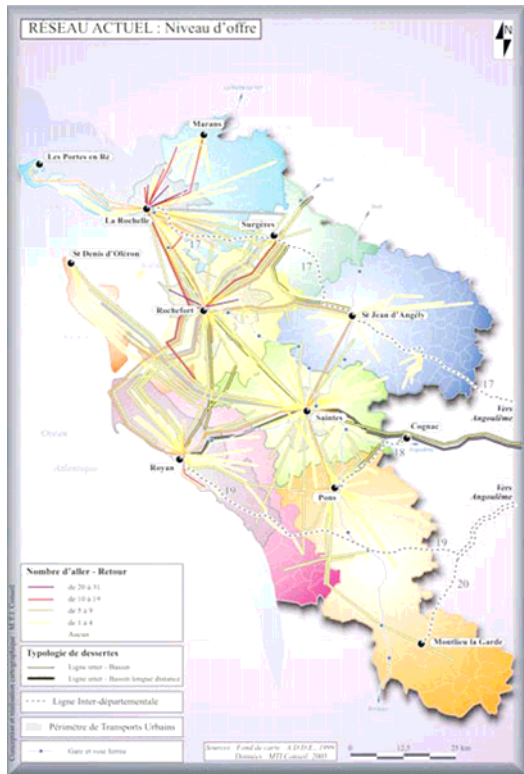


REPAIR Good Practice Example: Charente-Maritime, Inter-Urban mobility





Old 'Star' system



New organisation, in place since 2008

The department of Charente-Maritime is in charge of the organisation of local public transport. It has several contracts with private transport companies and since 2008 manage the organisation of transportation.

Since 2008 there is a new organisation of the public transportation system in Charente-Maritime. Before 2008, the public transport was based on a "Star System".

Before, transport was organised around the big towns leaving some areas uncovered. Now, the General Council of Charente-Maritime have created a network with main lines connecting all big towns and secondary lines for rural areas (there are 20 mains lines). The secondary lines are available on request for the regular price of public transport.

- The aims of this organisation of public transportation by bus in Charente-Maritime are:
- Regular lines of buses to link the main urban areas
 - Scholl bus lines allow the use of school bus for travellers (commuters)
 - Transport on request: taxi services, dial-a-ride
 - Rates/low fare: 2 € par zone, special fare for commuters, children, families, low-income households
 - Implementation of hubs: train, ferries, bikes, rental cars, buses

There are three levels of lines:

The first level is regular lines. The network for commuters and commercial travellers, that is also open to schools. Charente-Maritime is divided into 9 zones. The fare is 2 € per zone with a maximum fare of 6 €. Several journeys per day and per line are possible depending on the fare. Special high-speed lines for intercity journeys are available: La Rochelle, Rochefort, Royan, Surgères, Saint Pierre d'Oléron.

The second level consists on a dense network for school buses (254 secondary lines). School buses are open to commercial travellers (10%).

It is an opportunity for commuters to use school buses if they do not live in urban areas.

Urban communities (La Rochelle, Rochefort, Royan, Saintes) are competent to organise transportation in their territories.

There is, at least, one service in the morning and a return journey at the end of the afternoon. For commuters, the fare is the same as for regular lines. For school children the fare is 41€ per year.

- Finally, the third level consists of taxi services and "dial-a-ride" services. Taxi and "Dial-a-ride" services are available in low-density areas like rural areas and on the islands ("Ile de ré" and "île d'Oléron"). Same fare as regular lines. "Volunteer car service" is organised by an association and available everywhere. The main use is for urban areas and intercity journeys. You can use this offer by phone or Internet. Also, in the islands we have developed a specific transport for the summer period. The service is used to connect beaches to the villages.

An in-depth feasibility study for implementation of Hubs (a project for a railway station development in La Rochelle) is finished and Implementation is planned for 2013. There are several alternatives to minimise car use and transport growth. There are other examples like implementation of small hubs for buses, bikes (a bike park in town), ships (in island, there are small hubs: ferries and bikes to rent in a harbour) and bikes and electric cars in self-service with a card can be purchased. This project is lead by La Rochelle urban community with a financial part from General Council of Charente-Maritime and the Region of Poitou-Charentes.

Each year, La Rochelle urban community organise what we call "journée sans voiture" (Journey without cars). The centre of the city is completely closed. Just people on bicycles or using buses are allowed in the inner city. Also, there are several activities dedicated to explaining the necessity to reduce the use of cars and to use public transportation or bikes.

In September the Department organises, the day of public transportation, with a very attractive price: 1€ a day for any distance.

The Syndicate of mobility and sustainable development syndicate (Syndicat de la mobilité et du développement durable) has existed since 1999. It is made up of La Rochelle urban community, Rochefort urban community, Royan urban community, Saintes (Syndicate of urban transport), General council of Charente-Maritime and the support of the Region Poitou-Charentes.

The aim is to develop an intermodal title of transport in all the department territory.

The three missions are:

- To coordinate the public transport for more efficacy (connection, frequency of services...)
- To harmonise the tarification and simply make the payment with only one ticket to travel in all the departments (bus, bike, boat, train). The name of this ticket is "Pass'Partout 17".
- To create a multimodal system of information for commuters (call platform).

Our local action plan focuses on access to military sites using sustainable means of transport. This area covers six fortifications, Saint-Martin de Ré, fort Vauban in Fouras, fort Liédot in island of Aix, Brouage, Fort Chapus and Château d'Oléron.

1- Public transportation: if you want to visit our county you must arrive by speed train or by plane in main cities. Then, you can use intercity buses, ferries, bikes and electric cars in self-service.

2- Sail yachts: we want to promote the use of sailboats to visit the naval fortifications. They are often close to a marina. It is possible to rent a yacht with a skipper for a week. Sailing in the "pertuis charentais" is popular.



3- Minimise the use of cars. For example, the cars are not allowed on the island of Aix. There is special bus (velobus) where you can bring your bike with you.

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