


UAB Mobility Board to Debate Local Mobility Management

2006

 **University**
 Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Country
 Spain

Location 
 Peri-urban. 20 km from Barcelona

Size 
 More than 40.000

Mobility Organizational Structure 
Mobility team or mobility manager

Summary

The UAB Mobility Board was created in 2007, addressing the need of promoting participation (debate and deliberation about mobility issues) linked to the development of UAB accessibility and mobility policies; the UAB Strategic Accessibility Plan and the Mobility Plan.

This board was assembled by UAB but the implication of authorities in charge of regional and local mobility planning and management was deemed essential since trips generated by University activity have an impact on a regional and metropolitan basis while UAB's competences are limited to the campus.

Aims

To implicate the university community and other agents in mobility planning and management through what is known as Deliberate Participation (providing all necessary information, scientific and technical, to facilitate the participant's deliberation and positioning. This general objective is specified in four sub-objectives:

- Knowing user's necessities, capacities and perceptions about transport and recognizing the complexity and heterogeneity of several kinds of users who commute to university.
- Diagnosing different transport services which provide access to university.
- Elaborating reports and providing necessary information to Mobility Board members.
- Involving the university community in the elaboration, application and following-up of the UAB Mobility Plan.

Stakeholders

- Government of Catalonia.
- Metropolitan Transport Authority of Barcelona.
- Municipal/local authorities.
- Transport companies.
- Non-profit organisations (NPO).
- Student and staff representatives.

Background

For concepts of transit, transport and mobility to evolve there needs to be a change of scope: from motorized vehicles, to include all other means of transport, including active ones (walking and cycling). As a mechanism for obtaining information about people, a heterogeneous and complex variable, a qualitative approach and participation is seen as an essential methodology. In this respect, the Mobility Board aims at verifying the different groups and agent's perceptions, needs, and possibilities.

UAB's Mobility Board to Debate Local Mobility Management

2006



Description

The Mobility Board is integrated by authorities involved in public transport (Government of Catalonia, Metropolitan Transport Authority of Barcelona, and the municipal/local authorities), every department of the university related to mobility (planning, communication, security, social services, economic services, environmental office, etc.) students and staff representatives, transport companies, NPOs, etc.

The Mobility Board acts in an advisory role, thus results and conclusions are not binding to the university. Its participation however, encourages results and its role therefore proves a useful methodology to achieving successful mobility management.

The yearly agenda for meetings is previously established on a 3 meetings per year basis. However, depending on the topics in hand and the need for participation related to them, meetings can be called more often. All the meetings follow a previously established work plan, which is communicated prior to each meeting. After every meeting minutes are sent to all the participants for revision and approval in the following meeting.

With an average of three meetings per year since 2006, debate is focused mainly on diagnosis and proposals for the Mobility Plan.



Indicators

Participation indicators: meetings per year, attendance.

UAB's Mobility Board to Debate Local Mobility Management

2006

Results

- Implication of staff on mobility management: providing a space for the representatives to explain their needs and obtain correct information is positively valued by them.
- Integration of these needs in the planning process increases participation.
- Provided information enables them to understand what is being done and why some issues cannot be dealt with in the way they may expect. As a result, many complaints and protests based on perceptions are eradicated.

Expense

From 0 to 10.000 €.

Financing

UAB Budget (low cost associated).

Findings

- Mobility is one of the main aspects generating urban conflict. Putting different actors with different views and often contradictory needs together around a table makes it possible to educate them on the complexity of the issues and the need to negotiate.
- If representatives do not comply with correctly distributing information and debating its content relating to the issues brought up there is a danger that they will concentrate on their own perceptions and needs. Thus making true results from their participation difficult to achieve.
- UAB students show intense divisions within their representative bodies and are difficult to effectively involve. More so they don't find this methodology an attractive way in which to participate.
- The methodology laid down by the Mobility Board (regularity, general work plan, meeting work plan, minutes etc.) is fundamental in guaranteeing its credibility and in encouraging a high level of participation.

Pictures



Fig. 1. UAB MOBILITY BOARD meeting, February 2015

Links

<http://www.uab.cat/accessibilitat-transports/>

Contact person:

Rafael Requena
UAB Mobility manager
rafael.requena@uab.cat