**Open Call for Follower/Twinning Cities to Join the eBRT2030 Project**

**A futuristic city with cars and buses

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About the eBRT2030 Project**

The **eBRT2030** project, funded by **Horizon Europe**, aims to revolutionize urban mobility by developing the next generation of **electrified, automated, and connected Bus Rapid Transit (eBRT) systems**. Through cutting-edge innovations in vehicle technologies, charging infrastructure, and AI-driven transport planning, eBRT2030 seeks to enhance the efficiency, sustainability, and accessibility of public transport. The project will demonstrate these advancements in key European cities and conduct feasibility studies for international replication, accelerating the transition to zero-emission urban mobility.

Join the Future of Urban Mobility with eBRT2030

The **eBRT2030** project is seeking up to **5 Follower/Twinning Cities** to participate in a **feasibility study** aimed at evaluating and promoting the deployment of next-generation **electrified, automated, and connected Bus Rapid Transit (eBRT) systems**.

As a **Follower/Twinning City**, you will have the opportunity to assess the **feasibility, impact, and benefits** of eBRT innovations within your urban environment, leveraging cutting-edge methodologies, digital twin simulations, and AI-based predictive models. The feasibility study will be tailored on the specific local needs with a dedicated budget avaiable.

This is your chance to shape the future of **sustainable urban transport** by engaging in collaborative research and knowledge exchange with leading European cities and mobility experts.

# Why Become a Follower/Twinning City?

**Selected follower/twinning cities** will benefit from**:**

* **Knowledge Transfer & Best Practices:** Access to the latest advancements in eBRT technology, planning, and operational strategies.
* **Feasibility Studies:** Technical assessments tailored to the city’s needs, evaluating the potential deployment of eBRT systems.
* **Networking & Collaboration:** Engage with European cities, industry experts, and research institutions.
* **Capacity Building:** Training workshops, technical support, and exposure to real-world eBRT demonstrations in European pilot cities.
* **Strategic Urban Mobility Planning:** Receive guidance on integrating eBRT innovations into existing and future transport plans.

A **Memorandum of Understanding** will be signed by the eBRT2030 project coordinator and the Follower Site representative describing mutual expectations and requirements.

# Study Requirements – Data Collection

To conduct an effective feasibility study, selected Follower/Twinning Cities will be **required** to **provide** a comprehensive dataset related to urban mobility, public transport infrastructure, and socio-economic conditions. The AI-based feasibility model will analyze this data to determine the suitability of eBRT deployment in each city.

Follower/Twinning Cities must ensure the availability of the following **data categories**:

### **1. Road Infrastructure and Traffic Conditions**

* Existing **road networks** and their classification (highways, arterials, local roads).
* Number of **lanes per road segment** and existing dedicated bus lanes.
* Traffic flow data, including **congestion levels** and peak-hour speeds.
* **Public transport priority measures** (e.g., traffic signal priority, bus-only corridors).

### **2. Public Transport Network & Accessibility**

* Bus, metro, tram **stop locations** and coverage areas.
* General Transit Feed Specification (**GTFS**) data for existing public transport services.
* **Intermodal connectivity** (proximity of transit hubs, multimodal interchange points).

### **3. Socio-Demographic Data**

* **Population density** at various buffer zones (100m, 500m, 1000m).
* **Land use distribution** (residential, commercial, leisure, green spaces).
* Employment hubs and key **points of interest (POIs)** (e.g., schools, hospitals, business centers).

### **4. Urban Mobility Patterns**

* Daily **travel demand** and major commuter flows.
* Existing **modal split** (percentage of trips by car, public transport, cycling, walking).
* Public transport ridership data and estimated **demand forecasts**.

# Eligibility Criteria

Cities interested in becoming twinning partners must:

* **Demonstrate** a commitment to sustainable urban mobility and innovation.
* **Provide** data and insights necessary for the feasibility study, including transport demand, road infrastructure, and urban planning strategies.
* **Assign** a dedicated point of contact for collaboration with the eBRT2030 project team.
* **Participate** in knowledge-sharing activities, technical workshops, and meetings.
* **Have a vision** for potential eBRT implementation and integration into their urban transport system.

# How to Apply?

Interested cities should submit an **Applicant information (check Annex) with an expression of Interest (EOI)**, including:

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1. **Contact Information.**
2. **Follower Site characteristics & City Profile** (size, population, current transport system).
3. A **brief description of the city’s transport challenges and interest** in eBRT2030.
4. **Confirmation of the availability of required data categories.**

# PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The call for Follower/Twinning Sites is open until 28/02/2025. Applications will be assessed in March 2025; Twinning/Follower Sites will be informed about the outcomes of the selection process in the second half March 2025. Selected Sites will be contacted in the course of March 2025 to further define their priorities and interests. On the basis of these discussions a programme of activities will be developed, and a Memorandum of Understanding will be concluded before the end of April 2025.

The final outcome will be a feasibility study for all the cities (followers and twinning), for future EBRT systems, and will target at most of them to issue a proper replication plan based upon one or more of the main EBRT innovations. The feasibility study will focus on technical, operational, service, social and economic aspects addressing cities' needs for future sustainable deployment of EBRT innovations.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **PROCESS** | **Start** | **End** | **2025** | | | | | | | | |
| **Jan** | | | **Feb** | | **Mar** | | **Apr** | |
| 1 | Open Call for Twinning Cities | 28-Jan | 28-Feb |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Applications Assessment | 28-Feb | 15-March |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | Onboarding & Collaboration | 15-Mar | 15-Apr |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | Kick-off Meeting | 15-Apr | 30-Apr |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | Signature of MoU | 15-Apr | 30-Apr |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**A computer screen shot of a website

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**Submit your Applicant information via email to:**

 Flavio GRAZIAN – Project Coordinator, UITP : [flavio.grazian@uitp.org](mailto:flavio.grazian@uitp.org) by**28/02/2025.**

#### **Next Steps**

1. **Evaluation & Selection**: Applications will be reviewed based on alignment with eBRT2030 objectives and feasibility study requirements. Follower Site applications will be reviewed by an internal expert panel including ICCS, UITP, CERTH, VUB, and UEMI.
2. **Onboarding & Collaboration**: Selected cities will receive detailed guidance and participate in upcoming feasibility assessments.
3. **Kick-off Meeting**: An initial meeting will be scheduled to introduce twinning cities to the project’s scope and methodology.

For more details, please contact:

** Evaggelos Karvounis – WP8 Coordinator, ICCS : evaggelos.karvounis@iccs.gr**

Join the eBRT2030 initiative and shape the future of sustainable urban mobility!

**Annex**

**Applicant information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Organisation** | |
| Name of the Organisation |  |
| Type of Organisation (e.g. local administration, transport authority, transport operator, research institute etc.) |  |
| **Address** | |
| Street & Nr |  |
| Postal code |  |
| City |  |
| Country |  |
| **Contact information** | |
| Title (Mr/Ms/Mx) |  |
| First Name |  |
| Last Name |  |
| Tel. |  |
| Email Address |  |
| **Follower/Twinning Site characteristics** | |
| Please describe your ambitions regarding BRT deployment, what services or innovation you plan to initiate, upgrade or expand and how these are expected to complement the existing public transport services and wider multimodal transport systems – 500 words max | |
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| Please describe the city, district or urban area where you consider initiating, upgrading or expanding BRT services (e.g. geography, population, functionality etc.) - 250 words max |
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| Any Other elements you would like to include ? |
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| Please describe to what extent your ambitions will contribute to sustainable urban mobility planning goals and related objectives in terms of sustainability, safety, accessibility and inclusivity, and – in case you apply as private entity - to what extent you plan to cooperate with local administrations and partner organisations – 250 words maximum |
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| **Areas of interest** |
| Please indicate (X) which eBRT2030 use cases are of specific interest / innovation. For more information check the eBRT2030 website: <https://ebrt2030.eu/> |