By working together, several European transport projects are leading the way to better traffic management across the continent

Historically, traffic management has been predominantly focused on road traffic, often neglecting how it connects to other modes of transport for both travellers and goods. Rising traffic is also putting pressure on Europe's transport sector, creating a demand for new technologies to solve the challenge. At the same time, a shift is occurring towards more holistic and comprehensive traffic management solutions comprising different modes of transport, in other words ensuring that traffic management becomes multimodal.

Under the title Multimodal Traffic Management Cluster (MTMC), the EU-funded projects **FRONTIER**, **ORCHESTRA**, **DIT4TraM**, **TANGENT**, **ACUMEN**, **DELPHI**, and **SYNCHROMODE** joined forces to develop the next generation of traffic management technologies in Europe. MTMC aims to optimise the transport system and make it more resilient and sustainable through new means of network and traffic management, taking into account the new mobility trends appearing in the arena such as the Connected and Automated Vehicle mobility.

In this vein, MTMC and its projects are moving towards overcoming major traffic challenges by managing them in a smarter and greener way using the latest technologies. Each project has its industry, research and/or academic partners that are jointly developing interrelated solutions to help usher in a new era of integrated traffic management. Very soon, it is likely that traffic managers and operators will be leveraging these technologies that will ultimately improve traffic, reduce pollution and save time for travellers in Europe and beyond.

The aims of the MTMC align with the goals of the European Commission's Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy. Specifically, Flagship 6 of the strategy emphasises the need for the EU to leverage smart digital solutions and Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) to make connected and automated multimodal mobility a reality.

Looking ahead, traffic management will need to support reliable and safe public transport, efficient logistics operations, and offerings of Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) with micro-mobility, connected and automated vehicles, as well as on-demand options. This approach is completely aligned with the broader trend towards more integrated and sustainable mobility solutions.

Navigating Data in the Field of Traffic Management

Efficient data sharing has become crucial in making network and traffic management truly multimodal. With this in mind, the four Horizon 2020 projects of the MTM Cluster (**FRONTIER, DIT4TraM, TANGENT, ORCHESTRA**) along with the **MobiDataLab** project that focuses specifically on prototyping new mobility data solutions collaboratively crafted a policy document focusing on the Data Sharing and Data Governance in the MTM field. This document offers support for a pragmatic approach towards 2030, focusing on data exchange among transport stakeholders while covering data standards, regulations and governance, with the aim of streamlining traffic management across different modes of transport. The insights shared in the document stem from a workshop held in June 2023, where data experts from the five projects collectively identified challenges, proposed recommendations, and outlined research gaps. The document has then been reviewed and validated by the three new Horizon Europe projects that recently joined the MTM Cluster: **SYNCHROMODE, DELPHI and ACUMEN**.

The document reiterates how streamlined data sharing and the importance of data standards boost the development of a true multimodal network and efficient traffic management. It explores how different data sets interact within an ecosystem, as well as governance issues and regulations are related to data. Outlining both challenges and best practices in the field, the document highlights research gaps and serves as a guide for future initiatives in this area, emphasising as well the importance of collaboration among stakeholders in developing multimodal traffic management systems for mobility in cities.

The full **Policy Paper on Navigating Data in the Field of Traffic Management** can be downloaded following this **link**.

Revising Strategic and Implementation Roadmap for Multimodal Traffic Management: work in progress

In parallel to what was achieved above, a group of 50 well-seasoned experts from different projects falling under MTMC along with related EU-funded projects, namely **IN2CCAM** and **CONDUCTOR**, shared their expertise on Multimodal Traffic Management Systems at a recent event in Brussels, Belgium. This was achieved with the support of DG MOVE, CINEA and JRC from the European Commission, initiating the development of a **revised Strategic Research and Implementation Roadmap for MTM** to reflect the work being implemented by all these projects. This will no doubt offer valuable feedback to EU policymakers and stakeholders in understanding research needs and highlighting close-to-market solutions in traffic management.

The MTM Cluster is currently working on the revised Roadmap. The document is slated for publishing by the last quarter of 2024. As part of the Cluster, the EU-funded Horizon 2020 FRONTIER project has been involved in the coordination of the Cluster's activities and has actively contributed to the Cluster's work on the above documents. FRONTIER is now on its final stage and the results of its three-year incredible journey into the Multimodal Traffic Management of the future serve as valuable assets for the overall vision of the Cluster.

More information on the recent activities and latest publications of the Cluster, including the revised Strategic and Implementation Roadmap for MTM can be found at https://www.frontier-project.eu/mtm-cluster and on the MTMC LinkedIn page: https://www.linkedin.com/company/multimodal-traffic-management-cluster

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PROJECT KEY FACTS	
Full title:	FRONTIER: Next generation traffic management for empowering CAVs integration, cross-stakeholders collaboration and proactive multi-modal network optimization
Contract No:	H2020 - 955317
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EU Contribution	Approx. EUR 5 million
Website:	www.frontier-project.eu
Coordinator:	FUNDACIO EURECAT (Spain)

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