

Researching at the margins of mainstream transport research and practice

**Jacqueline Klopp and Daniel
Oviedo**



Prism
Partnership for Research on
Informal and Shared Mobility





Prism

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Informal and Shared Mobility



**PRISM is a global consortium,
building research, a community
of practice, and a strong network
of next generation scholars and
leaders to improve informal and
shared mobility for just, livable
and inclusive cities and regions.**

**Our motto: Eco-systems, Equity,
Engagement and Exchange.**

VREF

VOLVO RESEARCH
AND EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATIONS



GlobalNetwork for
PopularTransportation



COLUMBIA CLIMATE SCHOOL
CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT



CFTS
Centre for Transport Studies
University of Cape Town



CUTI
สถาบันการขนส่ง
จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย
CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY
TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE



**UNIVERSITY
OF GHANA**



CENTRO PARA LA
SOSTENIBILIDAD
URBANA



**WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE**



Universidad de
los Andes



Research/Working Papers

Meet and Greets

Policy Brief Series



Missing Mobilities: The Popular Transport Gap in Climate Adaptation

Thet Hein Tun, Jacqueline M. Klopp, Husen Ismailbhai Kharodawala, Benjamin Welle



Global Convenings



Next Generation Network



Multiple Socio-Technological Transitions: Urbanization, Technology, Energy: Popular Transport?



DEMOCRATIZING KNOWLEDGE

**Listening and learning
bottom up with workers,
small business owners,
passengers,
communities while
connecting to systems
level issues- building
trust, cooperation and
ideas for change...**



Engaged Urban Living Labs



[ACCRA/KUMASI](#)



[BANGKOK](#)



[BEIJING](#)



[BOGOTA](#)



[CAPE TOWN](#)



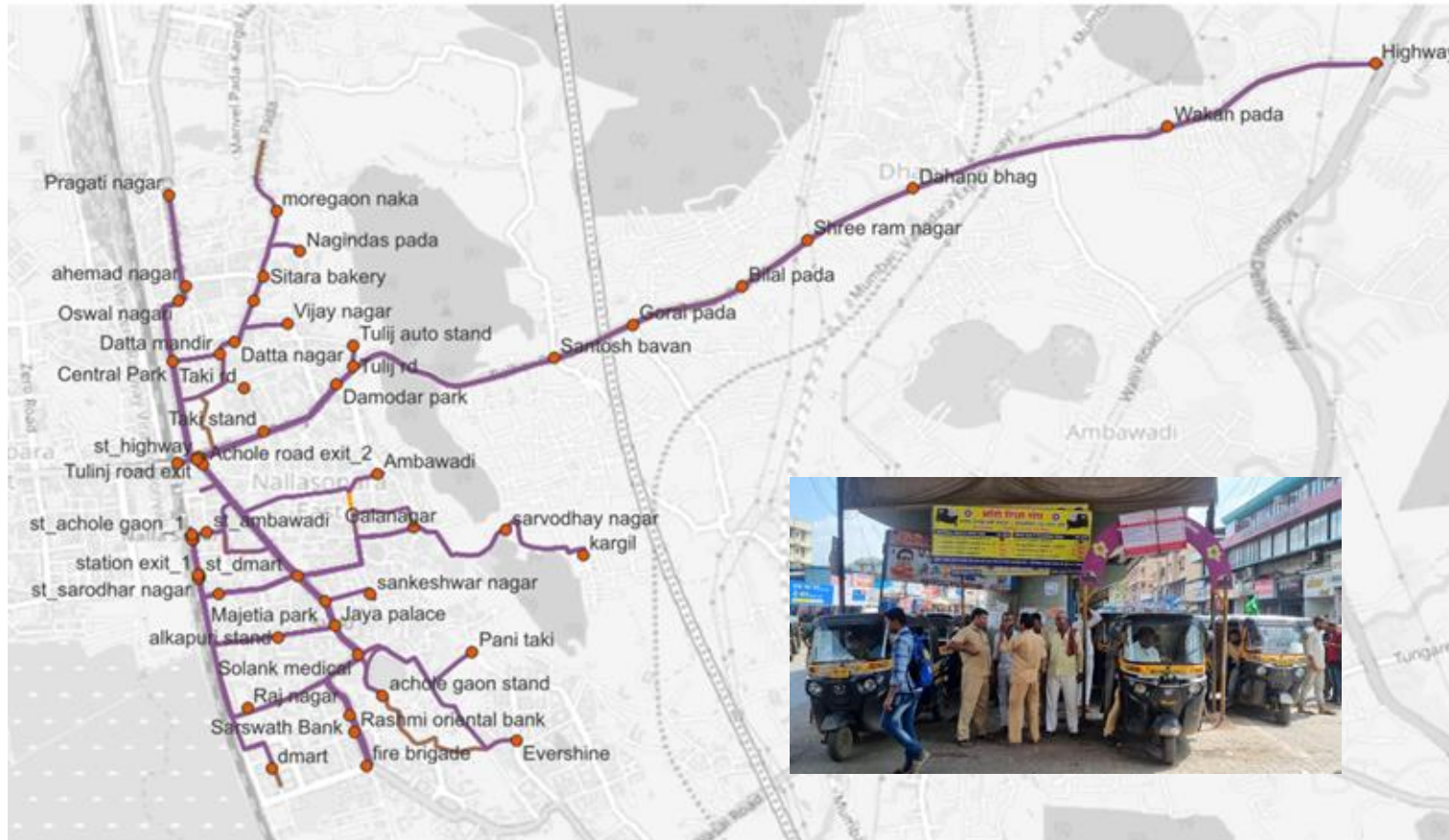
[MUMBAI](#)



[SAN JOSE](#)

URBANIZATION GROWING PERIPHERIES

Mumbai Living Lab



From the station precinct in Nalasopara East, origin stops support the operation of **21 routes**.

Together, these routes handle approximately **18,000 trips** each day, covering a total distance of around **73,000 kms** and providing mobility to nearly **120,000 commuters** daily.



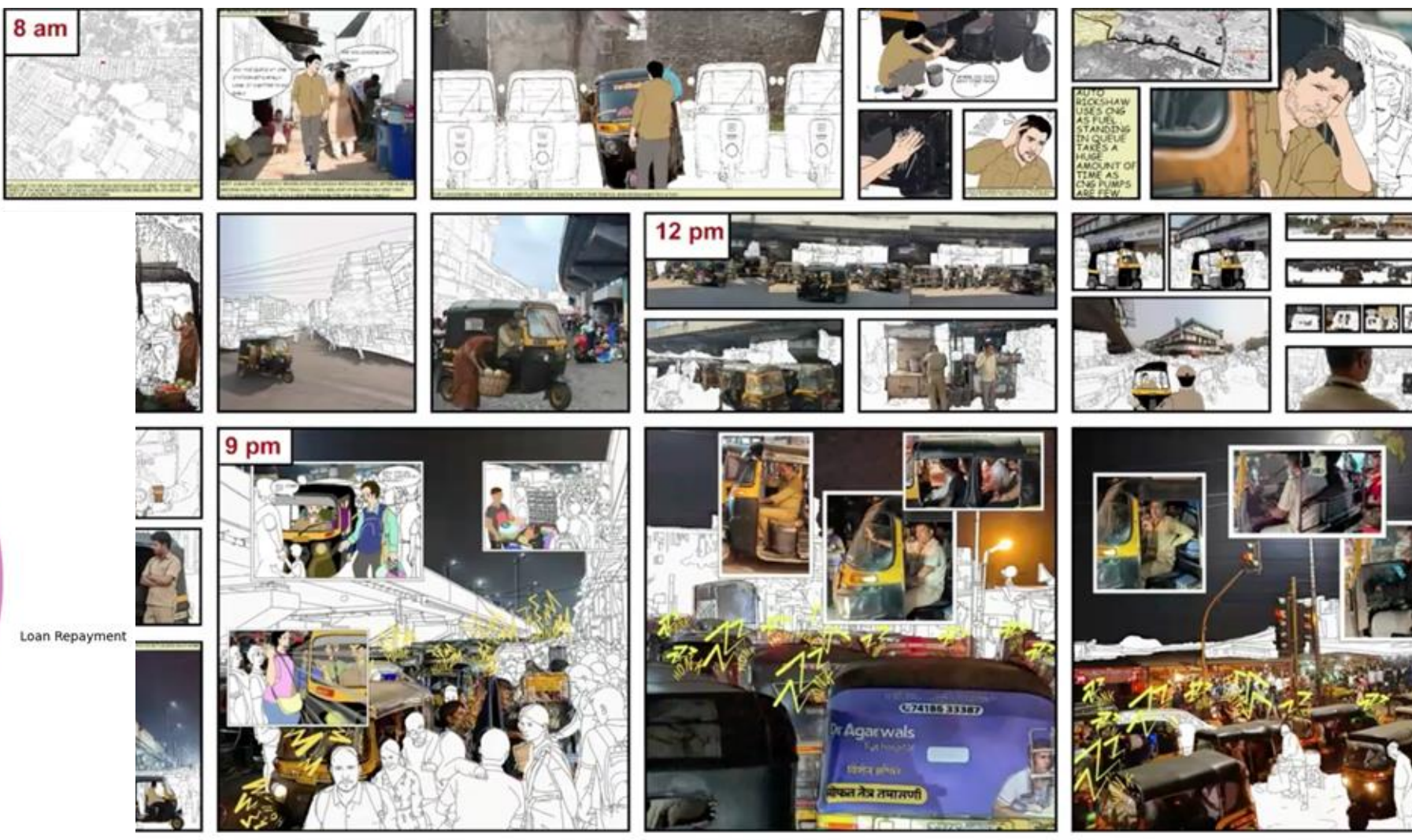
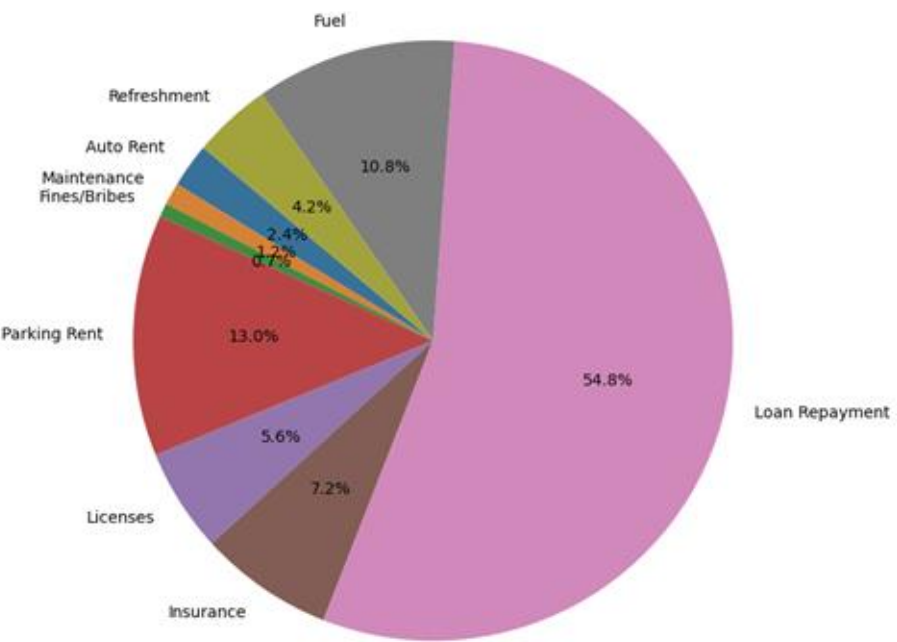
Aneerudha Paul, Alex Mohan, Shreya Boani, Kshitija Akre, Darsheet Vora

CREATIVE OUTREACH



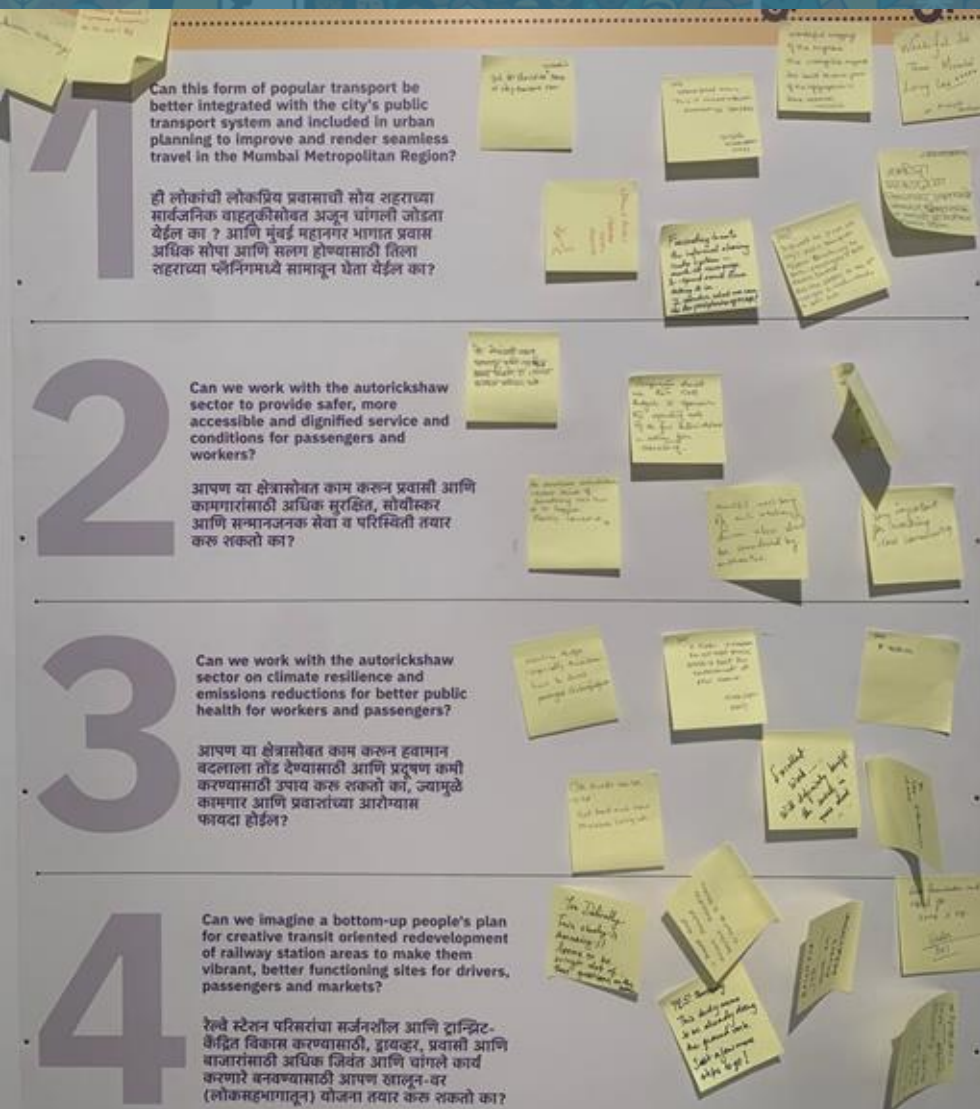
14 HOURS A DAY : A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN AUTO - RICKSHAW DRIVER.

Breakdown per Driver



Mobility and Margins: Spatial Inequalities and the Precarious Livelihoods of Autorickshaw Drivers

Alex Mohan, Aneerudha Paul, Shreya Baoni, Kshitija Akre



13 million rides a day, but Mumbai's shared auto network still runs without rules

A study reveals 13 million daily users of shared autorickshaws in Mumbai, highlighting the need for regulation and safety measures for better urban mobility.

Updated on: May 11, 2026 7:51 PM IST

Taking share-autos to Nariman Point

NOW, this headline might cause a flutter in the swish circles of SoBo. The Kamalnayan Bajaj Gallery is playing host to *Transit Tales: Nalasopara*, a week-long interdisciplinary exhibition about the role of shared auto rickshaws in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

Hosted by The Mumbai



Alex Mohan



Dr Jacqueline Klopp



Aneerudha Paul

Living Lab, SPARC, PRISM, Columbia University, and Columbia Global Center Mumbai, the conversations witnessed Columbia

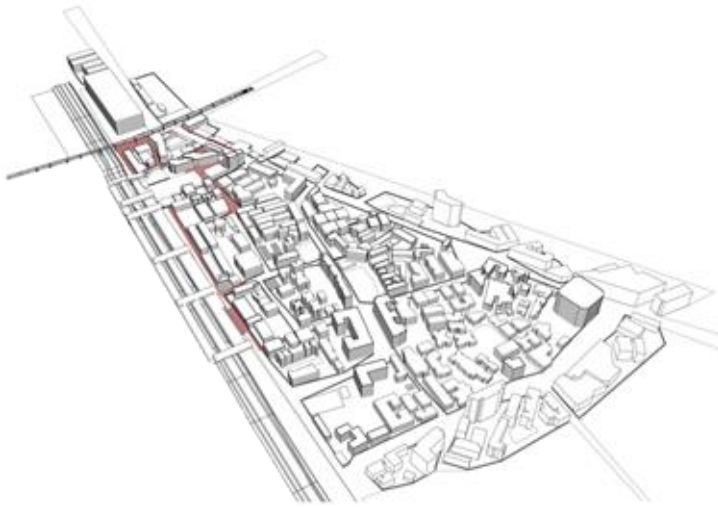
University scholar, Dr Jacqueline Klopp, Aneerudha Paul, head of Mumbai Living Lab, as well as auto drivers, and residents shared principal investigator Alex Kandathil. "It is not all talk. We also have the hip-hop group BombayLokal performing, alongside art," he added.



An illustrated panel of different modes of shared transport across the world. ILLUSTRATION COURTESY/MUMBAI LIVING LAB

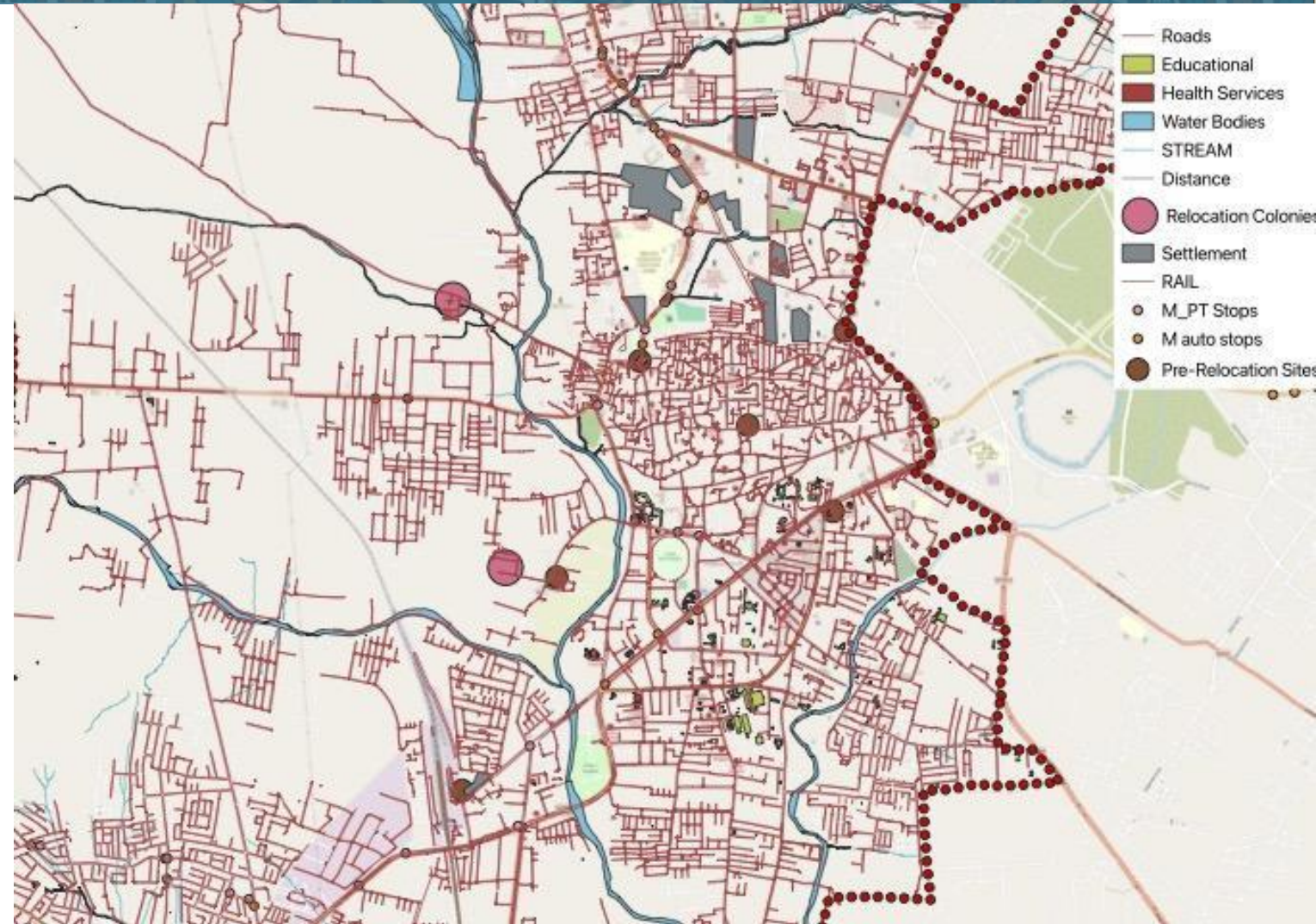
URBANIZATION INTEGRATION

Local Transit Oriented Development



RESTITCHING FROM URBAN DISPLACEMENT

**Ahiliyanagar-
measuring access loss
from relocation -how
to reconnect?**



San José Costa Rica LL

LIVING LABS Working Paper Series

"500 to Lomas": The Role of Popular Transportation in San José, Costa Rica

*Carla Quesada Alluin, Elena Campos Matarrita,
Arturo Steinvorth Álvarez and Ariana Salas Castillo*



CATCHING UP WITH TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATIONS

LIVING LABS Working Paper Series

Digital Platforms, ICT-Mediated Mobility Services and Emerging Smart Mobility Ecosystems in African Cities: Systematic Evidence Review of Impacts and Research Gaps

*Ransford A. Acheampong, Festival Godwin Boateng,
Ernest Agyemang, Dominic Edem Hotor*





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LIVING LABS

Working Paper Series

Barriers and Breakthroughs: Business Models for Electric Motorcycle Taxis in Bangkok

*Anuchitchanchai, O., Wantanasombut, A., Ratanawaraha, A.,
Chalermpong, S.*



ชั่วโมงการทำงานและช่วงเวลาการทำงาน

72.3% ทำงาน 7 วัน/สัปดาห์

จำนวนชั่วโมงทำงาน/วัน

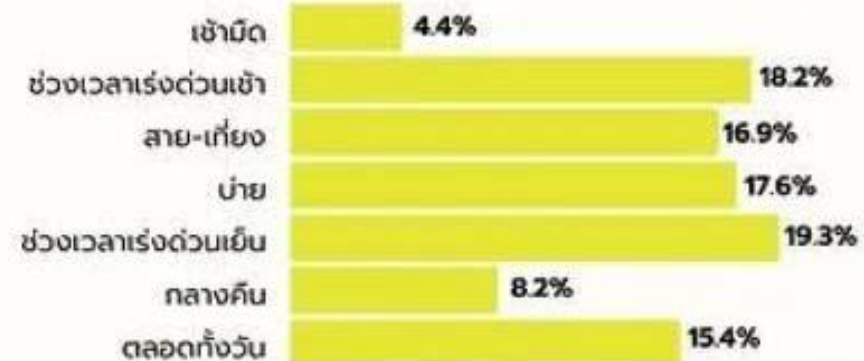


- 22.3% work 14 hours/day.
- 18.5% work 12 hours/day.
- 14.2% work 10 hours/day.

ช่วงเวลาทำงาน



• **19.3%** ทำงานในช่วงเวลาเร่งด่วนเย็น



Bogota Living Lab



Results

World Conference on Transport Research - WCTR 2026 Toulouse 6-10 July 2026

What is Fueling Informal Rides? Identifying the Determinants of Informal Transport in Bogotá, Colombia

Sanchez-Gomez Juan E.^{a*}, Guzman Luis A.^a, Cantillo-Garcia Victor A.^a

^a Departamento de Ingeniería Civil y Ambiental, Grupo de Sostenibilidad Urbana y Regional (SUR), Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia

s: Users

Contextual conditions

System operations

Quality of service

Governance

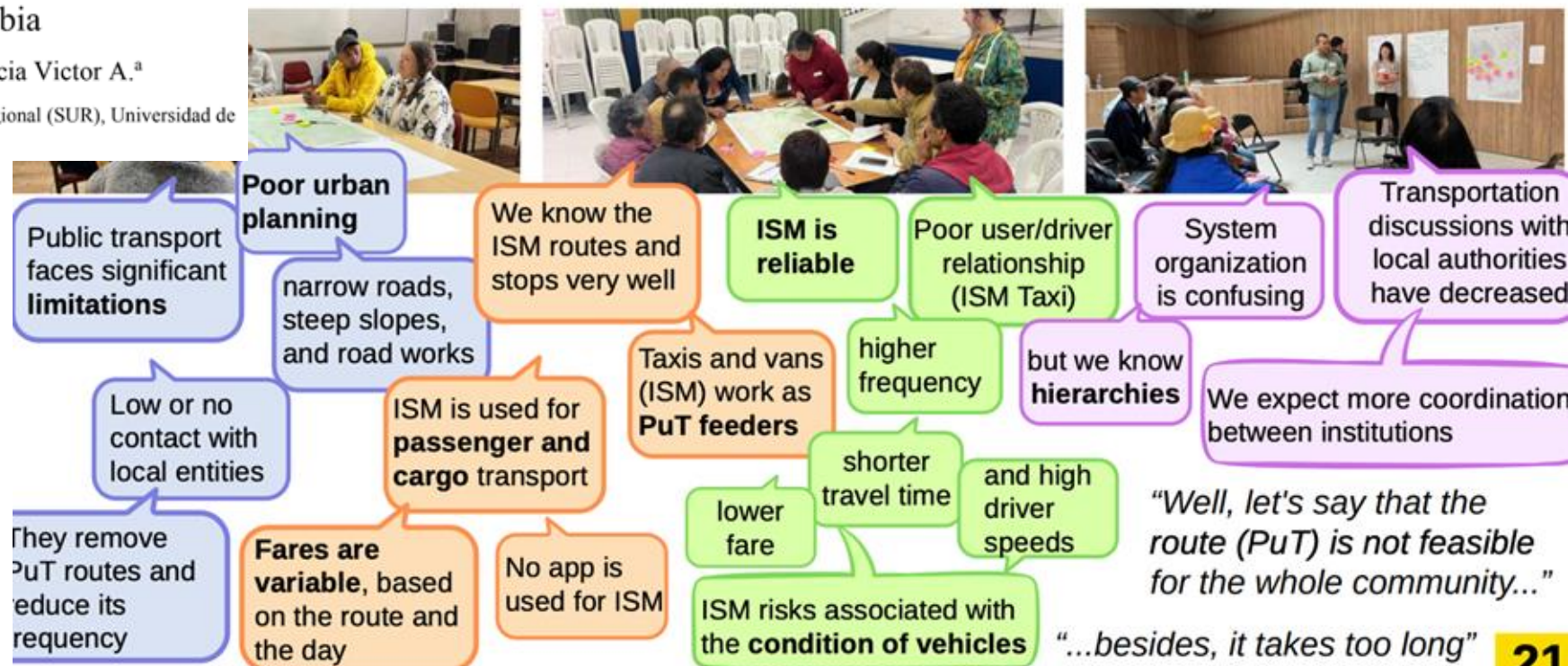
Partnership for Research on Informal and Shared Mobility

LIVING LABS

Working Paper Series

From Diagnosis to Action: A Theory of Change Framework for Informal and Shared Mobility in Bogotá

Daniel Oviedo, Juan Esteban Sánchez-Gómez, Paula Guevara-Aladino, and Luis A. Guzmán



POLICY GAPS

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Missing Mobilities: The Popular Transport Gap in Climate Adaptation

Thet Hein Tun, Jacqueline M. Klopp, Husen Ismailbhai Kharodawala, Benjamin Welle



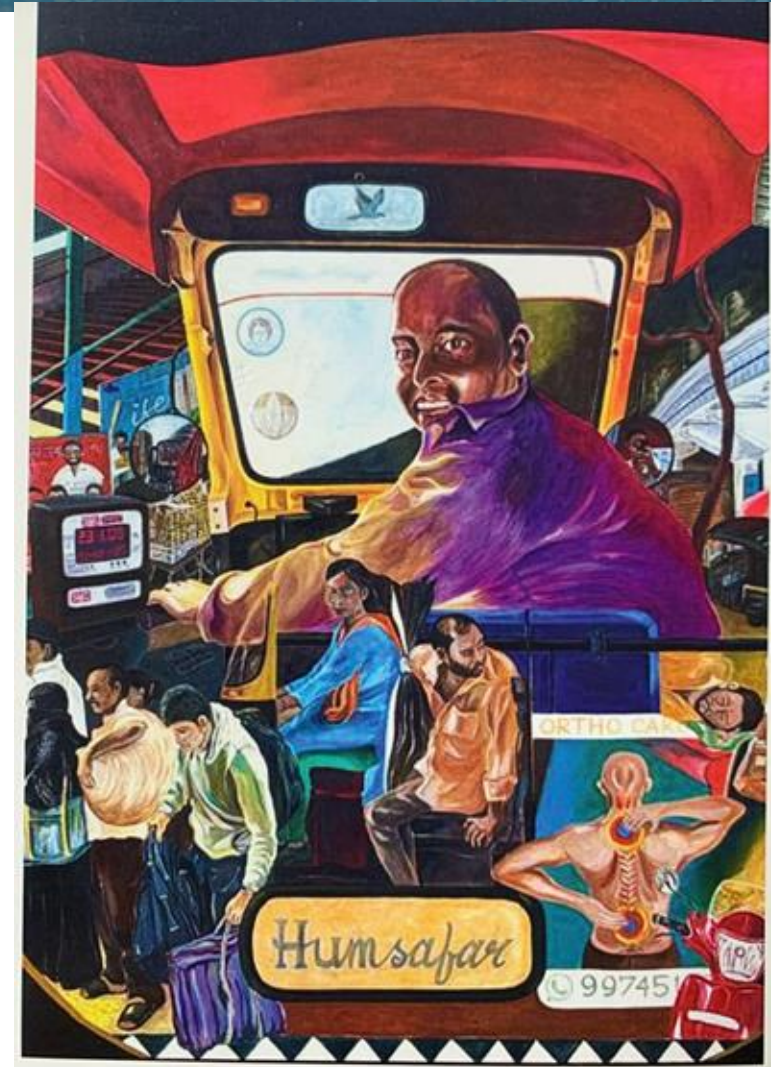
Paradigm and Narrative Shift Needed:

ISM sector and workers as a problem vs

ISM infrastructure, asset and partner in managing socio-political change for inclusion & equity.

ISM stemming from systematic government failures in investment and management of public transportation and walking infrastructure (accountability)

ISM as a justice issue (web of workers, users, local economies and communities)





Some Insights:

ISM is embedded in and critical to care, economies, livelihoods, other modes and systems-
need to take a multi-level and systems approach that still pays attention to local context

Comparative and South-South exchange also powerful.. part of a decolonization of knowledge process (Accra-Mumbai)

More experimentation of pathways forward (improvements and integration phase- face key, context specific political barriers that need more unpacking)

Engaged, living lab methodology has the potential to reveal key dynamics that are emerging in a complex time of transition and can help us get a better understanding of levers, pathways, challenges and opportunities (eg climate mitigation and adaptation, critical socio-technological changes) as well as **build trust with the sector?**



Join the conversation:



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www.prism.climate.columbia.edu



INFORMAL MOBILITY IN BOGOTÁ

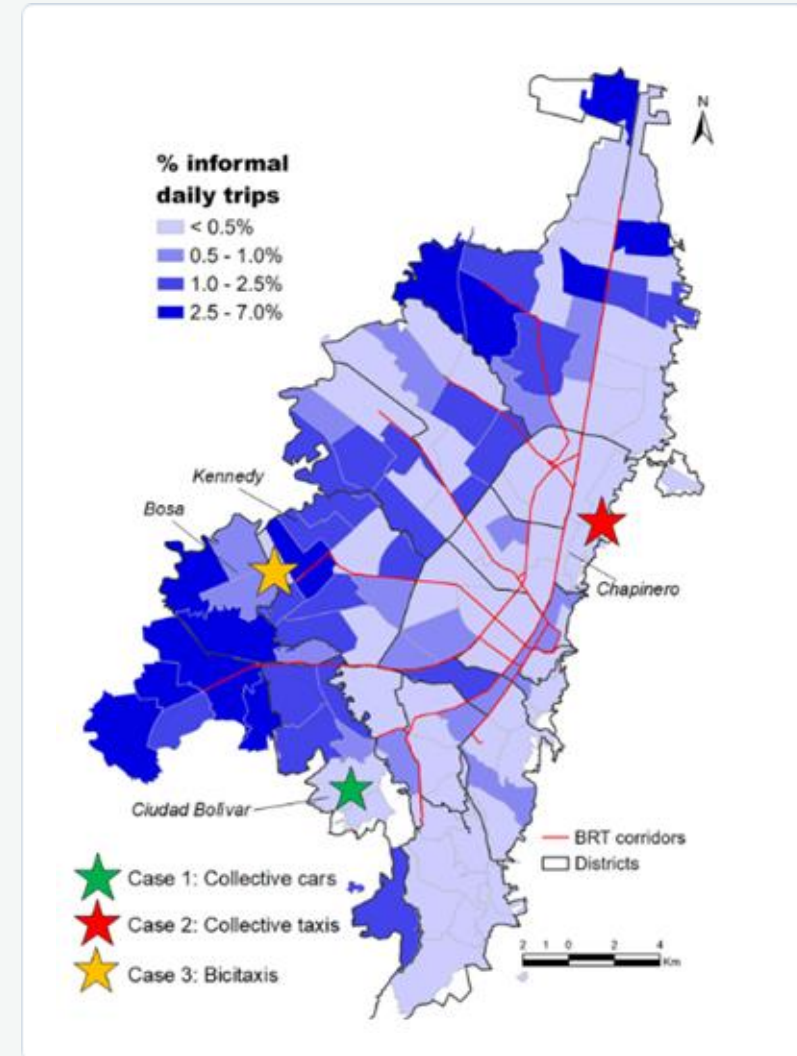
A Theory of Change Framework for the Urban Living Lab.

Based on Oviedo et al. (2026), Journal of Transport Geography.

FROM DIAGNOSIS TO ACTION

The Bogotá Informal and Shared Mobility (ISM) Living Lab was designed to bridge the gap between demand and formal supply.

-  **Participatory Diagnosis:** 6 focus groups with 48 participants across three geographic case areas.
-  **Case Studies:** Collective cars (Ciudad Bolívar), Collective taxis (Chapinero), and Bicitaxis (Kennedy/Bosa).
-  **Framework:** Guided by a Theory of Change (ToC) to foster intersectoral collaboration.



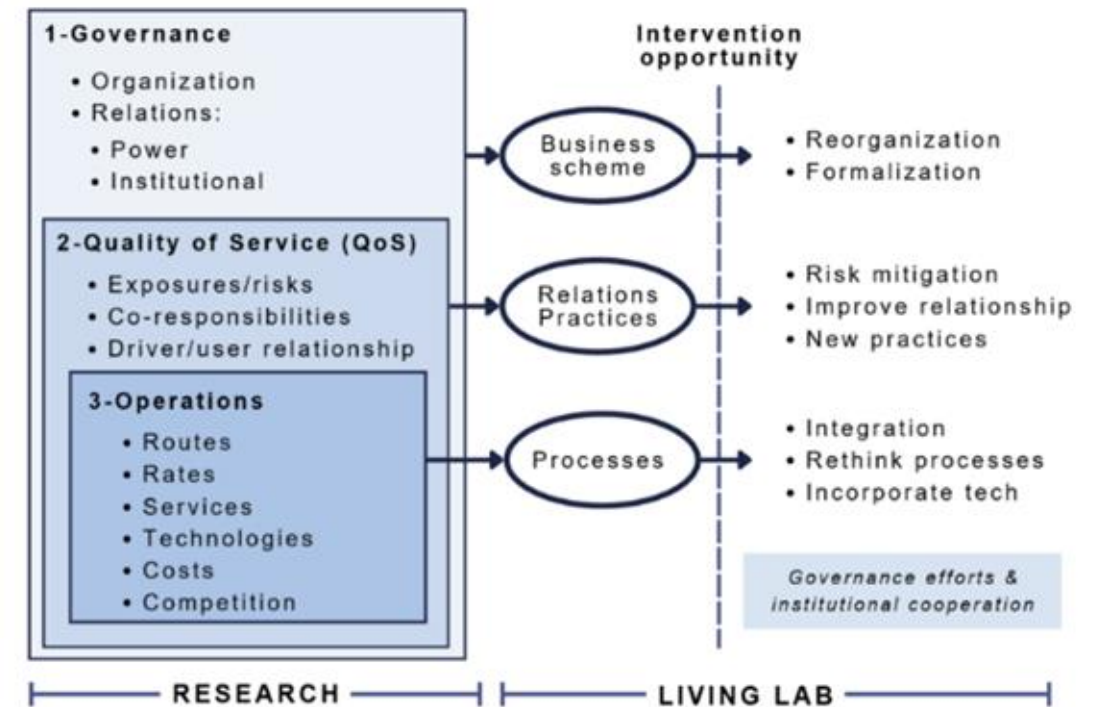
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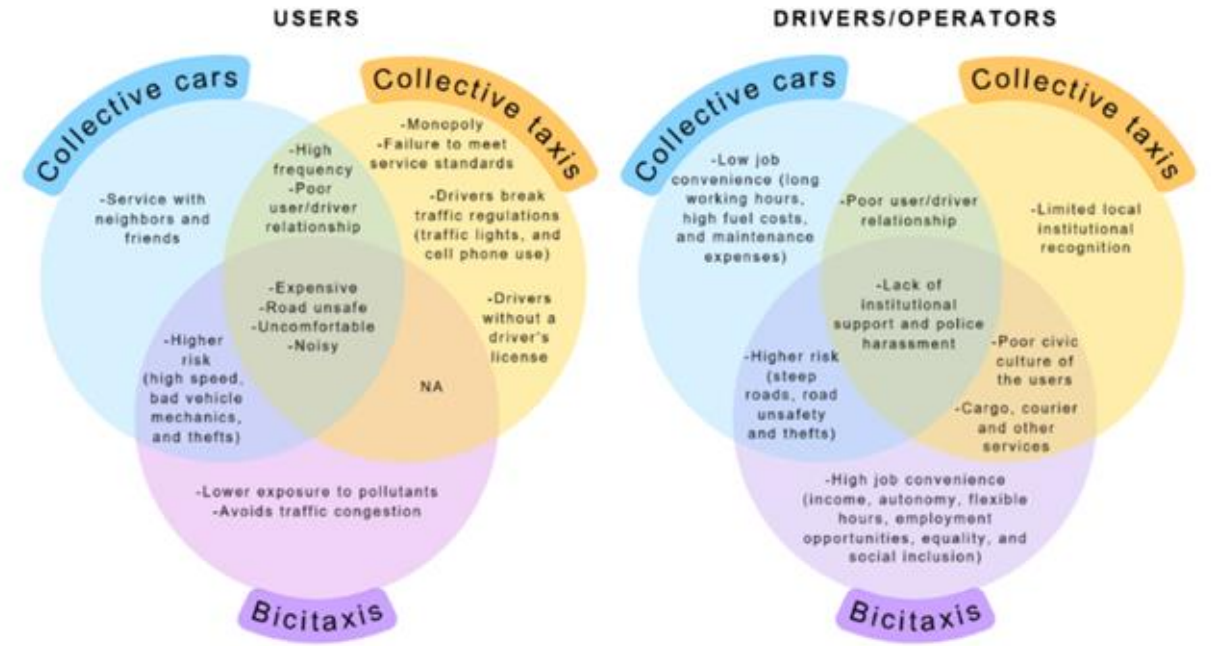
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MAPPING COMMUNITY REALITIES

Common Ground: The participatory mapping revealed three shared areas of concern: road safety, community-level conflicts, and institutional recognition.

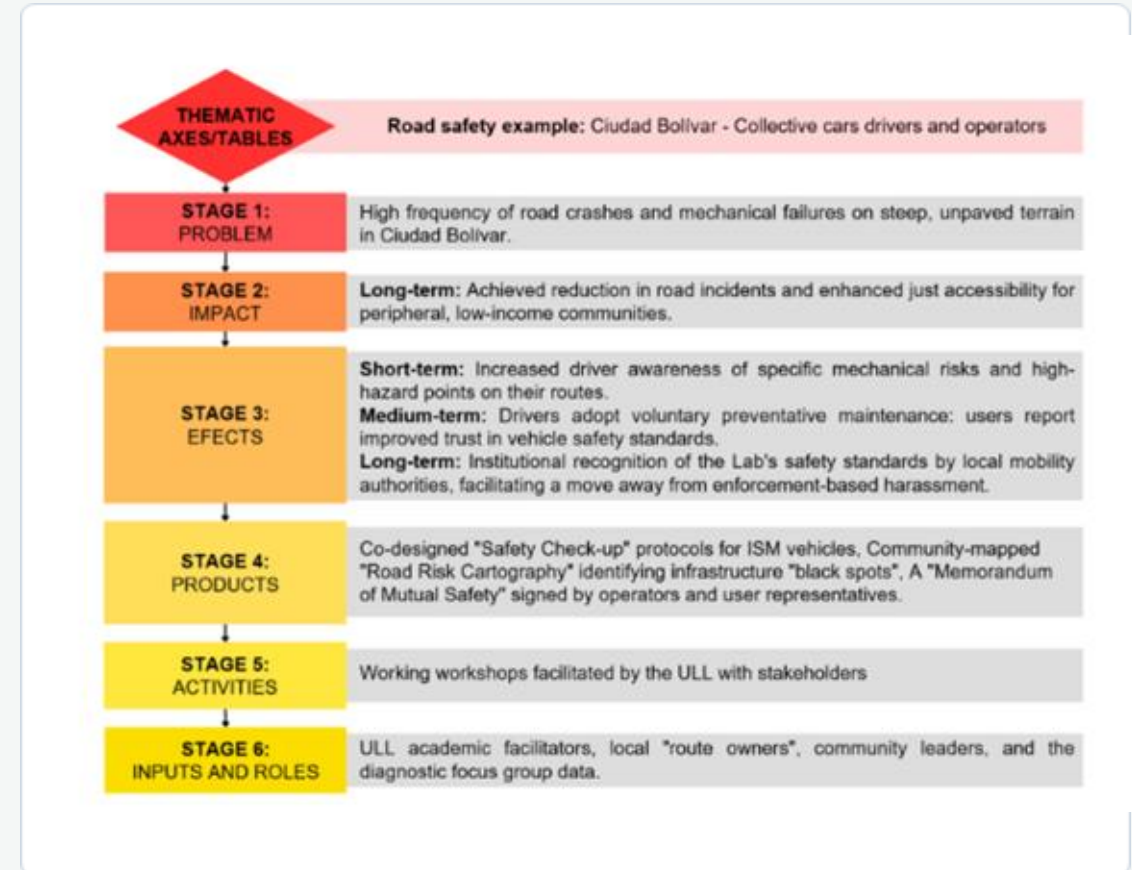


-  **User Perspectives:** Highlighted affordability and local connectivity but face severe compromises in infrastructure and vehicle maintenance.
-  **Driver Perspectives:** Cited a lack of formal recognition and police persecution as major barriers, despite the job offering autonomy and essential income.

THE INTERVENTION STRATEGY

A Blueprint for Action: A systematic logical flow moving from problem identification to tangible outcomes.

-  **The Six-Stage Process:** Problem ID, Impact Goal, Mapping Preconditions, Products, Activities, and Inputs/Roles.
-  **Co-Produced Products:** Examples include co-designed "Safety Check-up" protocols and Community-mapped "Road Risk Cartographies".
-  **Iterative Learning:** Includes a monthly reflective monitoring cycle to adapt pathways based on real-world feedback.



KEY TAKEAWAYS & IMPACT

INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

Moving from enforcement-based harassment toward collaborative safety governance. Recognition of informal operators is the first step to transport justice.

METHODOLOGICAL SCALABILITY

The Theory of Change framework provides a standard logical pathway that can be adapted to diverse Global South contexts while remaining place-specific.

BEYOND FORMALIZATION

The Lab treats informal transport as a critical urban service to be improved through transdisciplinary co-production.

Building bridges: what it means to be part of one programme before setting up another



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Introduction to the WCL



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Informal and Shared Mobility

walking
cities lab
MAKE WALKING A GLOBAL PRIORITY





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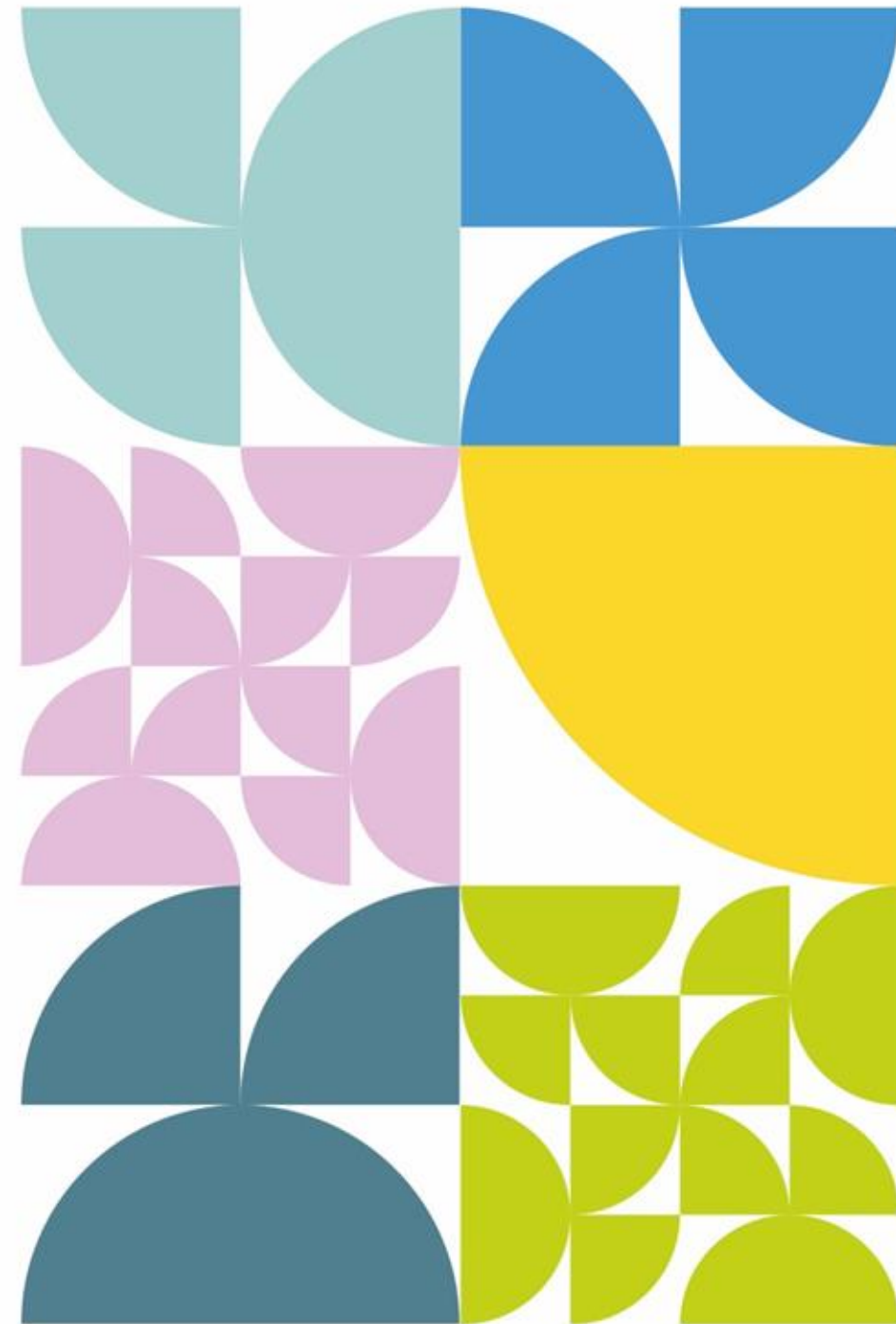
21 May 2026

Introduction to the Walking Cities Lab

International Research Programme on Walking for
Transport

.....

Make walking a global priority





What is Walking-for-Transport (W4T)?

Walking that is accessible, safe, and enjoyable for all.



The Walking Cities Lab (WCL) is a global hub for research, capacity building, and evidence-based action dedicated to advance walking as a key mode of transport.

Our aim is to consolidate W4T as a coherent field of inquiry and action

We will do this by

- Filling critical knowledge gaps regarding walking's links to climate resilience, equity, and governance
- Establishing a holistic, theoretically robust, and action-oriented framework.
- Evolving into a self-sustaining international centre of excellence that thrives beyond the initial funding period.



THEME 01



Unwalkable cities

We move beyond physical metrics to reveal the structural and social determinants that shape how diverse populations walk by necessity or choice or decide not to walk.

Focus

- Lived experience
- Informal infrastructure
- Social determinants

THEME 02



Climate Resilience

We redefine walking infrastructure as a critical tool for urban adaptation, protecting people from extreme weather rather than just reducing emissions.

Focus

- Heat stress mitigation
- Flood resilience
- Protective infrastructure.

THEME 03



Caring Cities

We operationalise care in transport planning to support the complex, non-linear mobility patterns of caregivers, protect marginalised groups, and enable well-being for all.

Focus:

- Caregiving mobilities
- Gender equity
- Safety from violences

THEME 04



Governance

We identify the institutional levers required to move walking from a marginal policy concern to a core budgetary and regulatory mandate.

Focus:

- Political economy
- Institutional capacity
- Cross-sector alignment

THEME 05



Implementation:

We bridge the gap between policy and practice by testing which interventions are politically feasible, socially acceptable, and technically scalable. [What (walking, walking in public transport), How (process and resource), When (time and stage)].

Focus

- Social acceptance
- Pilot testing
- Maintenance strategies
- Funding
- Pathways to scalability



We operationalise our objectives through three integrated pillars of action that run across all our sites and themes.

PILLARS OF ACTION

ACTIONABLE
KNOWLEDGE

NEXT GENERATION
CAPACITY

COMMUNITIES OF
LEARNING



Creating Actionable Knowledge

We co-produce rigorous, transdisciplinary evidence to bridge the gap between academic theory and urban reality.

ACTIONABLE
KNOWLEDGE

Focus:

- Harmonised data protocols
- Comparative diagnostics
- Policy-ready tools.





NEXT GENERATION
CAPACITY

Building Next Generation Capacity

We train a new cohort of diverse scholars and practitioners to ensure the W4T agenda outlasts the project's funding cycle.

Focus:

- Mentorship
- MSc and PhD curricula
- Practice-based fellowships



COMMUNITIES OF
LEARNING

Fostering communities of learning

We build a self-sustaining global network to translate our findings into immediate advocacy and long-term policy change.

Focus:

- Connecting research to governance
- Global advocacy partnerships
- Knowledge exchange

Funder

Advisory board: Strategic Support

Coordinator



Work Packages



Actionable Knowledge:



Next Generation Capacity:



Communities of Learning:

Thematic Leads: Science Direction

Walkability:

Caring cities:

Climate Resilience:

Implementation:

Governance:

Start-up Grants



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TOURISM



Living Labs: Localised Knowledge

Brazil:

Ghana:

India:

Malta:

W4T Academy: Innovative pedagogies and engagement





.....

We have designed the Walking Cities Lab as a **living ecosystem** to ensure our work is both deeply grounded in local contexts and globally scalable.

.....



Depth: Urban Living Labs

What: four regional laboratories in **Ghana, Brazil, India** and **Malta** serve as our long-term anchors.

Role: These hubs conduct deep, situated action research, co-led by local experts, to address specific regional challenges and pilot long-term interventions.

Breadth: Start-up Grants

What: A diverse portfolio of agile Start-up Grants deployed across different political and environmental contexts.

Role: These probes enable us to test our imperatives and gather comparative insights across more than 10 global locations, including Bogotá, Maputo, Bangkok, and Valencia.

Integration:



Thematic Leads (Horizontal): Ensure our 5 Strategic Objectives are applied consistently across all regions.

Pillars of action leads (Vertical): Synthesise outputs from all sites into coherent products for Knowledge, Capacity, and Community.



Strategic direction:

Advisory Board: Strategic transformation via enabling entry points to new knowledge and opening pathways to upscale knowledge into action.

The Walking Cities Lab is built incrementally:

- **Year 1: Foundation & Discovery:** Building partnerships and mapping assets.
- **Year 2: Activation:** Co-designing interventions and articulating needs.
- **Year 3: Action & Reflection:** Implementing pilots and evaluating real-world results.
- **Year 4: Legacy:** Upscaling successful models and securing policy change.



	ACTIONABLE KNOWLEDGE	NEXT GENERATION CAPACITY	COMMUNITIES OF LEARNING
Stage 6: Global shift	Global discourse shift & policy influence	Alumni in key global institutions & leadership roles	Influencing global urban policy
Stage 5: Legacy	WCL established as international knowledge hub	W4T Curricula institutionalized in partner universities	Network reaches self-sustaining model
Stage 4: Growth	Participatory planning methodologies piloted & refined	NextGen Led research outputs & working papers	Cross-sectoral projects scaling & sharing
Stage 3: Activation	First actionable policy briefs & toolkits developed	Graduates from Walking academy & trainings	Regional forums & collaborative projects
Stage 2: Seeds	Regional baselines established across 5 continents	PhDs& MSc fellows onboarded	Launch of living labs
Stage 1: Foundation	W4T framework & initial baselines defined	Fellowship programs designed & recruitment launched	Initial stakeholder mapping & outreach





Ongoing Work and Next Steps

On the way

- 5 Thematic reviews and strategic research agendas (Thematic leads)
- 4 Local research priorities review and plans for living lab research (Living Labs)
- Mapping of W4T research Landscape
- Development of terms of reference for start-up grants (Generation 1)



On the way

- Development of a Dissertation Fellowships Programme
- Piloting of practice-based learning on W4T with international MSc students of UCL during fieldwork in Colombia and Mexico with local partners
- Creation of the W4T Academy
 - Fellowships
 - Practitioner training
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Design contests
- Mentoring of ECRs on grant writing for research funding



Ongoing



- New image
- New online presence
- New podcast

Website



<https://www.walkingcitieslab.com/>

LinkedIn



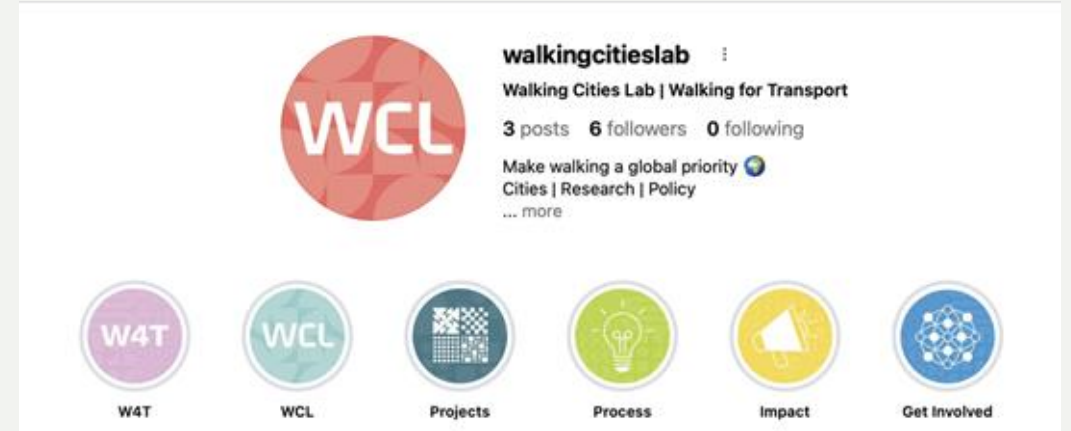
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/walking-cities-lab/>

On the way



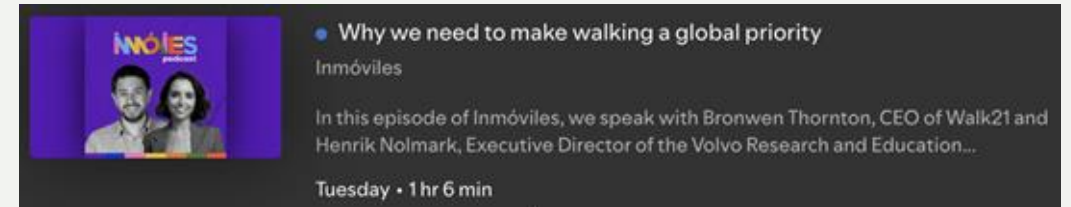
- New image
 - New online presence
 - New 11-episode podcast season on W4T
- Episode 1: available now

Instagram



<https://www.instagram.com/walkingcitieslab>

Podcast



Episode 1

Spotify: <https://bit.ly/4ehcwlo>

Apple Podcasts: <https://bit.ly/4tBgOin>

Wetoker: <https://wetoker.com/inmoviles/why-we-need-to-make-walking-a-global-priority/>

Next steps



We will co-host four regional in-person events to convene communities of learning and practice in our four regions and launch our Living Labs between October and December 2026

GOTHENBURG

15-19
JUNE

LONDON

24 November



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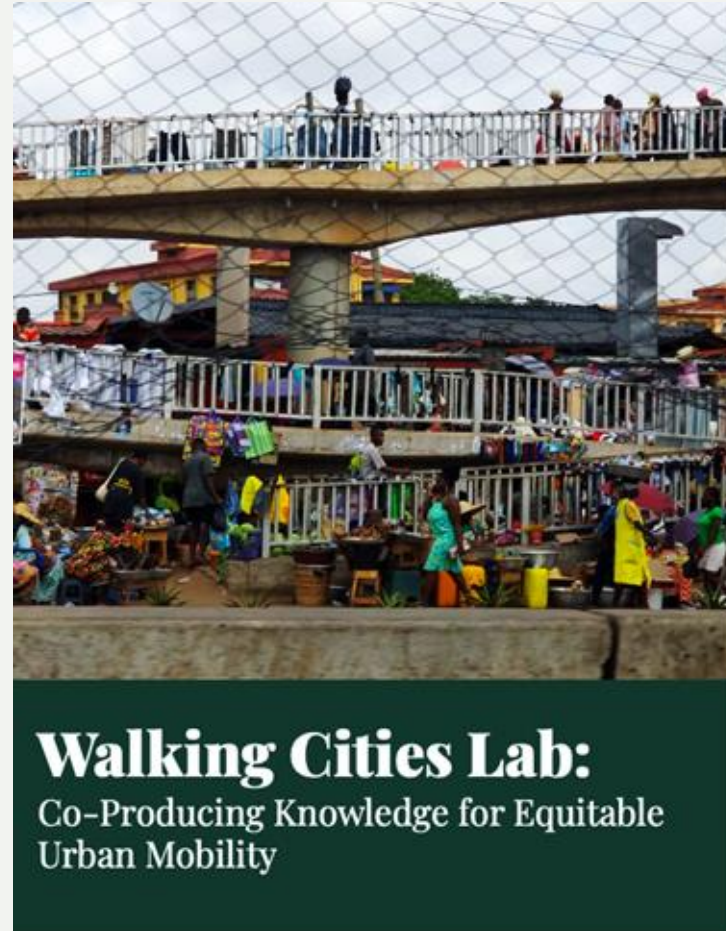
Join our global community of W4T
by filling our short survey



<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/cAUzk5AdtT>

Check our journey
before becoming an
IRP here

<https://bit.ly/42s04yN>



THANK YOU

Walking Cities Lab

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Seeking connections across the complex interplay between walking and informal and shared mobility



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What it means to be part of the INTALInC family taking this forward?



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