call on the world's governments to prioritise sustainable, long-term investment in public transport or risk climate breakdown.

Since then, we have seen an increase in post-pandemic recovery spending dedicated to public transport, governments setting new and ambitious national transport emission reduction goals, and cities taking action to rapidly expand their public transport networks. An unprecedented number of commitments and initiatives on sustainable, low carbon transport were also launched during COP27 (SLOCAT, 2023).

However, the first Global Stocktake of country action under the Paris Climate Agreement has shown that we are not on track and that we must ramp up action if we are to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, including specifically through a modal shift to and decarbonisation of public transport.

We, representing leaders of some of the largest cities, international climate initiatives, transport authorities and operators, supply-chain businesses, trade unions, non-governmental organisations and citizen groups, are committed to investing, promoting, protecting and improving access to our public transport systems. We are willing to work together with national governments to set ambitious transport goals and implement NDC targets.

Doubling public transport usage by 2030 in cities holds enormous potential for reducing congestion and climate emissions, creating jobs and more

inclusive access to opportunities, freeing up space in our cities, securing livelihoods and improving health outcomes and air quality.

Doubling public transport usage in cities and facilitating a just transition to zero emissions public transport is necessary for getting back on track with the Paris Agreement goals.

We are uniting to declare that the **#TheFutureIsPublicTransport.**

Together, we are calling on the world's governments to shift their focus to green investments and prioritise sustainable long-term funding and investment in public transport infrastructure and services as part of their just transition or risk climate breakdown. To meet the 1.5°C target, an urgent modal shift to public transport, including in fossil-free forms, and the expansion of new and existing systems is needed. Using public transport, whether it is riding a bus, a tram, the subway, informal transport or any other collective mode instead of driving, is **one of the most cost-effective actions that people can take to help stop the climate crisis - but not one that is yet accessible to everyone.**

To advance a just transition to zero-emissions public transport, we need to see concerted multi-stakeholder action at all levels, involving national governments, local authorities, transport authorities and operators, and transport workers and their unions. Empowering the workers and operators of informal transport must be part of this just transition agenda.

The Future is Public Transport campaign coalition is calling for world leaders to ensure that:

- ▶ Increasing the public transport mode share is made a key goal in climate plans and Nationally Determined Contributions
- ▶ Investment in the improvement, expansion and electrification of formal and informal public transport is made a priority. Over the next decade, 208 billion USD a year is needed to improve, expand and electrify public transport to reach 1.5 degree goals in C40 cities (C40 Cities, 2021)
- ▶ Everyone living in urban areas has safe, frequent, affordable and accessible public transport within an equally-accessible 10 minute walk from their home

The world needs to **double the proportion of public transport journeys in cities by 2030 so that the majority of journeys are made by public transport, walking and cycling.** As countries start on the next round of NDCs, we urge national leaders to **raise their ambition on public transport in line with this vision and create the enabling**

frameworks for cities to support these ambitions, and immediately set out on a path towards delivering it.

NDCs on transport should include commitments to create good, green jobs as part of the modal shift to public transport and prioritise Avoid-Shift-Improve transport measures which are central to scaling up access to sustainable, low-carbon and collective modes of transportation.

A public transport sector characterised by strong labour standards is essential to rolling out the systems that we need. We believe that the best approach is to work together towards creating decent employment opportunities that incorporate all workers, formal and informal, whose jobs will change in the transition to expanded and electrified public transport. These workers, who were on the frontline of the pandemic, have the skills and knowledge that can improve the operations of public transport and make the introduction and the maintenance of new mobility solutions a smoother process.

Let's transform our streets into places of opportunity for everyone, putting people at the heart of our cities and building a green and just transition by investing in the backbone of urban mobility.

The future is public transport.



Mark Watts,
C40 Cities Executive Director



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Steve Cotton,
ITF General Secretary