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LA Joins First City-led Open Source Coalition to Improve Shared Mobility Tech

Los Angeles, CA (June 25, 2019)

Los Angeles leadership announced that the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) has joined the [Open Mobility Foundation](#) (OMF) – a city-led global non-profit coalition that will build and govern open-source technology tools that help cities manage transportation in the digital age.

The Foundation is the first of its kind public-private forum created to seed new ideas and govern digital mobility tools. Making software open and free offers a safe and efficient environment for government, companies, experts, and the public to solve mobility problems together.

“Cities are always working to harness the power of technology for the public good,” said Mayor Eric Garcetti. “The Open Mobility Foundation will help us manage emerging transportation infrastructures, and make mobility more accessible and affordable for people in all of our communities.” <http://www.openmobilityfoundation.org>

Among other digital mobility tools, OMF will govern the “Mobility Data Specification” (MDS), which was created by the City of Los Angeles to create standard communications between cities and private companies to improve their operations, allowing cities to collect data that can inform real-time traffic management and public policy decisions to enhance safety, equity, and quality of life. More than 50 cities across the United States -- and dozens across the globe -- already use MDS to manage micro-mobility services.

“From fully electric car share to the largest scooter program in the Country, LADOT is embracing a wave of new transportation technologies to give Angelenos more options to get around the City,” said LADOT General Manager Seleta Reynolds. “The Open Mobility Foundation will help ensure that LADOT has the tools to make room for new mobility options that serve everyone, while keeping people safe, protecting the right to privacy, and improving the quality of life.”

Los Angeles will join other cities and public agencies including Austin, Texas; Bogotá, Colombia; Chicago; Los Angeles; Louisville, Ky.; Miami; Miami-Dade County, Fla.; Minneapolis; New York City Department of Transportation; New York City Taxi and Limo Commission; Philadelphia; Portland, Ore.; San Francisco; San Jose, Calif.; Santa Monica, Calif.; Seattle; and Washington D.C.

As local governments welcome expanded transportation options, they are working to ensure that this new technology can be integrated into the public right of way. In recent months, as companies have introduced a myriad of new micromobility options in cities, that challenge has become more acute. Local governments of all sizes must find ways to work with private companies to address challenges nationwide.



To maximize all types of mobility technology, cities must gather key information about usage and distribution. Using disaggregated information, municipalities can protect safety, ensure equity, preserve public spaces, and create better day-to-day experiences for residents and riders. The Open Mobility Foundation will help cities create elegant and harmonious tools to achieve better outcomes.

“Data gathering in NYC has been transformative, and helped us achieve important victories in fair pay for drivers and street safety, and has been fundamental in developing our new traffic congestion policy,” said TLC Acting Deputy Commission Rodney Stiles.

The OMF is founded by The Rockefeller Foundation -- a premier science-driven philanthropy focused on promoting the well-being of humanity throughout the world.

Founding commercial members include transportation service operators such as Bird and Spin; technology organizations such as Blue Solutions and Stae; and the support of advisors that include the International Association of Public Transport, Transportation for America, MetroLabs, and the NewCities Foundation.

The Open Mobility Foundation is partnered with OASIS, a leader in the open-source and software standards industry.

About the Open Mobility Foundation

[The Open Mobility Foundation \(OMF\)](#) is an open-source software foundation that governs a platform called the “Mobility Data Specification” (MDS). MDS is comprised of a set of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and code projects that enable standard communications between cities and users of the public right-of-way to improve safety and protect residents. Now used by over 50 cities, MDS was originally developed by the City of Los Angeles to help manage dockless micro-mobility programs (including shared dockless e-scooters).

Led by cities, OMF is designed to understand and take on technical issues surrounding emerging mobility technology in communities nationwide. By bringing together stakeholders including municipalities, companies, technologists, and experts, the Foundation will shape urban mobility management tools that help people move safely, efficiently, and effectively.

About LADOT

LADOT leads transportation planning, project delivery, and operations in the City of Los Angeles. We work together and collaborate to deliver a safe, livable, and well-run transportation system in the city and region. Our vision is for all people in Los Angeles to have access to safe and affordable transportation choices that treat everyone with dignity and support vibrant, inclusive communities.

LADOT is leading the way for 21st Century Mobility -- from electric car sharing to state-of-the-art data standards -- LADOT pilots and tests technology projects to make sure everyone benefits from innovation. Learn more at ladot.io.

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