EUROCITIES STATEMENT ON

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEMS FOR

SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) are an important tool for tackling congestion in cities, promoting integration and intermodality, improving and encouraging use of public transport and increasing safety. They have significant potential to improve the functionality and quality of life of our cities, as well as the accessibility within and between cities for goods and passengers.

The European Commission has recently introduced a number of important actions in the field of ITS. These include the Framework Directive for the Deployment of ITS in the field of road transport and for interfaces with other transport modes (COM (2008) 887), and the Action Plan on Intelligent Transport Systems (COM (2008) 886), in which it proposed to set up a specific ITS collaboration platform between the European Commission and regional/local governments to promote ITS initiatives in the field of urban mobility.

The Action Plan on Urban Mobility (COM (2009) 490) also addressed the need to provide assistance on ITS applications for urban mobility.

With these initiatives in mind, and to contribute to the shaping of the planned Urban ITS Platform and maximise its potential, EUROCITIES would like to make the following recommendations:

I. Priorities for ITS in urban mobility

▪ The user should be placed at the centre of ITS solutions, not the technology:

- Tools should be accessible to everyone and easy to implement;

- A bottom-up strategy is needed to better assess the needs of the regular user of urban transport in her everyday life.

- Urban ITS should help promote a modal shift towards more sustainable modes, including soft modes, as a general objective for more sustainable cities.
- The development of ITS solutions for urban mobility should focus in particular on:
  - Alternative modes: public transport, walking, cycling, and not only cars
  - Advanced information for users
  - Traffic control, navigation surveillance and guidance
  - Incident management
  - Vehicle safety and control systems, as much as electronic payment and enforcement
  - Road safety education, training and awareness-raising for vulnerable road users
  - Operation of green zones / low emission zones
  - Intermodality for both passenger and freight transport
  - Interoperability standards, e.g. for ticketing

II. Recommendations for the proposed EU Urban ITS Platform:

- Involve city experts and Member States in the work of the Platform as much as possible;
- Target specific urban problems such as traffic safety, congestion and noise;
- Develop Urban ITS in a sustainable way;
- Develop a scheme for urban ITS that would select 'champion cities' and support them to train and mentor other cities. These champions would promote the Platform and lead by good practice example;
- Work on recommendations for the implementation of Urban ITS applications, including a possible update of the former ITS City Pioneers Handbook;
- Promote and disseminate good practice in Urban ITS

The main aim of urban ITS should be to achieve better traffic safety and improved public transport policies, and develop them in a sustainable way. The ongoing involvement of cities in the design and implementation of new proposals and initiatives in this field will be imperative to ensuring their relevance and viability. EUROCITIES remains committed to working with the EU institutions to develop effective responses to challenges linked to Urban ITS.