CEF Success Story, Ile de France. Building the most effective traveler information system ever

Île-de-France is home to 12 million inhabitants and hosts one of Europe's busiest transport networks. It is no wonder that managing the complexity and the volume of mobility data is a big challenge for the mobility authority and operators. Around one billion data on all modes of transport are treated every single day. The project MI2, partially funded under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), is contributing to make this process smoother by creating the most effective traveler information system ever.

In Île-de-France, information about different mobility solutions is rich, but fragmented and incomplete. Therefore, users are obliged to shift among numerous websites and mobile apps. Some popular apps for public transport information disregard car use, although it is the main mode of target of the modal split.

The new system will rely on various data sets (real-time, predictive data) using big data tools and contributing to the open data process. The tools are being developed by private stakeholders and gathered in one single mobility portal. This will allow users to know all the possible solutions to move from one location to the other and to have reliable information in any circumstance. Furthermore, it will be possible to receive a notification in case of an accident on the itinerary, either before or during the route, and a new alternative solution will be proposed to be on time. The constant exchange of information between the vehicles, the public transport system and the mobility portal will increase the possibility to pick different modes of transport, favouring multimodality.

Activities will rely on various tools to help users to choose the most appropriate transport mode. These tools are developed by private stakeholders and gathered by a unique traveller information service, which will enrich lie de France mobility data portal to build the biggest mobility data in the world.

The project is coordinated by STIF with support by Transdev. The total budget for the project is 10M€. The Connecting Europe Facility supported the initiative providing EUR 3.8 million.

The MI2 project is an exemplary cooperation among public and private actors which breaks the silos among car and other transports modes, as well as among start up solutions and big companies. Furthermore, the use of European standards allows a high replicability potential.

There is little doubt that without the CEF this project would not have been launched. Ninety-eight percent of all mobility happens locally. For this reason, funds should be allocated where the needs are. The European Commission should set up a major urban mobility project to speed up the widespread use of digital tools in a unified way, allowing the development of a market for areal digital mobility tools at the European level.