Strategic vision for sustainable urban transport and mobility in Sierra Leone
Lessons and insights from Freetown

Vision: The future of Freetown should be...

- Well-planned and organised
- Green & sustainable
- Inclusive of parks and public spaces
- People-centred
- Safe and secure
- Prosperous
- Accessible and inclusive

What people most like/dislike about Freetown

**LIKE**
- The landscape of the city
- People's hospitality & friendliness
- Independence and freedom to express oneself
- Proximity of nature & sea

**DISLIKE**
- Poor planning
- Lack of law enforcement
- Lack of accessibility
- High level of congestion
- Problems with water, sanitation and hygiene issues
- Religious tolerance

Principles to support mobility & transport systems that are accessible to all, efficient, safe & green

1. Control and coordinate land-use and integrate urban and transport planning
2. Ensure cross-sectoral collaboration and strengthen institutional and planning capacity
3. Promote high-density and mixed land-use development
4. Prioritise public/collective transport and active travel*
   - Enhance existing pedestrian and collective transport infrastructures
   - Demand management and behavioural change
   - Provide affordable public transport for all, especially the most vulnerable
   - Integrated multimodal transport systems
5. Technological innovation to reduce environmental impacts, optimise systems’ efficiency and reduce the need to travel
6. Generate revenues
7. Increase urban resilience

* e.g. walking and cycling
Opportunities for Freetown and other rapidly growing cities in Sierra Leone to leapfrog

There is an opportunity for Freetown and other rapidly growing cities across Sierra Leone to leapfrog car-oriented developments, learning from the mistakes many high-income cities have made throughout the world and from their successes. The following strategies can help cities accelerate their urban development processes towards increased sustainability, liveability, prosperity, equity:

1. Change people & policy mind-set through public awareness on sustainable mobility
2. Promote good quality Public Transport by improving operation & standards infrastructure and accessibility
3. Discourage car-use through taxes, mixed land-use & increased density
4. Incentivise the use of other transport modes, such as cycling, walking or waterborne transport

Main policy instruments

Different policy instruments were analysed by groups in relation to their urgency and feasibility. The diagram below summarises the consensus that emerged from the discussion.

This document summarises the consensus that emerged during the T-SUM workshop ‘Future Freetown, a Vision to Improve Mobility’ that took place on December 3rd and 4th 2019 in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The workshop was led by SLURC and UCL, with the support of Freetown City Council, the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority, the Sierra Leone Roads Authority, the Sierra Leone Road Transport Cooperation, the Sierra Leone Institute of Engineer, Fourah Bay College and the Directorate of Science Technology and Innovation. Circa 50 key stakeholders across sectors and representatives of the public participated.

Further information available in: Cavoli, C; Oviedo, D; Yusuf, Y; Mella, B; Koroma, B; Macarthy, J (2020). Future Freetown, a Vision to Improve Mobility - participatory workshop report. T-SUM, UCL