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FOR RELEASE: 3 pm ET/12 pm PT, May 10, 2023

OPEN MOBILITY FOUNDATION LAUNCHES MDS 2.0
Cities and companies build common digital language to improve mobility management for car share, delivery robots, taxis, and rideshare

MIAMI, FL (May 10, 2023) — The Open Mobility Foundation (OMF) announced today the release of MDS 2.0, a major upgrade to its globally adopted Mobility Data Specification (MDS). The announcement was made by OMF's Executive Director, Andrew Glass Hastings on the first day of the CoMotion MIAMI Conference, an annual gathering of global mobility and technology leaders.

"**The launch of MDS 2.0 is a significant milestone for the OMF**," said Andrew Glass Hastings, Executive Director for OMF. "**MDS is no longer just a data specification for micromobility and has any number of future applications as well. We're excited to see how cities and mobility providers will leverage the new specification to enhance their mobility services and improve the lives of the traveling public around the world.**"

MDS 2.0 is an open-source digital tool designed to assist cities in managing the public right of way, including sidewalks and streets, which are more complex and dynamic than ever before. The new MDS 2.0 features enhance flexibility to meet the ever-changing mobility landscape, providing a consistent framework for both public agencies and private

mobility providers to work together in service of the public good

As cities around the world continue to integrate technology-enabled mobility, it becomes crucial to ensure that these solutions meet the needs of everyone in a safe, equitable, and environmentally sustainable manner. The OMF believes that MDS 2.0 will continue to drive progress toward these goals.

"**As public agencies, we want to welcome innovation into our cities without compromising on key priorities like safety, access, and equity**," said Connie Llanos, Interim General Manager at Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) and member of the OMF Board of Directors. "**In Los Angeles, MDS allows us to provide more choice for people to get to where they need to go, like with our dockless mobility program that last year provided more than 8 million trips citywide including in communities long underserved by transportation options. We're looking forward to using the latest version to build on this great work.**"

MDS 2.0 represents a significant advancement in the OMF's mission to transform mobility in the digital age. Since 2018, MDS has been used by over 160 cities and public agencies worldwide to manage shared mobility programs, improve transportation systems, and enhance the safety and accessibility of public spaces. With MDS 2.0, these cities will benefit from new features that offer greater flexibility to manage new modes and capabilities that streamline information exchange and data analysis.

MDS 2.0's new features include:

- **Flexible Data Formats for New Modes**: MDS 2.0 offers flexible data formats that allow for easier adoption and use across different regions and use cases. The new version is capable of supporting a wider array of mobility use cases, such as passenger services (taxis and ridehail), car share, and delivery robots.
- **Policy Improvements**: The Policy API – which allows cities to set and digitally

share rules for how and where different shared services can operate and other high-level policy initiatives – is now expanded and refined to meet common use cases. These updates make it easier to understand and implement.

- **Agency/Provider Alignment:** These two primary APIs that make up MDS allow cities and providers to communicate in different ways. Now, both share the same data types, endpoints, and fields. Agency pushes data to cities, while Provider pulls data from operators. Aligning the data structures in these APIs streamlines the specification and eases implementation.

"The use of data and digital tools in NYC has been a game-changer, enabling us to advance pay equity for drivers, improve street safety, and tackle traffic congestion," said Ryan Wanttaja, First Deputy Commissioner for the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (NYC TLC). "**MDS has become a key component of public agencies' data and mobility management strategies. With the release of MDS 2.0, the specification continues to evolve and enhance its ability to help cities keep pace with future innovations in the space.**"

MDS 2.0 has been approved by OMF's Board of Directors and is now available for public use.

ABOUT THE OPEN MOBILITY FOUNDATION (OMF)

The Open Mobility Foundation (OMF) is a non-profit open-source foundation with a mission to transform the way cities and public agencies manage transportation in the modern era. The organization operates as a public-private partnership that brings together cities, mobility companies, and software vendors to collaboratively develop open source tools to manage mobility. The digital infrastructure created through this process facilitates digital-savvy approaches to regulation, scalable deployment of new mobility services, and the management of public space for the public good. The Open Mobility Foundation is led by cities and has the support of more than 65 members representing a diverse group of public agencies, technology companies, and mobility service providers.

ABOUT THE MOBILITY DATA SPECIFICATION (MDS)

The Mobility Data Specification (MDS) is a digital tool that helps cities to better manage transportation in the public right of way. At its core, MDS is a set of APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) which are protocols that allow data to flow securely between cities and providers. MDS standardizes communication and data-sharing between cities and private shared mobility providers, such as e-scooter and bike share companies. This allows cities to share and validate policy digitally, enabling vehicle management and better outcomes for residents. Plus, it provides mobility service providers with a framework they can reuse in new markets, allowing for seamless collaboration that saves time and money. To learn more about the Mobility Data Specification, please visit: https://www.openmobilityfoundation.org/about-mds/

ADDITIONAL QUOTES

"**While MDS 2.0 represents a significant advancement for the spec, it also represents another proof point for the value and efficacy of OMF's unique open-source governance model**," said Tom Maguire, Director of the Streets Division at San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and member of the OMF Board of Directors. "**Through this model, we can bring together the right stakeholders to solve problems in service of the public good and help public agencies keep up with the pace of change.**"

"**Cities around the world are working to improve their accessibility in a time where mobility trips are increasing. By connecting physical and digital infrastructure, cities are able to better manage mobility challenges, modernize infrastructure, and improve safety. The OMF joins all these priorities together, building digital tools that help cities better manage their mobility challenges. These digital tools are designed following all European GDPR laws to guarantee the privacy of citizens. In this way cities are able to say 'yes' to emerging technologies and innovative approaches**," said Gemma Schepers, Project Manager

Smart Mobility for Innovation Office (CTO) of the City of Amsterdam

"This is truly exciting: by enabling public agencies and mobility operators to efficiently communicate the digital rules of the game on the public right-of-way, the OMF's new digital tools will accelerate the rollout of innovative new services that can benefit all citizens," said John Rossant, CEO of CoMotion.

"Digital infrastructure is essential to the City of Bergen's micromobility program, and MDS is at the heart of it. As we invest in physical infrastructure, we must also continue to develop digital infrastructure that allows cities to manage mobility in the modern era," said Lars Petter Klem, Project Manager of Sustainable Mobility for the City of Bergen. **"MDS 2.0 is a major advancement, providing added flexibility to help us improve safety and sustainability, and meet key policy goals for micromobility, for car sharing, and beyond."**