

[View this email in your browser](#)



MOBILITY AND ACCESS IN AFRICAN CITIES | NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2021

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first MAC newsletter for 2021! In this newsletter you can read about the six recently approved MAC comparative research projects for 2021, opportunities for funding and upcoming events. You can also read an interview with one of our researchers Edna Odhiambo about her ongoing research project on minibus electrification.

MAC COMPARATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS 2021

The open call for research proposals in 2020, generated 45 applications from research teams spanning 15 countries in Africa. Out of these, VREF approved funding for six projects representing 11 cities in nine countries across the SSA region. The new research projects are:

- **Towards a disability-inclusive urban transport system in Accra and Nairobi: a policy practice agenda**, led by Enoch F. Sam, Faculty of Social Sciences Education, University of Education, Winneba, Ghana. Participants from Ghana, Kenya.
- **Platform politics and Silicon Savannahs: How new digital technologies shape mobility governance in African cities**, led by Rike Sitas, African Centre for Cities and University of the Western Cape, Centre for Humanities Research, University of Cape Town, South Africa. Participants from South Africa, Rwanda, Kenya, Italy.
- **Institutional transformations for sustainable urban mobilities: An exploration of changes in Addis Ababa and Kampala**, led by Njogu Morgan,

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. Participants from South Africa, Ethiopia.

- **Transport planning based on the principles of justice in Africa: piloting a proof of concept in Kigali and Blantyre**, led by Alphonse Nkurunziza, CoE in Transport Planning, Engineering & Logistics, University of Rwanda, Kigali, Rwanda. Participants from Rwanda, Malawi, South Africa and Israel.
- **Negotiating the control over transportation at the urban margins: dynamics in governance coproduction in informal mobility in Abidjan and Douala**, led by Vivien Meli Meli, University of Dschang-Cameroon, Cameroon. Participants from Cameroon and Cote d'Ivoire.
- **Mainstreaming Inclusivity in Urban Mobility Rel. Projects in the Cities of Lusaka and Nairobi**, led by Wilma S. Sichombo Nchito, University of Zambia, Zambia. Participants from Zambia, Kenya.

Full abstracts are available [here](#).

OPEN CALLS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDING

MAC Mobility Grants

VREF invites junior and senior researchers, Ph.D. students and advanced master students who are based at universities in Sub-Saharan Africa to apply for Mobility Grants for short-term (2-4 weeks) visits at universities in the region. The invitation is open until October 31, 2021 and visits should be carried out before December 31 the same year.

Read more in the [Mobility Grant Guidelines](#)

Five applications were approved as part of the Mobility Grants during 2020. These were awarded to the following researchers:

- Olajide O. Ojo, University of Ibadan, Nigeria (visiting Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, Kenya)
 - Liza Cirolia, African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, South Africa (visiting University of Witwatersrand, South Africa)
 - Ojekere Stanley, University of Ibadan, Nigeria (visiting Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Nairobi, Kenya)
 - James Adunya Omina, University of Nairobi (visiting University of Cape Town)
-

- Martin Juma Achola, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Nairobi, Kenya (visiting University of Nairobi, Kenya)

Lee Schipper Memorial Scholarship

The Schipper family and the WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities, are accepting applications for the 2021 Lee Schipper Memorial Scholarship for Sustainable Transport and Energy Efficiency, which awards exceptional candidates a maximum of \$10,000 each to advance transformative research in efficient and sustainable transport. One scholarship in 2021 will be dedicated to the support of a young researcher from the African continent, with funding from VREF. Applications will open shortly and are open until March 1st, 2021.

Read more [here](#) and access the application form [here](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Edna Odhiambo from the University of Nairobi

The potential of minibus electrification in Africa

Edna Odhiambo, Lecturer, School of Law, University of Nairobi, Kenya, talks about her team's project funded in the 2019 MAC Open Call, exploring the potential of electrifying minibuses in Nairobi, Cape Town and Cairo.

[Read the interview here.](#)

EVENTS AND CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Rescheduled: MAC Research Workshop in Accra, Ghana. *New date to follow!*

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, VREF has decided to reschedule the MAC Research Workshop on Mobility and Access in Accra, Ghana which was due to take place 17-21 May 2021. VREF and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana remain committed to holding the event in the future, and we hope by rescheduling we will eventually be able to meet in person in Accra.

Before announcing a new date for the event, we will monitor developments regarding the pandemic, vaccinations, travel restrictions and limitations on face-to-face gatherings.

MAC online events 2021 – call for input

In addition to the Research Workshop, we intend to hold a series of shorter online events during 2021, with the purpose of exchanging knowledge and building our MAC network. We are now accepting suggestions for these events – let us know what issues you would like to explore further and which format you prefer, to help us organise events that best meet the needs of the MAC researchers. Send your ideas to secretariat@vref.se

Transforming Transportation 2021: Reimagining Safe and Resilient Mobility for Recovery, *virtual conference 3 – 5 February 2021*

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the global transport sector and the people and businesses that rely on it in unprecedented ways. Transforming Transportation 2021 will bring together sustainable mobility world leaders from the public, private, academic and civil society spheres in a global virtual event to discuss the path forward. Co-hosted by World Bank Group and WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities. For more information and registration go to: transformingtransportation.org

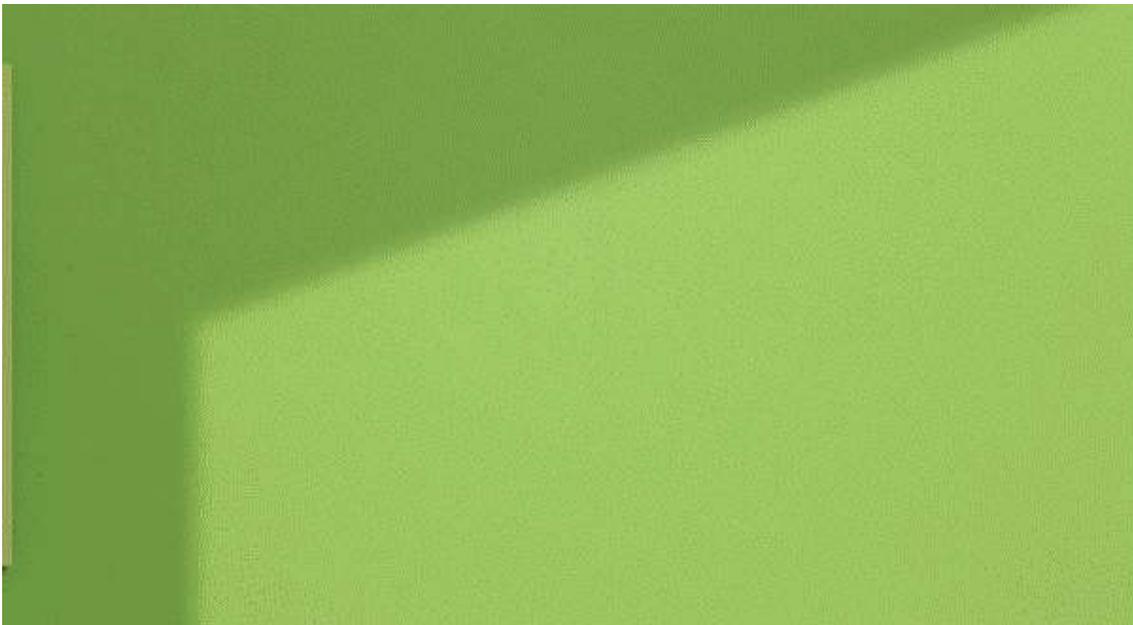
Mobilize Virtual Summit and the VREF Research Forum

Over 900 people attended last year's virtual Summit, and among them 150 researchers from the VREF community. If you missed the event, recordings from the Research Forum plenary sessions are now available here:

[Urban Transport Research in Times of Covid-19](#)

[Advancing the Agenda for Future Urban Transport](#)

PUBLICATIONS



The state of knowledge on Equitable and Sustainable Mobility

You didn't miss our recently launched MAC position papers? The five new commissioned papers provide an overview of current knowledge on issues related to equitable sustainable mobility and access in sub-Saharan Africa. Read more [here](#).

Do you have questions, thoughts or ideas related to the MAC programme, do not hesitate to contact us: secretariat@vref.se

Our web address is: www.vref.se

Our mailing address is:

Volvo Research and Educational Foundations

C/C Volvo Pension

AA12530, M2.7c

Gothenburg 40508

Sweden

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).