

## What is MDS?

**MDS** (Mobility Data Specification) is an open-source specification stewarded by the Open Mobility Foundation (OMF) that **enables two-way communication** between **public agencies and shared mobility services** operating in the right of way. It supports the **digital management of shared mobility services** by standardising communication between cities and private mobility providers.



## MDS application domains

Used freely by over **200 providers** operating in over **1,200 cities** around the world, MDS was developed as a **free and open specification**.

### CORE AREAS

**Micromobility**  
*Scooters  
Bikeshare  
Cargo bikes*

**Passenger**  
*Taxis  
AV robotaxis  
Buses*

**Fleet**  
*Car share  
Sanitation  
City fleets*

**Delivery**  
*Robots  
App delivery  
Packages*

## Main functions

MDS enables cities to manage new mobility services through two core functions. First, policy can be shared digitally in real time using MDS in a **clear, computer-readable format** to remove ambiguity. Cities also **turn their operational rules into digital files** that publish rules around road closures, events, speed limiting, no parking, and geofencing.



Second, MDS enables structured data exchange between operators and public authorities. MDS can provide **data on**:

**Vehicle location and status**

**Vehicle characteristics**

**Trip details**

**Trip breadcrumbs**

**Stop details**

**Incidents and crashes**

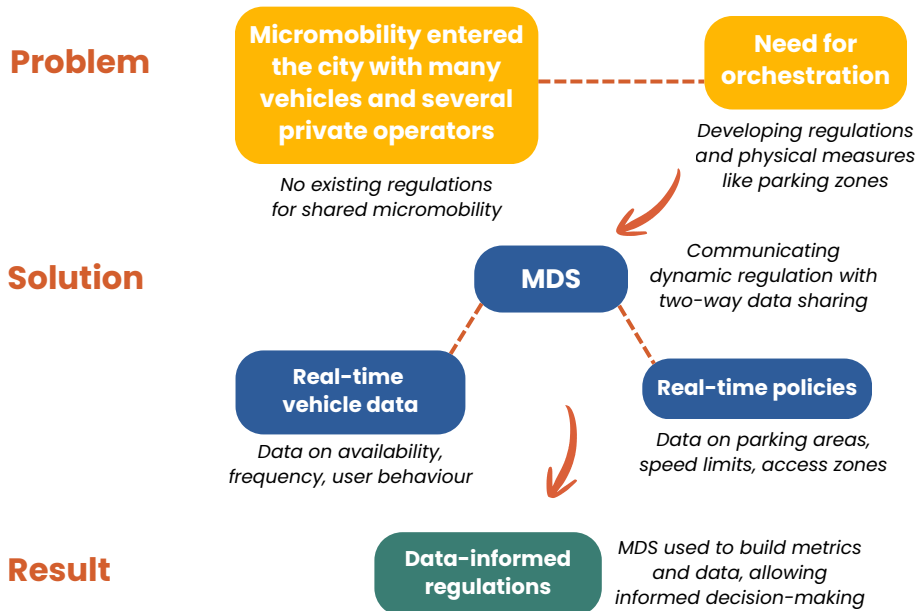
## Why use MDS?

More than **1,200 cities** and **public agencies** around the world have been successfully using MDS to manage shared mobility programmes and improve transport systems for the public's benefit

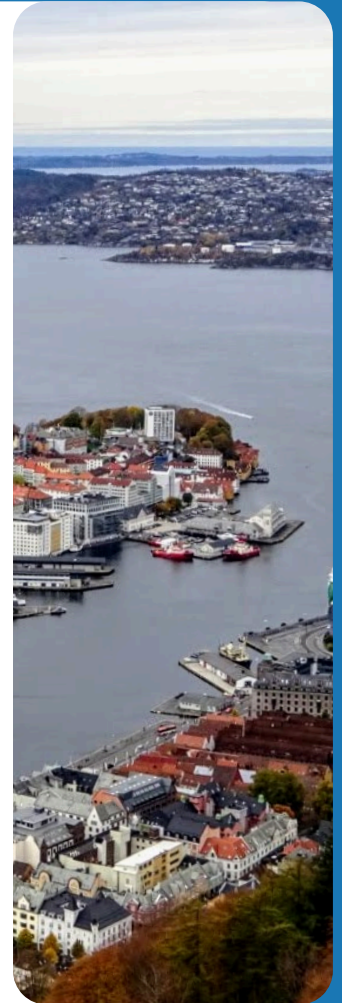
- ✓ Increasing **access and equity** by measuring service availability
- ✓ Better **infrastructure planning** thanks to route data that measure efficacy
- ✓ Ensuring **safety and compliance** by measuring compliance with rules
- ✓ Understand how mobility services support **public transit access**

## Example: Bergen, Norway

In 2020, **e-scooters** entered European cities and changed how people move—often **faster than regulation**. In Bergen, over a short span of time, there were several micromobility operators and over 6,000 vehicles in the streets.



To manage new transport modes, **Bergen turned to digital tools**. What began with e-scooters now extends to taxis, car sharing, and delivery robots, with pilots already underway. **MDS enables cities to connect with operators and steer new mobility services** towards safety, accessibility, and sustainability.



## Resources

Learn more about MDS and how to start implementing in your city with:

- ✦ **About MDS:** All about MDS and its benefits
- ✦ **MDS version guidance:** Informing the community of all the latest updates
- ✦ **Using MDS under GDPR:** Detailed guide to navigate privacy considerations
- ✦ **MDS Use Cases:** Database of city use cases for MDS
- ✦ **OMF website:** Learn more about the Open Mobility Foundation



Discover the [POLIS Capacity Lab](#)

Discover more data standards and specifications in urban mobility through **full access to the POLIS Capacity Lab's activities and content.**

**Become a POLIS member**