EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - URBAN TRANSITIONS ALLIANCE ROADMAPS:

SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITION PATHWAYS FROM INDUSTRIAL LEGACY CITIES

The Urban Transitions Alliance was built on the premise that by connecting industrial legacy cities from the US, Europe and China through their transition stories and visions of sustainable urban development, common challenges and transition pathways would emerge. The Alliance was designed to provide the infrastructure and support to advance collaboration between the cities.

Over the past two years, the Alliance has grown into a strong network of city practitioners focused on exchanging and co-creating sustainable solutions for communities faced with a transition not of their choosing.

In the second half of the 20th century, these cities were increasingly faced with the decline or progressive phase-out of their signature industries. The impact of deindustrialization on local economies relying on singular industrial sectors caused a fundamental crisis.

Today, industrial legacy cities are crafting new identities and developing their own paths towards more vibrant, sustainable economies and more resilient urban systems. The knowledge captured in this report covers four Transition Roadmaps that emerged from the collaborative work of the Alliance, in the fields of Infrastructure, Energy, Mobility, and Social transition.

INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSITION: LEVERAGING ADAPTIVE REUSE AND INFRASTRUCTURE REDEVELOPMENT FOR URBAN RENEWAL

Alliance cities are leveraging the transition of physical industrial infrastructure both current and disused to foster urban renewal efforts and address pressing environmental issues.

This roadmap includes examples of how Alliance cities are:

SPEARHEADING INFRASTRUCTURE REUSE

DRIVING INFRASTRUCTURE REDEVELOPMENT

ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSITIONS

ENERGY TRANSITION: SETTING THE FOUNDATION OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS WITH ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Successful transition cities face two competing realities - first, that activities that they are seeking to promote - such as economic growth, digitization, and increased urban electrification - will necessarily result in increased energy use. However, these cities also understand the need to embrace renewable resources and pursue aggressive efficiency goals.

This roadmap includes examples of how Alliance cities are:

PIONEERING CITY-LED ACTION

EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

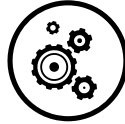**SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIPS THAT SCALE**

MOBILITY TRANSITION: OVERCOMING BARRIERS THAT PREVENT A CHANGE OF MODAL SPLIT

Alliance cities are building on legacy assets like railways lines and spacious streets to implement policies supporting walking, cycling and public transport but in many cases are missing the citizen buy-in to make these policies effective.

This roadmap includes examples of how Alliance cities are:

RAISING AWARENESS

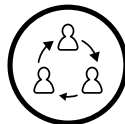**INCREASING CONVENIENCE**

CHANGING HABITS

SOCIAL TRANSITION: BUILDING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES BY RECONNECTING CITIZENS TO RESOURCES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Alliance cities have recognized the challenge of reorienting their economic model in a way that benefits both people and the environment.

This roadmap includes examples of how Alliance cities are supporting:

LOCAL PRODUCTION

COLLABORATIVE CONSUMPTION

RESOURCEFUL JOBS

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Small actions for big changes:** When resources are limited, identify key leverage points to locate projects so that they can have a bigger impact.

- **Urban transitions are holistic:** Integrated approaches that acknowledge that urban transitions concern all systems and communities in a city ensure that municipal projects and policies reach their full potential.

- **Partnerships are key:** All transitions cities reported that strategic partnerships - in one way or another - improved their projects and ensured buy-in from key stakeholders.

- **Embrace the unique local fabric:** When re-thinking their urban systems, many Alliance cities have transformed legacy infrastructure into new assets that benefit local communities.

- **Seek economic diversity:** Having experienced the failure of large industries as single drivers of growth, Alliance cities are committed to build more resilient economies by promoting a diverse, decentralized landscape of enterprises and strengthening local value chains.

- **Urban transitions are constant:** Alliance cities have learned to embrace the opportunities of ongoing urban transitions and actively shape their local environments.

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