The event showcased how information and data that overlay our cities - the ‘infostructure’ - unlock infrastructure efficiency and drive smart and Big Data based transport and mobility solutions. Among the many innovation driven transport projects, the event stands out in that it considers informal transport, empowers user choice and encourages developing countries to foster data based transport planning.

„Innovation is essential for sustainable development“

Above all, women, children and people with limited access to transportation are suffering daily under the urban mobility crisis in their cities; at the same time, missing transport infrastructure and lacking public transport leads to cities falling behind and not being able to untap their potentials as driving forces of sustainable development.

The basic assumption underpinning the event was that innovation is no longer optional – innovation is essential for cities to make impact and improve their residents quality of life.

The challenges for Indian cities are representative for many emerging countries in Asia. Therefore the Hackathon and its outcomes are blueprints also for other contexts, while the event itself facilitates regional exchange.

Like in most growing cities not only in India, but also the ASEAN region, the 2.4 million inhabitants of Nagpur, face the problem of growing dependence on private vehicles. Currently, the local bus network, that is owned by the Nagpur Municipal Corporation and run by a private operator, is the only functional public transport system in the city. Nagpur is expected to have an operational metro by 2020.

Organized as part of the Government of India’s Urban Mobility India (UMI) conference, the TUMI Hackathon brought together more than 40 entrepreneurs, programmers, urban planners, civil engineers, and designers for 48 hours, brainstorming, conceptualizing and coding - with the aim to develop an app, positively transforming Nagpur’s mobility system. Their goal was to come up with solutions for first- and last mile connectivity. The event was jointly organized by TUMI, the Working Group Transport & Environment of the sector network TUEWAS (https://tuewas-asia.org/) and the GIZ supported project Integrated and Sustainable Urban Transport Systems in Smart Cities (SMART-SUT) in cooperation with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, Maha Metro, Nagpur Municipal Corporation, and WhereIsMyTransport (WIMT).
During this intense event, seven teams were able to come up with promising ideas. The most innovative and disruptive ideas were awarded and will receive further support to develop their products to market-readiness. Winning teams will also receive continued support and mentoring by TUMI, GIZ, TUEWAS and associated partner organizations.

Winning Ideas

1st Prize: ZERO

- Journey planning app with different booking options
- Encourages eco-friendly means of transportation
- Reward based emission credit system for „clean travel“

Tackling India’s growing carbon footprint, team ZERO focused on nudging commuters towards green transport modes. Their Journey Planning App provided commuters with different options for getting from point A to B. In order to nudge commuters to take eco-friendly modes they incorporated a rewards based emission credit system. The lower the emissions for a particular journey, the more credits are received. Rewards would include free credit based metro and bus rides or discounts in grocery stores. The app also integrated corporates, which participate in the credit programs, linking travel behavior but also credit financing to their CSR systems.

2nd Prize: Goodfellas

- Improves communication between transport authorities and commuters
- Messaging platform which collects information about delays

Goodfellas focussed on the importance of direct communication between transport authorities and commuters. They came up with a messaging platform that could push alerts to commuters informing them on delays, announcements and cancellations including all available means of public transportation. Commuters would register their common routes and modes that they make use of to ensure notifications are specific to their needs. The messages would be sent via SMS to allow for those without smartphones to be kept in the loop. The app aims at making public transport more reliable and making busses or the subway the preferred commuter choice, compared to the private car or auto-rikshaws.