

Position Paper December 2012

The Swedish ITS Board's position on Publishing transport-related data irrespective of the mode of transport

1. Why Publishing transport-related data irrespective of the mode of transport?

Data and information are prerequisites for the development of ITS services for the benefit of both travellers and industry. In this context, collaboration between authorities is crucial. In addition, public operators within the different modes of transport are requested in several EU directives¹ as well as in Swedish legislation to make their information more accessible. Also on the national level a number of projects have been initiated for publishing public data, for instance through integration with the national portal for open data, www.opnadata.se, which VINNOVA has been mandated to implement. The provision of transport-related data entails large benefits to society as it creates economic potential for the various stakeholders on the market to develop new attractive services, which in turn enables them to offer more tailor-made services to the travellers. Nevertheless, there are some concerns related to the publishing – which data should be covered and how should it be made accessible? Against this background, it is important to agree on a procedure which balances the public stakeholders' supply and the public's demand for open data. The data and information referred to concern all modes of transport, as close to the original source as possible and with regard to re-use.

The Government Instruction

According to the Government Instruction², the ITS Board should work for increased Swedish action within the area in the EU. The reason behind this instruction is that the Government sees a prospect of accelerating and influencing the introduction of various ITS services as well as coordinating the services on European and international levels. In the long run this will benefit Swedish industry, in particular our export industry.

¹ The PSI Directive, Public Sector Information and Inspire.

² The Government Instruction: http://www.sou.gov.se/kommittedirektiv/2010/dir2010_67.pdf

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The position papers describe on a comprehensive level the Swedish position on ITS matters and how we act within various EU contexts as regards ITS. The documents should be useful for industry, public organizations, academia and its researchers as well as for professional organizations. Each position paper covers the multimodal perspective.

The following prioritized areas were dealt with in the multimodal strategy and action plan for ITS³ which was produced by the Swedish Road Administration in year 2010:

Static data. Publish quality-assured, multimodal, static, temporary and plan-based data on transport networks, including footpaths and cycle paths, terminals/transport hubs, etc. moreover, traffic regulations and provisions shall be made available free of charge for users.

Real time data and information on disturbances. Publish quality assured, multimodal traffic information in real time.

Market place for data and information for ITS services. Create prerequisites for and realize a pilot project for establishing a market place for data and information for development and introduction of new ITS services.

Ongoing work

A number of projects aiming to achieve the goals in the multimodal ITS Strategy and Action Plan have been initiated.

- Among its functions, the Authority Forum⁴ has been established as a basis for increased openness and collaboration pertaining to data which is created by authorities and other organizations. The Authority Forum is a platform to reach a consensus on the interpretation of “multimodal data”, how these are to be published for both public and private stakeholders and how the interfaces are to be defined. Based on this, the Authority Forum participates and influences the ongoing work within the EU Commission.
- A feasibility study on how data and information can be published has been initiated by the ITS Board⁵. Among other things, the feasibility study has dealt with the effects of the new Public Transport Act for the publishing of traffic information.

³ The Strategy and Action Plan for ITS: <http://www.sou.gov.se/its/handlingsplan.htm>

⁴ The Swedish Transport Administration, the Swedish Transport Agency, the Swedish Maritime Administration, Swedavia, the Swedish Post and Telecom Authority, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, the Swedish mapping, cadastral and land registration authority, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, SOS Alarm and the City of Stockholm.

⁵ *ITS Ökad tillgänglighet till data och information:*

<http://www.sou.gov.se/its/pdf/ITS%20möten/24%20maj%2012/Rapport%20Tillgänglig%20data%202012-05-07%20rev%2006-05.pdf>

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- Several broker initiatives have been established to transfer among other things traffic-related data and information created by both the public sector and industry.
- Several organizations set the precedent with their work on open data. For example, Stockholm has published its data on open.stockholm.se for, among others, companies, authorities, schools and hospitals. Other organizations, such as *Västtrafik*, offer open real time data to anyone to enable them to design their own real time variable messages signs.
- Within public transport, the sector organizations have highlighted the need for a common geographic database in order to find connections between public transport and demand-responsive transport. The lack of geographic information hampers the development of new services.
- The Government has launched www.opnadata.se for all sectors of society – a national portal. The ITS Board wants to support the initiative and contribute to establishment of the transport-related part.

2. Prioritizations for the future

Within the position Publishing transport-related data irrespective of the mode of transport, Sweden has chosen to focus on a few selected areas which will accelerate the progress within the field:

- Contact should be established with relevant stakeholders in Europe, such as the UITP⁶ and stakeholders within the road, rail, maritime and aviation sectors which work with data and information. Thereby, the purpose is to convey the Swedish viewpoints and to pave the way for influencing the collaboration on the KOM level.
- Defining traffic safety-related data through participation in European initiatives such as TISA⁷ and Easyway⁸.
- In addition, the work includes conducting a pilot project of which the objective is to establish a platform for the distribution of data and information. Ensuring that the effort follows the Government initiatives, such as "ICT for Everyone – A Digital Agenda for Sweden"⁹ and www.opnadata.se.¹⁰
- A long-term work for standardization of various APIs with external service developers – third parties developers - shall be initiated. The standardization is aimed at facilitating multimodal journeys as well as journeys through different regions or involving several

⁶ UITP Position papers: www.uitp.org/mos/positionpapers/114-en.pdf, www.uitp.org/mos/positionpapers/106-en.pdf

⁷ <http://www.tisa.org/about-tisa>

⁸ <http://www.easyway-its.eu/>

⁹ ICT for Everyone – A Digital Agenda for Sweden : <http://digitalagenda.ning.com/>

¹⁰ <http://opnadata.se/>

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modes of transport or operators. Encouraging market stakeholders to contribute to this work.

- Create a common view of the term "open data"¹¹ for the entire transport sector in Sweden. This consensus should cover conditions, costs, ownership etc. and public information comprises both collection and provision of data. The data and information for all modes of transport are intended to be included in the work, as well as so called raw data, that is, information which is close to the source and which does not involve secrecy or confidentiality. The work shall be conducted with focus on different ongoing projects within the EU. The multimodal perspective is prioritized.
- Develop open test environments for different stakeholders for the purpose of facilitating commercial commitment and increasing the level of innovation. The test environment should supply various traffic-related data, also including POI and weather data, with the aim of facilitating development of new mobile services for the benefit of travellers, passengers and companies¹².

3. The position papers of the ITS Board

The following position papers have been produced to date. They shall be dynamic in nature and will be successively amended. These documents are available on the website of the ITS Council, www.sou.gov.se/its.

- Publishing transport-related data irrespective of the mode of transport
- ITS for Goods
- Vehicle-related ITS
- Attractive Travel Services
- Common payment system within the transport sector
- Traffic management in metropolitan areas – all modes of transport
- ITS and Traffic Safety

¹¹ OpenGov: www.opengov.se, www.data.gov.uk/data

¹² <http://trafiksatsningstockholm.se/itsinnovation/>



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