

Integrating Transport in a Reunified Cyprus

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Transport in Reunified Cyprus: Expectations and Challenges



Prof. Panos Papaioannou

Transportation Engineer

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, GR

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Presentation Objectives

- To demonstrate main differences between current situation and situation in a reunified Cyprus with respect to transport
- To identify main transport related areas, where intervention will be required
- To identify expectations from Cyprus reunification and respective challenges

Transport Policy and Transport Planning: Overview of current situation (1/2)

- Strongly affected by political situation and by the different priorities of the two Communities
- Separate master plans for transport – if any. Often plans per sector only
- Different sources of financing and different scope for transport projects
- Lack of rationality when viewed from a reunified Cyprus point of view
- Separate planning may have led to waste of resources

Transport Policy and Transport Planning: Overview of current situation (2/2)

- Isolation of remote communities along the buffer zone
- Gradual development of different mentality regarding Transport Policy and other related issues
- Distortion of economic and social development in Cyprus as a result of lack of communication & transportation among the two Communities
- Similar phenomena in the city of Nicosia due to the division

Transport Integration in a reunified Cyprus: What it may mean? (1/2)

Transport Integration refers to:

- An overall Transport Policy for Cyprus
- A transport master plan for:
 - New Transport Infrastructure (Roads, airports, ports, etc.)
 - Improvement of existing Infrastructure (at rural and urban level)
 - Overall consideration of interaction between transport and regional / urban planning
- Enabling and facilitating easy and safe movement of persons and goods between all areas in Cyprus
- Integrating transport systems and operations on the island and in the cities that are now divided
- Reorganizing transport related authorities and operators to achieve the above goals

Transport Integration in a reunified Cyprus: What it may mean? (2/2)

It would also mean for the involved people:

- Having the same mentality regarding transport issues
- Setting common or converging goals
- Getting the same/similar education and training about transport issues
- Achieving closer cooperation among people who today deal with similar issues

Integrating transport - Infrastructure

- A transport system is made up of:
 - Terminal facilities (airports, ports, bus terminals, freight transport centres, etc)
 - Transport links (roads, railways, etc)
 - Vehicles (passenger cars, freight vehicles, buses, other vehicle fleets, etc)
- An integrated transport system is the one that puts them function for a common cause
- In a unified Cyprus there will be need for new and improved infrastructure which will have to be planned according to the new needs that will emerge after unification.

Infrastructure - Expectations

- A balanced highway network on the island enabling linkage among urban areas and the other major trip generators
- Tackling possible congestion problems along road sections that will accept high traffic volumes and will be affected by new travel patterns
- Safe and convenient travel for people between all origins and destinations on the island

Infrastructure - Prerequisites

- Rational transport infrastructure planning, taking into account European Policy directions and guidelines from EU regarding feasibility and often financial sustainability of projects
- Efficient and Effective authorities, agencies and mechanisms for operation and maintenance purposes of all kinds of infrastructure
- Common rules, specifications and standards will be necessary

Operations and Maintenance - Expectations

- Well maintained and equipped highways
- Tackling infrastructure deficiencies
- Identification of black spots and interventions for treatment
- Application of same methods, techniques and practices to avoid differential treatment for similar cases
- Uniform introduction of new technologies (ITS) in reunified Cyprus

Operations and Maintenance - Prerequisites

- Proper organised and staffed authorities
- Adequate mechanical and other equipment to meet the set goals
- Mechanisms for collecting and processing data and information necessary to manage transport infrastructure
- Knowledge of existing problems with respect to quality and adequacy of existing infrastructure
- Proper education and continuing training
- Common mentality of all involved actors

Integrating transport – Public Transport

- Restructuring Intercity Public Transport
 - Establishing one regulating & coordinating authority
 - Setting the mission the goals and the strategy
 - Setting the rules according to the EU policy and legislation for the Public Transport Operators
- Restructuring urban Public Transport especially in Nicosia and Famagusta
 - Establishing one regulating & coordinating authority per urban area
 - Examining decongestion measures in combination with promotion of public transport
 - Promoting traffic management policies and measures at local level

Integrating transport – Reunified cities

Integrating Transport in cities means:

- One transport policy for each city regarding all important issues such as Traffic Management, Public Transport, Mitigating congestion, Parking, etc.
- Alleviation of undesirable differences among city areas
- Integrating networks (new and old ones)
 - PT network
 - Pedestrian networks
 - Cycling network
- Making people aware of environmentally friendly modes
- Minimisation of any kind of external costs

Integrating Transport in a reunified Cyprus

Aspects to consider

- Need for legislation reform
- Need for Institutional restructuring
- Need for administrative changes
- Need for accommodating cultural differences
- Addressing financial issues

■ Legislation reform – Some examples

- Harmonisation of legislation regarding:
 - Highway code
 - Vehicle and Driver Licensing
 - Public Transport operations
 - Freight Transport
- New legislation to meet the requirements of the EU

Institutional / Organisational reform

- Setting the new scene regarding Institutions involved in Transport
- Merging or unifying agencies having the same or similar roles
- Establishing new Institutions (e.g. Transport Research Institute)
- Reorganizing in terms of responsibilities and roles the remaining authorities / agencies
- Reallocating tasks if necessary

Integrating transport – Cultural Aspects

They apply to both authorities and transport system users – Typical examples:

- Road safety perceptions
- Driving habits
- (Non) Compliance of drivers
- Enforcement practices and effectiveness
- Awareness level with respect to safety, congestion, environmental impacts, etc.

Integrating transport – Financial Aspects

- New formula for allocation of revenues and expenses pertaining to transport
- Establishment of appropriate managing authorities for EU funding
- Securing necessary trust on financial issues between representative of the two Communities

Challenges

- Agree on goals and strategy to reach them
- Agree on necessary reform
- Agree on scenario for achieving reform
- Address at the same time reform issues and day to day operational issues
- Restructuring is necessary prerequisite for a long term success in managing operational issues

Necessary Next Steps

- Examine in more detail the various issues raised
- Exploit the existing international experience from similar cases
- Prioritise the various transport issues
- Prepare an agenda for the more important of them
- Identify the most effective way to deal with them
- Organise suitable events

Conclusions

- Integrating transport in reunified Cyprus is certainly a great challenge for all involved
- Integration concept covers many transport related subjects that are strongly interrelated
- Legal and institutional reform are necessary for integrating transport
- Equally important are cultural issues which may jeopardize integration efforts; creating common mentality should be a major priority
- Transport integration is strongly related to the political decisions concerning reunification



Thank you