THE INTER-MODAL TRANSPORT DATA-SHARING PROGRAMME

Newsletter: November - December 2018

You are receiving this newsletter following your recent indication of support or interest in an Inter-Modal Transport Data-Sharing Programme. This proposed research programme will be led by The Technology Research Project (TRP), based at the Social Sciences Research Centre (SSRC) of the University of Hong Kong, and in collaboration with other industry specialists. This newsletter sets out our progress to date. Further information about the programme and associated partners can be found below.

CLEANER AIR & SMART CITY MANAGEMENT

With more than 20 letters of support from major transport companies and several government departments secured, our proposed research programme is designed to boost the basis of smart city management through proactive data-sharing models which provide incentives and protect commercial interests while serving public interests.

Moreover, we are excited that our proposed work programme also has the potential to provide big data for policies that could improve Hong Kong’s air quality. According to a report from the international Energy Transitions Committee “achieving zero emissions in heavy industry and transport by 2060 would make the global economy at most 0.5 per cent smaller than it would otherwise have been.” So, as we look ahead, we must ensure that future cities are liveable as well as ‘smart’.

PROGRAMME UPDATE

We greatly appreciate that The MTR Corporation, a supporting organisation, has generously agreed to sponsor a 2-3 month preparatory research programme prior to TRP securing funding for the main programme, which is designed to extend over 8 months. The preliminary research programme will consult with stakeholders across the board and lay the foundations for the full programme.

As we shared in our October newsletter, our intention is to apply to the General Support Fund (GSF) of the Innovation & Technology Fund (ITF). We are now in conversation with several university staff regarding their support of the programme to ensure internal university approvals can be secured, a prerequisite of applications from university-based or affiliated research centres in advance of funding applications.

PLANNED PREPARATORY RESEARCH

About The Inter-Modal Transport Data-Sharing Programme

The Inter-Modal Transport Data-Sharing Programme is a proposed research programme that will commence with a conference and convene a Working Group to explore alternative data sharing models and framework conditions in unlocking and supporting intermodal transport in Hong Kong. Doing so will drive the local development of smart city applications such as traffic management, electric and autonomous vehicles. It will put long-term urban planning and sustainability policies on a more evidence-based and data-driven footing.

Further detail below.
We intend to undertake preparatory research in order to:

1. Identify the right questions about the specifics of data-sharing in Hong Kong, understanding the challenges, the range of concerns of the transportation companies, where common ground can exist, what the costs and the benefits are to (i) the data-owners and data-controllers, (ii) Government and public services, such as MaaS applications, traffic management, town planning, licensing policies, etc.

2. Arrange invitations to global leading experts and specialists dealing with legal issues, technical issues, the user experience and social impact, and market development of different data-sharing models.

A Working Group (WG) with representatives from the transportation companies, other mobility service providers and app developers, vendors, academia and government will be formed, and with which TRP will regularly consult over a 6-month period, detailing alternative data-sharing models, researching the concerns of transportation data-owners and data-controllers, receive the opinions of industry specialists and academics, and review the legal framework in Hong Kong, searching for the common ground.

TRP will present a final report to the WG and to the Smart City Office, the Innovation & Technology Bureau (ITB) and the Transport Bureau. It will not make nor endorse recommendations, but it will highlight the most practical alternatives in terms of both the private sector and the common good. Further commitments, research reports, proof-of-concept pilots and pathfinder projects will be arranged according to WG and stakeholders’ interests.

INDUSTRY UPDATES & INSIGHTS

Here we have set out several developments during November that may be of interest and relevance.

Recent events in Hong Kong

Hong Kong’s Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) and the Transport Department (TB) held a Multi-stakeholder Exchange Forum for Public Transport Sector on November 12, 2018.

- Topics discussed included: "Promoting 'Transport for All'; "Promoting environmentally friendly public transport services"; and, "Using technology and opening up data for public transport services".
- Speakers noted the importance of open data to enhance the quality and efficiency of the public transport services.
- The press release can be viewed here.

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) commissions study into ethical values and principles to guide advanced data processing activities

- The Information Accountability Foundation (IAF) has been commissioned by the PCPD to explore ethics that could guide how data is processed in new technological developments such as artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data analytics, and bridge the gap between legal requirements and stakeholders’ expectations.
- “An ethical accountability framework, which consists of updated accountability elements and supports by a model Ethical Data Impact Assessment (EDIA) and a Process Oversight Model, is being proposed. Three data-stewardship values, namely being respectful, beneficial and fair were identified through working with 23 Hong Kong organisations. These values are very much consistent with Data Protection Principles of the Hong Kong Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance.”
- The goal of the study is to help embed data ethics into the daily operations of organisations based in Hong Kong to uphold the rights and protections of individuals.
- The full consultancy report can be accessed here.

Developments in international approaches to Smart City management
US Airports demand data-sharing from third-party taxis

- In response to loss of parking revenues at US airports due to the growing popularity of ride-sharing vehicles (e.g. Lyft, Uber), airports are not only charging ride-sharing services for access but are demanding detailed data about the frequency of such services.
- While ride-sharing companies are reluctant to share data (given passengers’ concerns about privacy and also not to give away competitive advantages) they have agreed to share data with the industry group American Association of Airport Executives “to act as a third-party data repository.” Is it now time for cities to take a similar approach?
- See the full story [here](#).

Whole-of-transport data processing platform and online marketplace developed in New Zealand

- The Transport Agency of New Zealand (NZTA) has developed a whole-of-transport data processing platform and online marketplace. The cloud-native Mobility Marketplace dynamically pulls together, integrates and crunches live data feeds from multiple transport operators and providers into a single standard data stream and channel.
- This capability removes barriers to the sharing and managing of real time transport information and lets the Mobility Marketplace act as an engine and enabler for developers to build MaaS apps, such as Choice in Queenstown and RideMate in Auckland.
- These apps offer travelers a single mobile service to visualise their transport choices and make informed decisions. The platform itself is stateless, reducing lag in processing, and no operator data is retained, stored or duplicated.
- More information can be viewed [here](#).

Government and private sector stakeholders discuss Data Privacy and Responsible Data Sharing for Advanced Transportation Research in the Philippines:

- On November 21, 2018, transportation and information professionals gathered to discuss how private companies and government agencies to work together to improve the country's transportation system and the overall quality of life of Filipinos.
- The forum was organised by the Transportation Operations and Management Assessment System (TOMAS) Laboratory in response to statistics that at least US$ 66.5 million (PHP 3.5 billion) is lost daily by the Philippines because of traffic congestion.
- “Technologies such as data analytics, image processing, and sensor technologies are being used to provide solutions to various transportation problems”.
- See [here](#) for more information.

**COMMUNICATIONS PREFERENCES**

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