



Transport Innovation Talks: Inspiration from the cutting edge of 21st century mobility

Much of today's innovation in the mobility sector is taking place in cities. The Transport Innovation Talks brought together four speakers to look at technological advances and innovation, and to showcase innovations that are shaking up the transport sector. **Sharon Masterson**, Manager of the Corporate Partnership Board at the International Transport Forum, moderated the session.

Imogen Pierce, Head of City Engagement and Integration at Arrival, spoke about how Arrival collaborates with cities to help accelerate the pathway to a zero emission future. Engagement with the city and solid operational integration prioritises transportation and environmental equity in a manner tailored to an individual city and its unique culture. Arrival strives to create best practices for engaging with communities whilst connecting top-down policy to bottom-up local action.

For Arrival, resiliency is more than just sustainable technology, it is Net Zero Carbon, Circularity, Equity. Arrival's method of design, production and decentralised microfactory model enables vehicles and solutions to be customised to local needs. It also allows rapid flexibility, to continuously adapt to better serve communities. Imogen noted that Arrival has recently announced a partnership with Uber to develop an affordable, purpose-built electric vehicle (EV) for ride-hailing drivers.

Smart Dublin is an initiative of the four Dublin Local Authorities. **Alan Murphy**, Regional Manager at Smart Dublin gave an overview of a selection of Smart Dublin's key mobility projects, including Mobility as a Service, accessible parking, electric vehicle charging strategy and last mile delivery. Citizen engagement is key to the work of Smart Dublin. Two apps, including 'Dublin Cycle Buddy' and 'We Count' allow users a smarter way to engage with Dublin City Council, building communities and sharing information and advice.

Alan stated that collaboration is key between technology providers, researchers, government and citizens in order to achieve a smarter, more sustainable urban future. "Collaboration, collaboration, collaboration", between citizens, government, academia, and industry, with innovation at the centre, was the key message of Alan's presentation, echoed by the comments of the Secretary-General of the Irish Transport Ministry in his comments in the questions and answers session.

Bernice Dapaah, CEO, launched Ghana Bamboo Bikes Initiative as a way to create local jobs and promote low-carbon transport. Bernice calls bamboo a miracle plant, because it grows quickly and absorbs carbon.

For every bamboo plant cut down to make a bike, the Ghana Bamboo Bikes Initiative plants 10 more. Bamboo is stronger than steel in terms of tensile strength and is a cheaper, more sustainable material than other alternatives.

Ghana Bamboo Bikes teaches young people to build bikes, particularly women and those in rural communities, where jobs can be scarce. World Economic Forum's Young Global Leader Bernice stated that more than half of its employees are women and for every bike sold, one is given to a schoolchild to help that child save time getting to school. Ghana Bamboo Bikes has plans to offer electric bikes and bike-sharing schemes in the near future. Collaboration is key and Bernice looks forward to working with operators, other bike- and parts- manufacturers to bring bamboo bikes to a wider, more global audience and usership.

From ambition to sustainable mobility action is the key focus of Movin'On, as explained by **Erik Grab**, Corporate Vice President, Strategic Anticipation & Co-Innovation of the Michelin Group. Movin'On is a movement that was established in 2017 out of a common vision shared by all its members - that mobility is at the heart of human development. Key foci are zero emissions (combatting global warming and air pollution), preserving resources (delaying the earth overshoot day and regenerating resources) universal mobility, multimodal mobility and transport efficiency (through balancing customer demand and sustainable transportation).

Again, collaboration was highlighted as key as Erik states that "It takes an ecosystem to innovate" – work at the Movin'On Lab ensures collaboration between communities of interest looking towards shared visions of future mobility markets as well as demand and opportunity domains. Involvement of public authorities and cities is crucial also to this innovation ecosystem.

A point made during the questions and answers session by one of the viewers echoed comments from most of the speakers stressing the importance of collaboration between different stakeholders to foster innovation and resilience. Sharon Masterson also highlighted that this is at the heart of everything that the International Transport Forum does, and whose motto is "Global dialogue for better transport".