

Position Paper December 2012

The Swedish ITS Board's position on Traffic management in metropolitan areas – all modes of transport

1. Why Traffic management in metropolitan areas – all modes of transport?

The metropolitan areas in Sweden are growing. This growth, in turn, implies increasing demands for sustainable transports (travelling, passenger safety, flexibility with regard to the use of street spaces and the need for passenger information).

The existing road and street network has to carry more categories of travellers. At the same time as pedestrians, cyclists and people travelling with public transports increase in number, streets and roads do not. A well-developed traffic management, which in an intelligent way respects the needs of the different categories of travellers, is required. Appropriate passenger information delivered in real time favourably impacts travel and route choices as well as travel times in the whole transport system. For example, it is crucial for public transport to have knowledge of both scheduled and unplanned traffic disturbances to be able to inform the travellers, offer a reliable alternative journey and redirect its traffic when needed.

The Government Instruction

According to the Government Instruction¹, 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.

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.

¹ The Government Instruction: http://www.sou.gov.se/kommittedirektiv/2010/dir2010_67.pdf

Position Paper

December 2012

The following prioritized areas within Traffic management in metropolitan areas – all modes of transport were dealt with in the multimodal strategy and action plan for ITS² which was produced by the Swedish Road Administration at the request of the Government in year 2010:

Planning and cooperation between the metropolitan areas. Development of ITS plans for multimodal traffic management.

Identification of pilot projects within environmentally friendly city logistics and goods handling.

Climate-smart and pro-active multimodal traffic management by means of smarter traffic signals.

Ongoing work

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

- The National Metropolitan Forum³ has been established and works with, for instance, contents and frames. Its focus areas are active traffic management, active passenger information and city logistics (within the framework of *Logistikforum*).
- The Swedish Transport Administration has participated in the work to develop a strategy for traffic management in metropolitan areas.
- Sweden has contributed in the EU initiative Urban ITS Platform⁴. The work is linked to the ITS Action Plan and the ITS Directive. The cooperation shall take place between the Member states and regional/local organizations in charge of transport, with the purpose of promoting initiatives within “urban mobility”. The Action Plan for Urban Mobility offers support for ITS applications and thus complements the ITS Action Plan (Action 20).
- A feasibility study on adaptive signals has been conducted for the purpose of using information and data more effectively in the joint traffic management. With this study as source of inspiration, an arena for collaboration⁵ has been established. It serves as a platform for exchange of experiences, the underlying ambition being to contribute to increased knowledge and competence as well as to the introduction of more intelligent traffic governance in the cities.

² The Strategy and Action Plan for ITS: <http://www.sou.gov.se/its/handlingsplan.htm>

³ The Swedish Transport Administration, the City of Gothenburg, the City of Malmö, the City of Stockholm, the corresponding regions of the Swedish Transport Administration and public transport.

⁴ <http://www.uitp.org/mos/positionspapers/106-en.pdf>

⁵ The City of Stockholm, the City of Gothenburg, the City of Malmö, the City of Uppsala, the Swedish Transport Administration, Royal Institute of Technology, Linköping University, Swarco AB, Peek AB, public transport companies.

Position Paper December 2012

2. Prioritization for the future

Within the position Traffic management in metropolitan areas – all modes of transport, Sweden has chosen to focus on a few selected areas which will accelerate the progress within the field:

- Collaboration with various European initiatives⁶, such as UITP and Urban Expert Group. Thereby, the purpose is to draw of experiences from other greater cities. The work includes evaluation of both financial and technical instruments of control.
- Support for development towards a more sustainable transport system in collaboration with stakeholders within public transport.
- Continued review and analysis of traffic signals as an instrument for increasing the flexibility concerning the use of street spaces.
- Publishing data and information from public stakeholders concerning goods traffic. See the position paper “Publishing transport-related data irrespective of the mode of transport”.
- Collaboration with national initiatives, such as *Logistikforum*, City logistic, the Swedish Energy Agency (the development of electric vehicles and the associated need for infrastructure), within the area.
- Establish a hub for so called cooperative systems as well as for ongoing work concerning vehicle-related ITS.
- Continued benchmarking with other European cities.
- Standardization work related to interfaces for public transport, such as payment solutions, passenger information etc., for the purpose of being able to fulfill future demands in a context with additional market participants.

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

⁶ UITP: <http://www.uitp.org/mos/positionspapers/114-en.pdf>



Position Paper December 2012

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