

mobil.LAB Understanding of Sustainable Mobility

The mobil.LAB is a doctoral research group consisting of doctoral candidates working in collaboration with local and international professors and scholars to produce doctoral theses and academic research on the topic of “Sustainable Mobility in the Metropolitan Region of Munich”. This document outlines our understanding of sustainable mobility, which we see as a crucial framework and process for developing future mobility solutions at the regional level.

Sustainable mobility ensures the individual fulfillment of basic needs and activities without negatively harming the environment, economy or society, whether now or in the future. It ensures affordable accesses to multiple mobility options, freedom of choice in terms of mode and access to life opportunities. Sustainable mobility, however, does not and should not require a reduction in mobility. Finally, it should be safe for all users and therefore minimize any type of negative effects on individuals, communities, the private sector and the environment.

Achieving sustainable mobility is an ongoing, complex and open-ended process of deliberation, participation, experimentation and collective learning. As a framework, sustainable mobility should orient leaders, experts, the private sector, civil society and individuals in better understanding current problems and the range of solutions available. It should also provide a framework for decisions concerning the transport and mobility sector, whether initiated in the private or public sector. Sustainable solutions should be innovative, in that they consider developments in technology alongside the societal and environmental impacts of use.

In the Metropolitan Region of Munich, the transport and mobility sector has been developing mobility solutions in consideration of sustainability goals for over two decades. However, there are and will always be the need for new sustainable mobility solutions. Urban areas, such as Augsburg, Ingolstadt, Rosenheim and Munich suffer from congestion and systems at capacity. Rural areas conversely struggle with maintaining affordable and frequent service for public transit while minimizing environmental impacts from the transportation sector. The mobil.LAB research group focuses on researching sustainable mobility to help solve these challenges, in terms of developing on-the-ground solutions and improving the process (or transition to sustainability).

Doctoral research projects include quality management for localized travel and accessibility (Torsten Belter), mobility behavior of parents (Kristina Kebeck), job-related mobility requirements (Katrin Roller), tourists’ use of public transport (Diem-Trinh Le-Klähn), discourses of sustainable mobility in transport governance (Chelsea Tschoerner), adaptation and use of electric bicycles (Jessica le Bris), consequences of mobility costs on accessibility (Benjamin Büttner), mobility management requirements of corporate users (Magdalena Dolatschko) and life-cycle environmental analysis of transportation (John Anderson). Sustainable mobility is an open and on-going process, and mobil.LAB works to provide high quality academic research to support real-world solutions as an open lab linking science and practice.

Speaker of the group: Prof. Dr-Ing. Gebhard Wulfhorst
mobil.LAB Doctoral Group “Sustainable Mobility in the Metropolitan Region of Munich”
Department of Urban Structure and Transport Planning
Technische Universität München
Arcisstraße 21, 80333 München
<http://www.sv.bv.tum.de/mobillab>