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**MOBILITY AND ACCESS IN AFRICAN CITIES** | NEWSLETTER | MAY 2021

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the second MAC newsletter for 2021! Among other news, we are launching a new call for research projects, introducing two new VREF initiatives and several exciting webinars. You can also read an interview from one of our currently supported projects on motorcycle taxis.

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## OPEN CALLS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDING

### Call for Comparative Research Projects

The third call for project proposals is now open. VREF invites sub-Saharan university-based researchers to submit project proposals for projects that will be implemented during 2022. Deadline for submission of applications is 15 September 2021.

Read more in the [Call for Proposals](#)

### 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](#)

One application has been approved as part of the Mobility Grants so far during 2021:

✶ Moses Mwale, PhD Student, University of Johannesburg (visiting University of Cape Town, South Africa)

## **Launch of a new VREF research program on Informal Public Transport**

Join us as VREF is launching its new research programme on Informal Public Transport. The webinar *The future of research on informal public transport, shared mobility and paratransit* will be a kick-off for VREF's process of developing a long-term program for research, education and communication in the area. We welcome all who are interested in knowledge and innovation in paratransit, shared mobility, informal public transport, etc. to join the event, and express your interest in taking part in the consultative process over the coming year.

When: 9 June at 17.00 – 18:30 CET.

Please register [here](#)

## **Launch of a new VREF research program on Walking as a Mode of Transport**

VREF is launching its new research program on Walking during the Walk21Seoul virtual conference. Join us for a session on *The Future of Research for Walking* bringing together academics from around the world to focus on the critical questions we need to be framing and exploring over the next few years about walking as a mode of transport. The session will seek to foster collaboration and engagement on what are the knowledge gaps and the opportunities for addressing them.

When: May 27 at 10:30- 11:50 CET

Please register [here](#)

## **MAC Research Forum 1 - How can we understand the mobility practices of transport users in SSA – and are these practices linked to urban planning?**

This year, the MAC Research Forum is held virtually through a series of webinars. The first was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, gathering over 40 researchers from the MAC Network. The next Forum, taking place on June 16<sup>th</sup>, will focus on new technologies, business models and practices in transforming today's mobility services.

## **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.

## SPOTLIGHT ON...

### Best practices in the urban motorcycle taxi sector

*Okadas and Boda Bodas play a key role for mobility and access in urban (and rural) sub-Saharan Africa. We interviewed Prof. Patrick Hayombe at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Kenya, about the project Wheels of Change which aims to find*

[Read the interview here.](#)

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## PUBLICATIONS



### MAC Position Papers 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](#).

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

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