The Open Mobility Foundation Overview

About the Open Mobility Foundation

The Open Mobility Foundation (OMF) is an open-source software foundation that governs a platform called the "Mobility Data Specification" (MDS). MDS is comprised of a set of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and code projects that enable standard communications between cities and users of the public right-of-way (i.e. e-scooter companies or city-run bus services) to improve safety and protect residents. Now used by over 50 cities, MDS was originally developed by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation to help manage dockless micro-mobility programs (including shared dockless e-scooters).

Led by Cities: Foundation Structure & Membership

Led by cities, the OMF is designed to understand and take on technical issues surrounding emerging mobility technology in communities nationwide. By bringing together stakeholders including municipalities, companies, technologists, and experts, the Foundation will shape urban mobility management tools that help people move safely, efficiently, and effectively.

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors that consists of public entities that are responsible for managing the public right-of-way. This allows cities both ownership and authority over the strategic and operational aspects of the Foundation. The Foundation is structured so that all members, including Public members, Non-Public members (such as commercial organizations and nonprofit partners), may contribute to projects or be appointed as a liaison to a committee. The OMF's approach to projects is described in more detail below.

Founding Members

Growing from work pioneered at the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, the founding municipal members of the coalition are **Austin, Chicago, Los Angeles, Louisville, Miami Dade, Minneapolis, New York City DOT, New York City Taxi and Limo Commission, Philadelphia, Portland, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Monica, Seattle,** and **Washington DC.** Non-founding Municipal members will be solicited throughout the life of the Foundation. Additional board members will be added periodically as the number of municipal memberships increase.

In addition to cities and public agencies, the Open Mobility Foundation is founded in part by The Rockefeller Foundation -- a premier science-driven philanthropy focused on promoting the well-being of humanity throughout the world. The Open Mobility Foundation also recognizes

the importance of harnessing the global community of researchers and academic institutions to address the transportation and mobility priorities facing cities. Initially joining the OMF academic advisory board is MetroLabs, a national collaborative of more than 40 cities and 50 universities focused on advancing civic innovation.

Non-Municipal Members

The Foundation will invite commercial members into the MDS Foundation to ensure that OMF benefits from the latest technical thinking around urban mobility management. This includes companies who wish to build MDS-compliant products for the city to consider for-purchase, vehicle companies building products that may consume services provided by MDS applications in cities, and regulated providers.

Partnership with OASIS

The Open Mobility Foundation is partnered with OASIS, a leader in the open-source and software standards industry. OMF is hosted by OASIS's Open Development Foundation.

One of the most respected, member-driven standards bodies in the world, OASIS offers projects—including open source projects—a path to standardization and de jure approval for reference in international policy and procurement. OASIS has a broad technical agenda encompassing cybersecurity, privacy, cryptography, cloud computing, IoT—any initiative for developing code, APIs, specifications, or reference implementations can find a home at OASIS. Founded in 1993, OASIS is a C-6 non-profit organization.

A global 5,000+ member consortium that represent the marketplace of public and private sector technology leaders, users and influencers, OASIS promotes industry consensus and produces worldwide standards for security, Internet of Things, cloud computing, energy, content technologies, emergency management, mobility and other areas.

Foundation Participation by Individual Contributors

As an open-source software foundation, the Open Mobility Foundation welcomes a variety of methods of participation and contribution. Interested Individuals can become Contributors, who participate in activities like software development or working in committees that focus on issues related to the Open Mobility Foundation's mission.

To become a Contributor, an individual reviews and signs the Contributor Guidelines. These guidelines ensures that Contributors abide by the Bylaws, code of conduct, and ensures that the work contributed to OMF by an individual can be redistributed as open source code, or as documents that can be used by others.

Foundation Software Applications

The primary work product of the Foundation is the governance and development open-source software and related policies, to codify the data model, syntax, semantics, and operational usage of a set of interfaces between software subsystems. The Open Mobility Foundation will initially focus on the governance and evolution of MDS.

While the OMF board has ultimate authority on all tools, processes, and projects that are part of the Foundation, Contributors may submit, create, review, or edit any software, documentation, and test cases under the Foundation's purview. Everything that Contributors develop or contribute is licensed to the Foundation under the terms of the Apache Software License, which is a permissive free software license written by the Apache Software Foundation.

About MDS

The OMF is based on a platform called "Mobility Data Specifications" (MDS). Over the last two years, cities like Los Angeles, Santa Monica, San Jose, and Austin built MDS - a open-source software to manage scooters and other new forms of transport - to help manage dockless micro-mobility programs (including dockless e-scooters).

MDS is comprised of a set of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) that create standard communications between cities and private companies to improve their operations.The APIs allow cities to access data that can inform real-time traffic management and public policy decisions to enhance safety, equity, and quality of life. More than 50 cities across the United States -- and dozens across the globe -- already use MDS to manage micro-mobility services.