

TRACK PROPOSAL FOR THE C-MUS CONFERENCE, AALBORG 22-23 AUGUST, 2024

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Title of the special session:

Expert roundtable session: On Multimodal Mobility Hubs – panaceas of sustainable mobility?

Short description of the special session:

Multimodal mobility hubs (MMH) are considered a key strategic tool - a panacea even (Rongen et al. 2022) – aiding the transition towards sustainable mobility in and across our network of living and working environments from outskirts to dense urbanity. Particularly, attention and interest are steered towards using MMH as site specific drivers to facilitate and promote active forms of (urban) mobility via multi-modality and hence motivate a shift towards sustainable mobility behavior.

The multi modal mobility hub as both a *transport node* (Bertolini 1996) within larger mobility network and a *public place* with sensorial and site-specific agency (Smart Hubs 2023; Lanng and De Block 2022) straddles across fields of both transportation studies and the field of urban design (Jensen and Lanng 2017). This leaves research and practice with the task of closing a knowledge gap related to the nature, role (agency) and design of the MMH: there is a need to keep investigating how the generic idea of a MMH is translated via situated design approaches into rich experiential public spaces and highly performing nodes for journeying, e.g. Strategic tools for supporting behavior change and sustainable mobility.

The session discusses these issues via the following three thematic headlines:

- Definition and role of mobility hubs: what types of mobility hubs can we discern and in daring to forecast future scenario-building; what kind of mobility hubs do we need to shift mobility behavior towards more sustainable choices and active modes of movement? By extension, is it possible to identify key performance criteria for MMH that facilitate the necessary shift in behavior?
- Design objectives and agencies: which design parameters crucial for MMH to work as site specific drivers for behavior change can be identified? How can we unleash the full potential of MMH as valuable and inclusive public spaces *and* transit nodes with maximum benefit for user, neighborhood, city and overall network?
- Methods for understanding: how can we best evaluate and analyze the performance of MMH as a complex and assembled phenomenon encompassing both socio-spatial, physical spatial and organizational aspects? And particularly, how do we address and foreground the perspective of the user(s) journeying via MMH?

The proposed thematic headlines overlap and intertwine. The special session on Multimodal Mobility Hubs seeks contributors who are willing to share research and practice on and across these themes, but we also welcome contributions diverging from these themes (e.g. behavior studies, studies focusing on also active mobility in general or policy and organizational studies) if the phenomenon of MMH is still a component or contextual framing for the contribution. The contributions may be rich and situated case studies as well as more theoretically founded elaborations on concepts and state of the art.

Notes on format:

The special session will be organized as an 'Expert roundtable session' with two parts; the first part includes presentations based on submitted abstracts with contributions from both research and practice. The second part of the session includes a moderated roundtable discussion based on key questions (e.g. those listed above) thus facilitating knowledge sharing through a debate on concepts, design intentions, methodologies and site specific and cased based challenges. By extension, submitting an abstract for this session entails also active participation in the following roundtable discussion. The final program and format for this session will be decided upon receiving and reviewing the content of the submitted abstracts.

The organizers are currently doing research on Mobility Hubs within the European Interreg project 'Active Cities'.

References

Bertolini, Luca. "Nodes and places: complexities of railway station redevelopment," *European Planning Studies*, 4:3, 331-345, 1996, DOI: 10.1080/09654319608720349

Jensen, Ole and Ditte Lanng. *Mobilities Design: Urban Design for Mobile Situations*. Routledge: London, 2017.

Lanng, Ditte Bendix and Greet De Block. "The social agency of infrastructure design." In *Structures and Architecture: A Viable Urban Perspective?* Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Structures and Architectures (5: 519-526 July 2022: Aalborg), Vol. 2., edited by Marie Frier Hvejsel and Paulo Cruz, Leiden: CRC Press, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1201/9781003023555>.

Rongen, Tibor, Taede Tillema, Jos Arts, María J. Alonso-González, and Jan-Jelle Witte. "An Analysis of the Mobility Hub Concept in the Netherlands: Historical Lessons for Its Implementation." *Journal of Transport Geography* 104 (2022): 103419–. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2022.103419>.

Smart Hubs. "Hub user profile." SmartHubs, September, 2021. <https://smarthubs.eu/> (accessed March 30, 2023).