



# SmartCityBus - A Platform for Smart Transportation Systems

Georgios Bouloukakis, Chrysostomos Zeginis, Nikolaos Papadakis, Kostas Magoutis, George Christodoulou, Chrysanthi Kosyfaki, Konstantinos Lampropoulos, Nikos Mamoulis



WSDM'23 - Smart City Day Talks – Singapore, March 3, 2023

# SmartCityBus – Key points in today's talk

- Increase **context awareness** in transportation-related spaces
  - More detail on space structure, occupancy, passenger needs
- **More data** will be collected vs. today's smart-transportation systems
  - Context-brokers: are they suitable for large and diverse types of data?
- **Open data**
  - Can transportation-related open data be leveraged *in the wild*?

# Smart transportation systems lack full context awareness

- Current data models capture limited context
  - IoT ecosystem on transportation spaces can be rich
  - Vendor lock-in, focus on using specific devices

## ➤ SmartCityBus solution

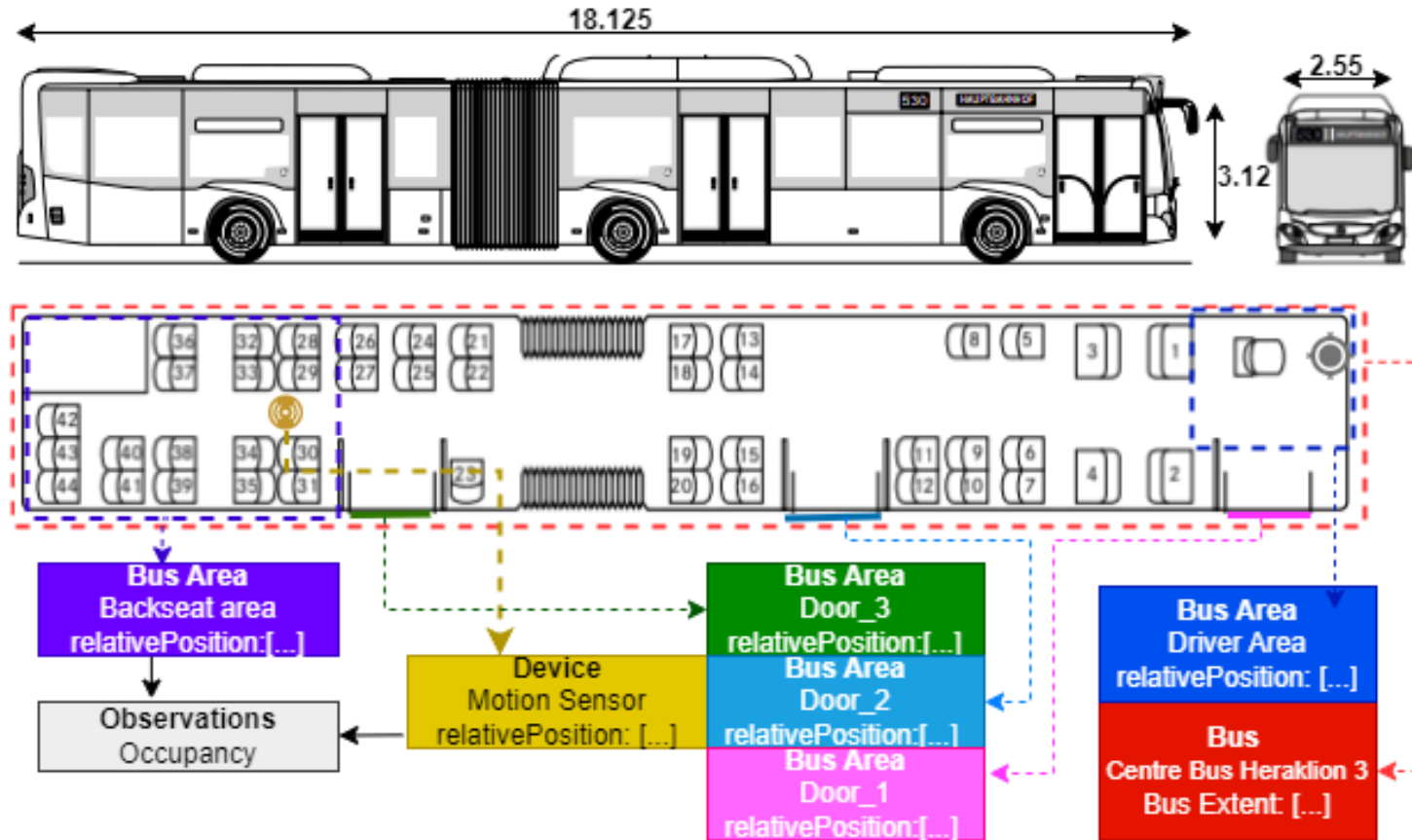
- **Extend NGSI-LD data model** to represent both static and dynamic context properties of transportation systems

[BZ+22] G. Bouloukakis, C. Zeginis, N. Papadakis, P. Zervakis, D. Plexousakis, and K. Magoutis. *Enabling IoT-enhanced Transportation Systems using the NGSI Protocol*. In 12th IoT Conference, pp. 33-40, Delft, NL, November 7-10, 2022



**NGSI-LD** (Next Generation Service Interface-Linked Data): A data model specification developed by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) to enable the interoperability and exchange of data in smart city and IoT contexts

# Increase context awareness by modeling the interior of buses



Modeling the interior of buses would have various benefits, e.g.

- Are the seats for disabled people fully occupied? (Send another bus in case a need arises)
- Are there specific areas inside the bus with too many (or no) passengers? (Adjust the A/C function)

# Simple NGSI-LD transportation models exist



**Smart  
Data Models**

A GLOBAL PROGRAM LED BY



Available models cover:

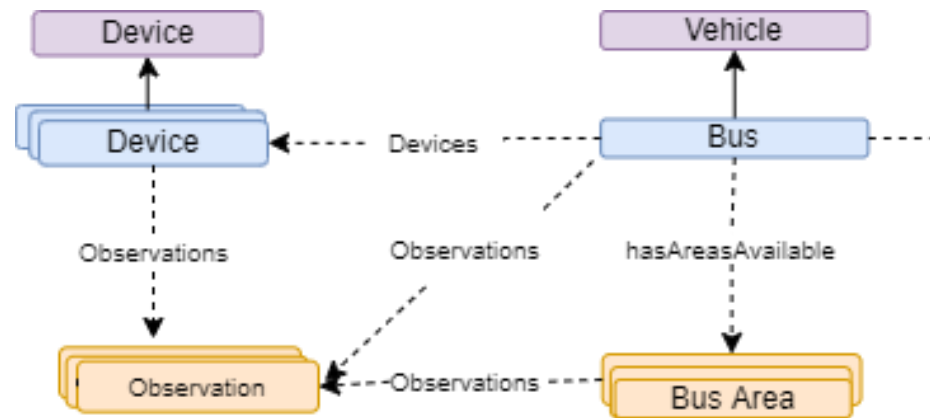
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Urban Mobility

<https://smartdatamodels.org>

# Enhancing NGSI transportation models

Extended the following entities:

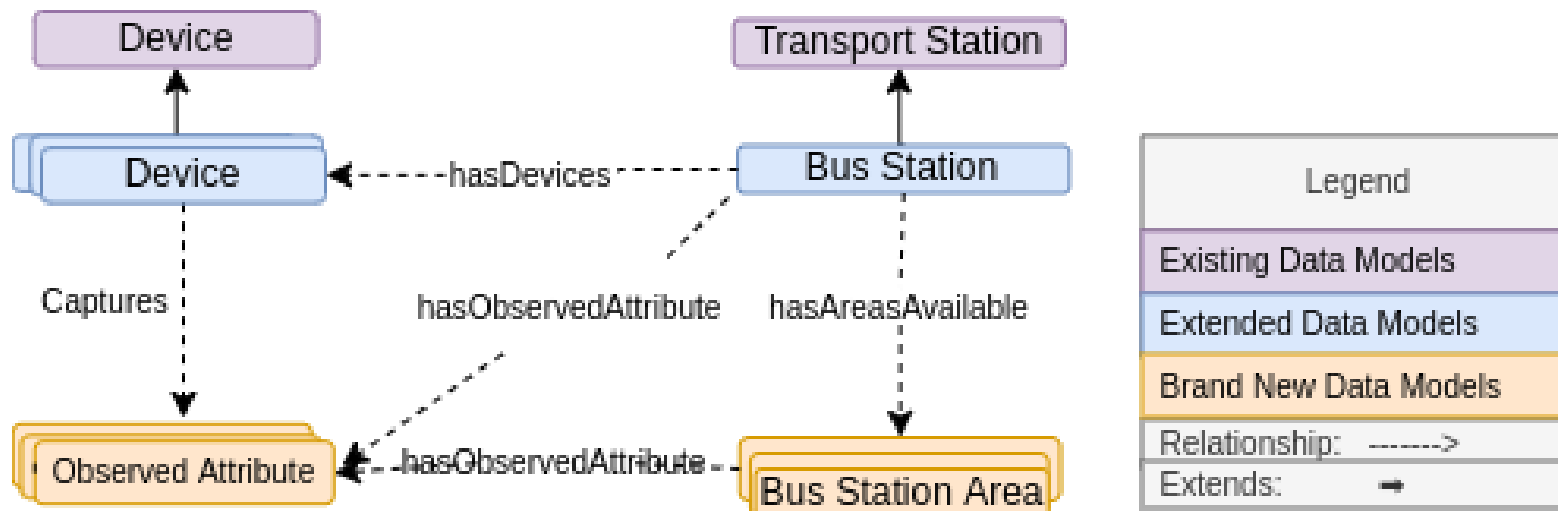
- **Vehicle Model:** Includes all common properties to vehicle instances of the same type
- **Vehicle:** models a specific vehicle



```
1 ...
2 "type": "Bus Area",
3 "name": "Driver Area"
4 "r1 ...
5 2 "type": "Device",
6 3 "category": "sensor",
7 4 "captures": ["urn:ngsild:Observation_N03"],
8 5 "depth": 3,
9 6 "deviceState": "ok",
0 "h 7 "direction": "Outlet",
1 8 "ipAddress": [
2 .. 9 "99.999.999.99" ],
3 "t 10 "value": "15",
4 "n11 ...
5 "r1 ...
6 1 ...
7 2 "id": "urn:ngsild:Observation_N01",
8 3 "type": "Observed Attribute",
9 4 "name": "Occupancy",
0 ... 5 "observationDateTime": "2022-02-21T07:36:17+0000",
1 6 "value": 15,
2 ...
3 7 ...
```

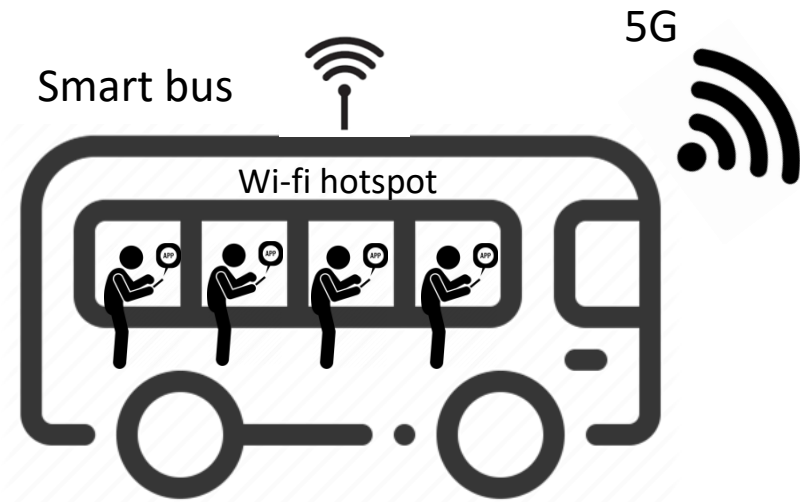
<https://github.com/smart-data->

# Similarly for stops and stations





# Enhanced models bring out new capabilities

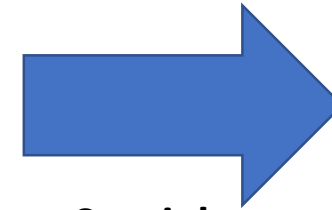


NGSI-LD Bus model

Smart bus stop



NGSI-LD Bus Station model



**Spatial  
Context  
Properties**



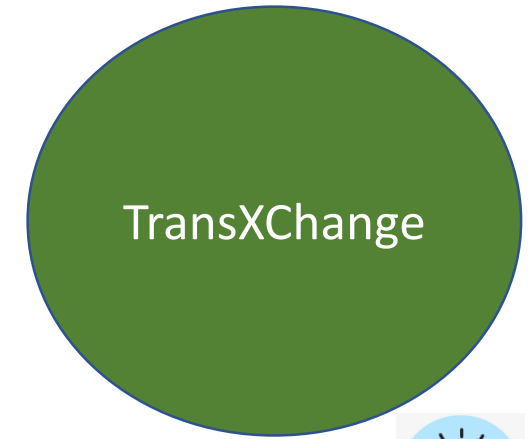
**Accessibility Application**



# Prevalent smart transportation data models



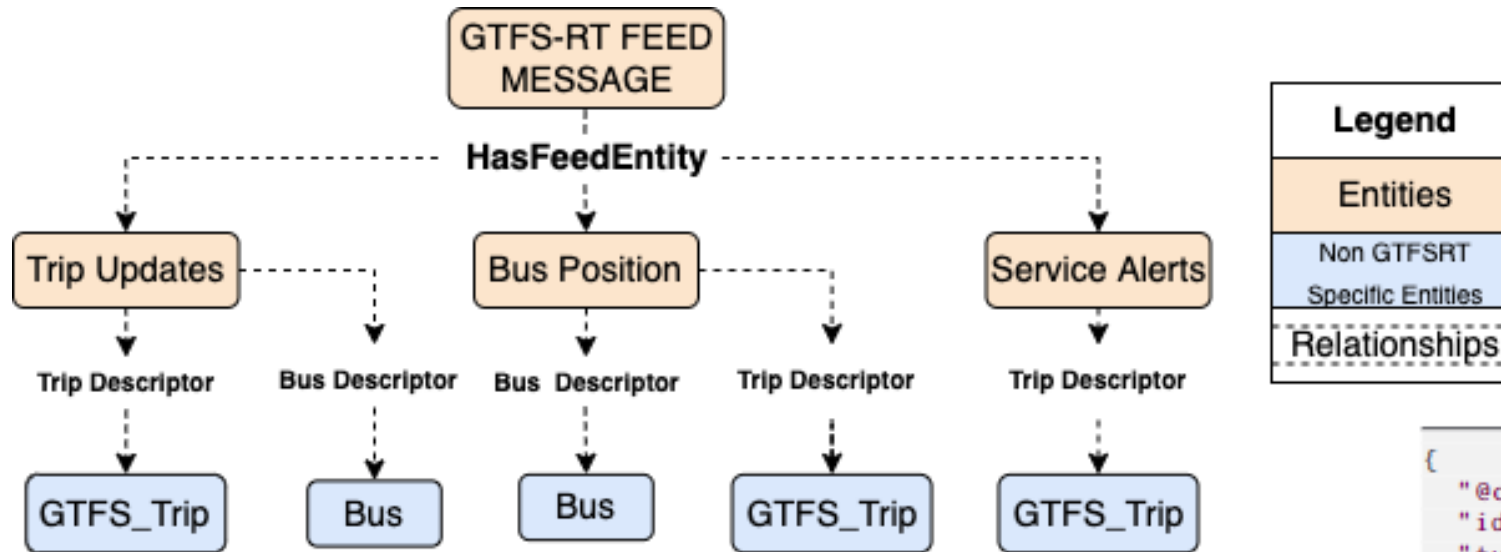
GTFS/RT



**GTFS-RT** (General Transit Feed Specification - Real Time) is an open data format specification for real-time public transportation data, developed by Google in collaboration with several transit agencies. It is an extension of the GTFS format, which is used to describe static transit schedules

**TransXChange** is a standard XML-based data format for exchanging public transportation data primarily in the UK. Developed by the UK Department for Transport (DfT) in collaboration with the transport industry and local authorities

# Taking an extra step: GTFS-RT to NGSI-LD mapping

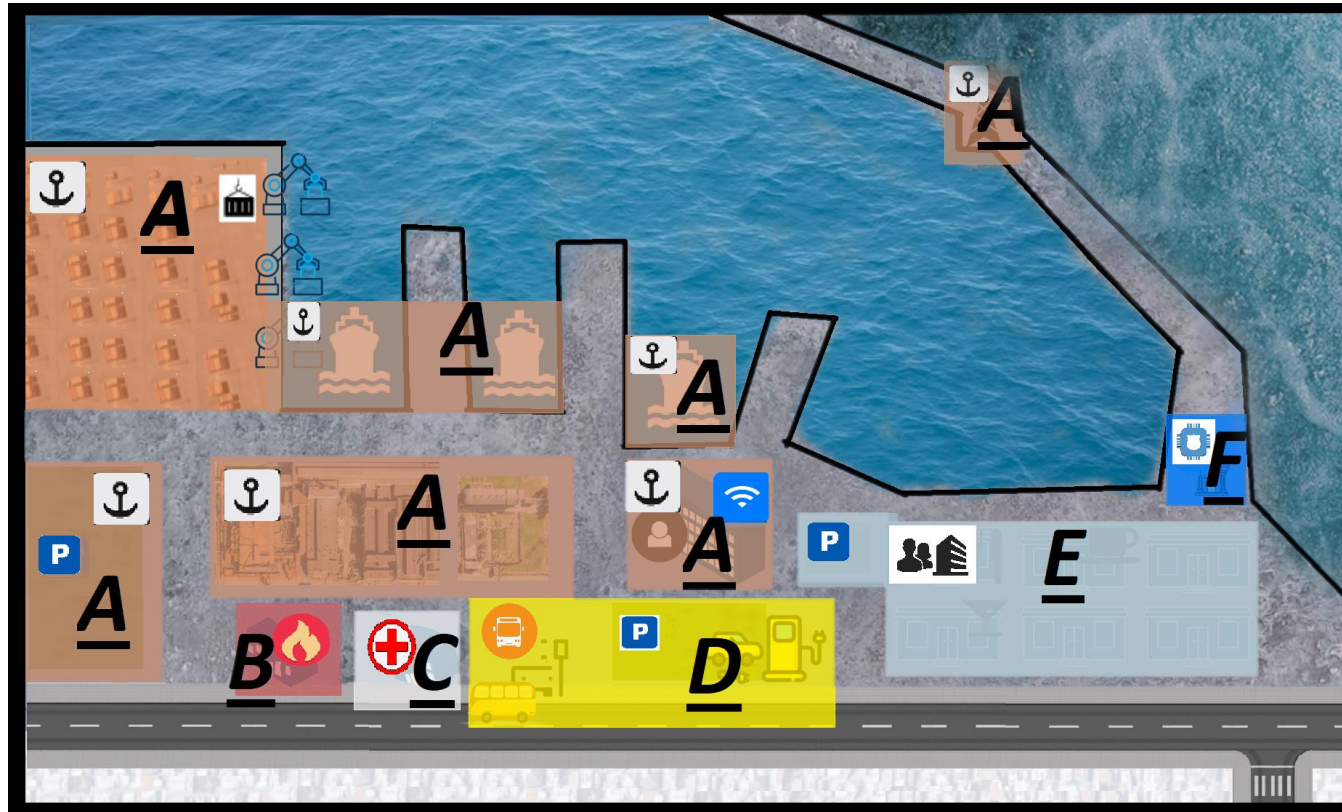


```
1 1 { //FeedMessage
2     1: "1.0" //gtfs_realtime_version
3     2: 0 //incrementality
4     3: 1644784163 //timestamp
5 }
```



```
{
  "@context": "https://locationofourcontext.jsonld",
  "id": "urn:ngsi-ld:FeedMessage:8314",
  "type": "FeedMessage",
  "FeedHeader": {
    "type": "Property",
    "value": {
      "gtfs_realtime_version": "1.0",
      "incrementality": 0,
      "timestamp": 1644784163,
    }
  },
  "hasFeedEntity": {
    "type": "Relationship",
    "object": ["urn:ngsi-ld:TripUpdates:1"]
  },
}
```

# Smart public transportation should be integrated into city-wide smart communities



A: Port authority

B: City Fire Dept.

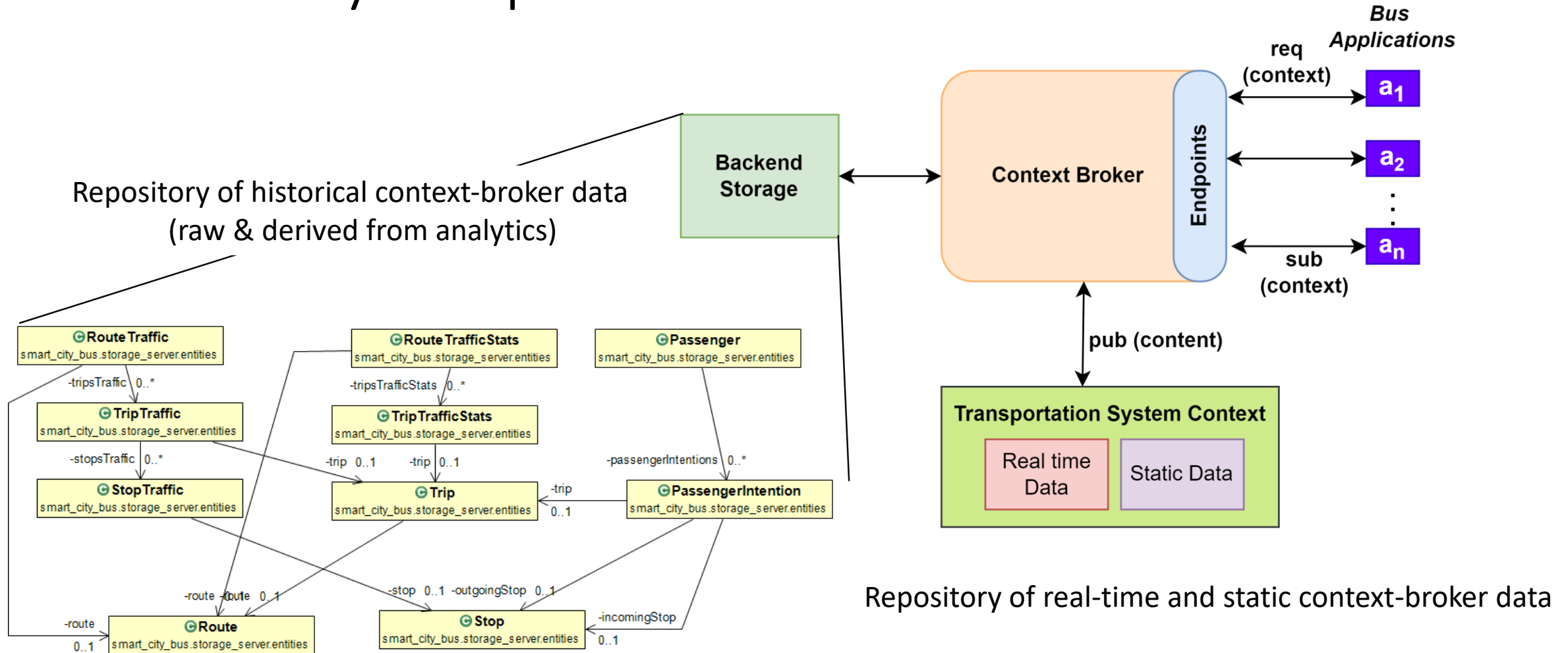
C: First aid

D: City bus terminal

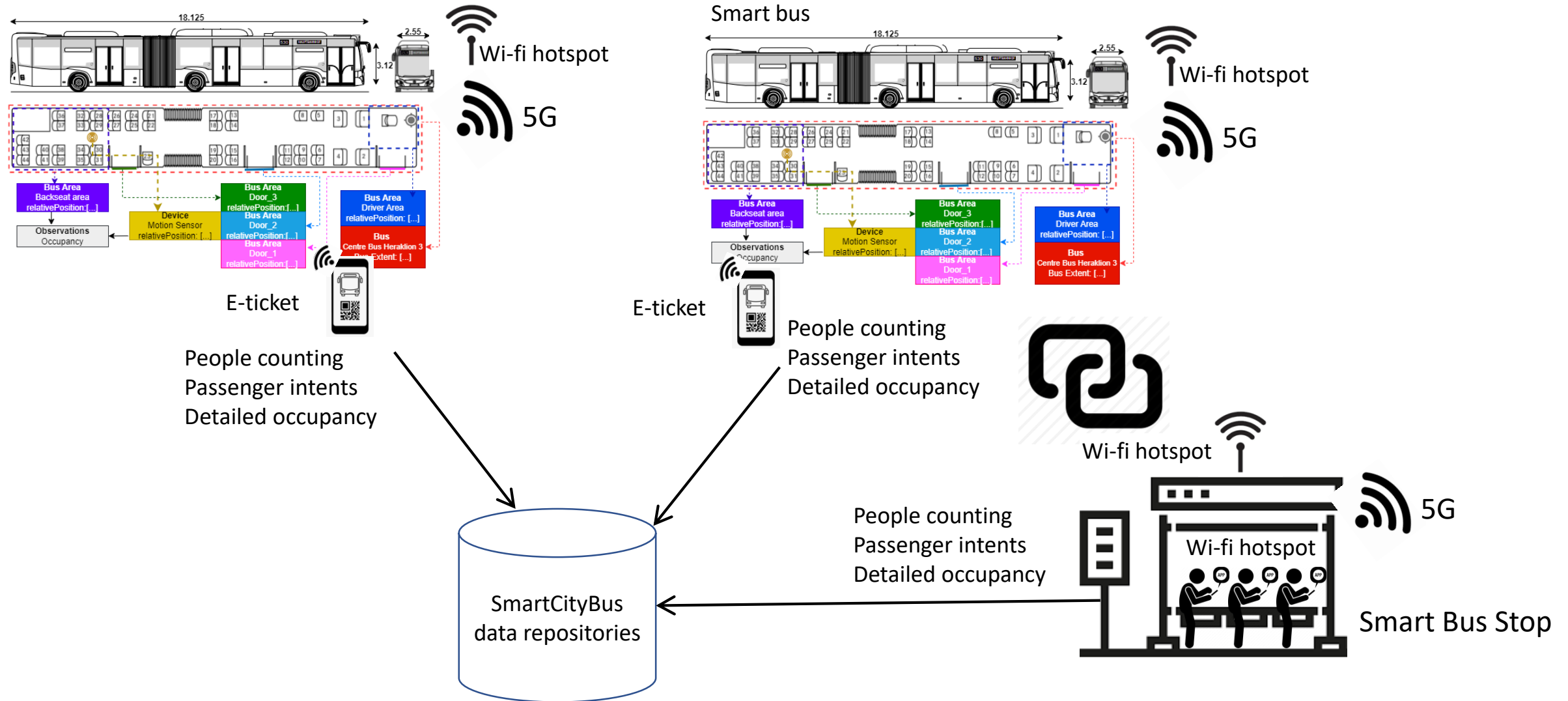
E: Passenger terminal

F: Police

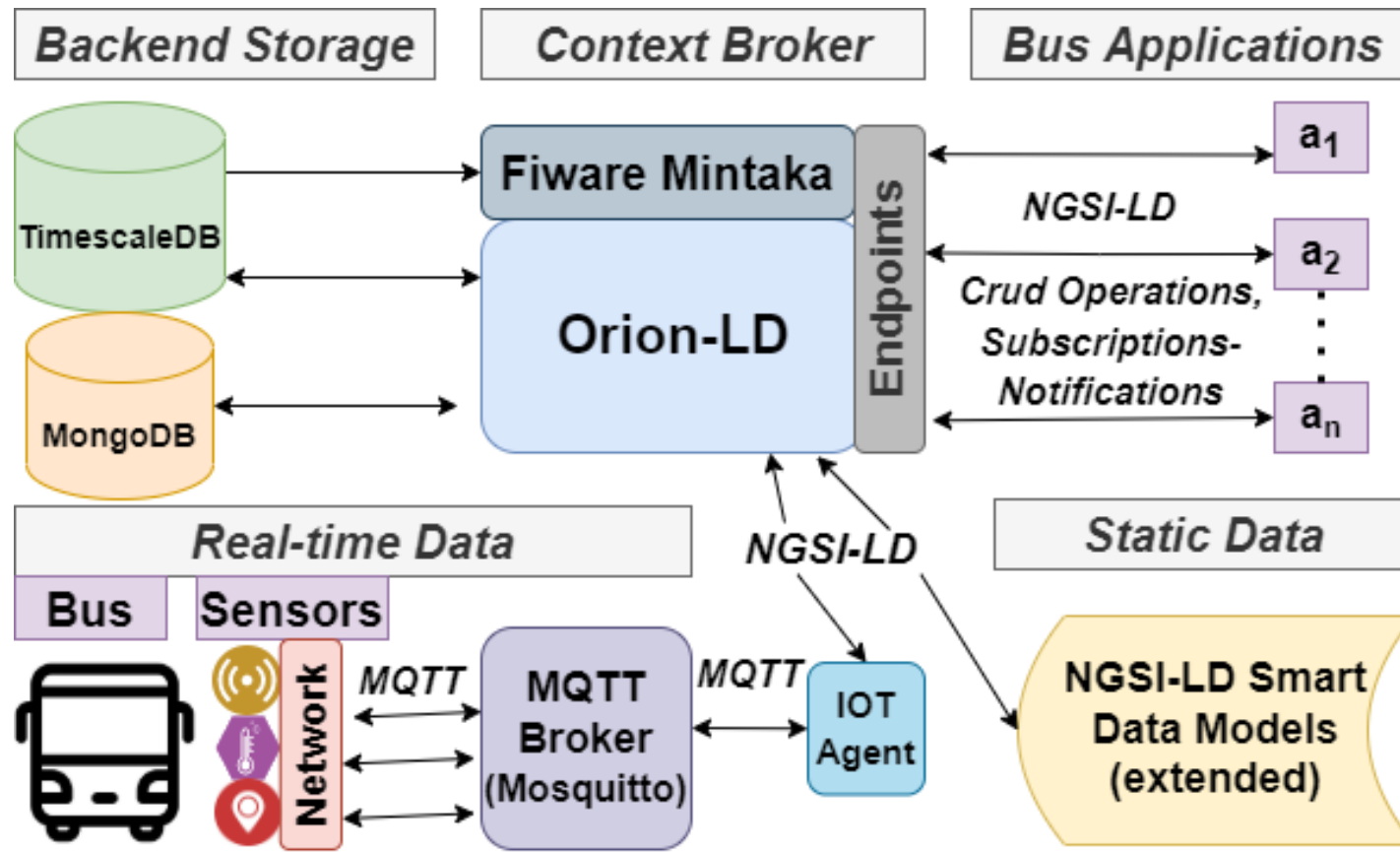
# SmartCityBus platform architecture



# Larger amounts of data to be produced vs. today's apps



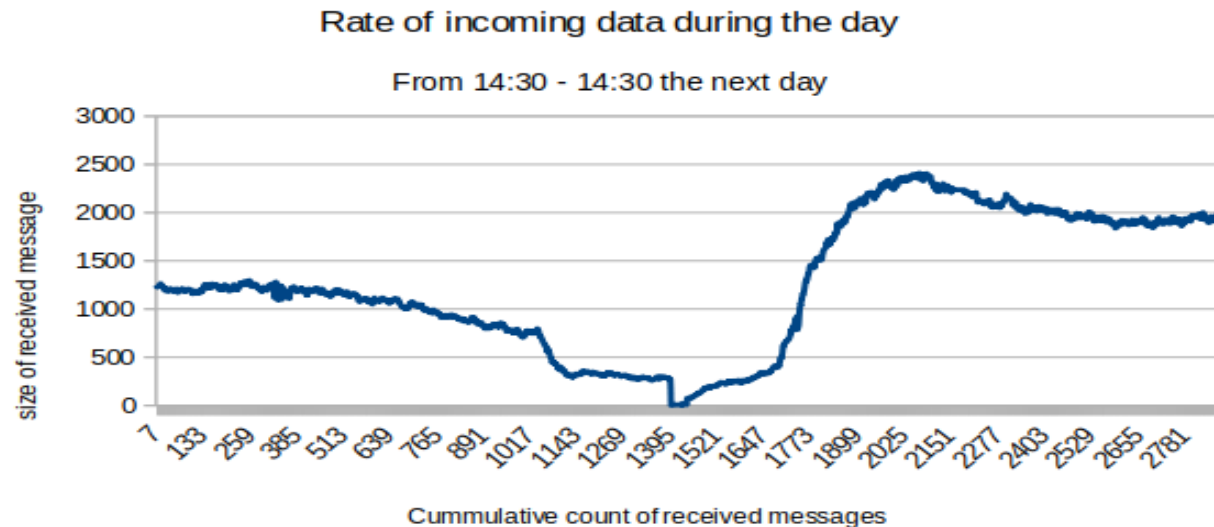
# SmartCityBus prototype



# Open data?



- GTFS data published openly
  - Static GTFS (Download: 1/day, average ~300MB)
  - Realtime GTFS (Download: 3/30 sec, average ~1.69MB)



**1 day = ~4GB of data  
~22300 trips**

Use of stream-processing reduces the amount of data stored significantly!



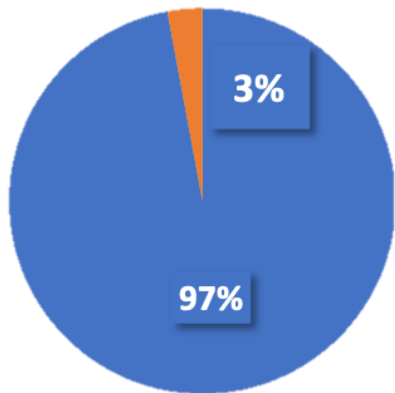
# Open datasets *in the wild* are rarely perfect...

- Some trips in the feed could not be mapped to the schedule
- Some scheduled trips are not in the feed
- Schedule inconsistencies are widespread

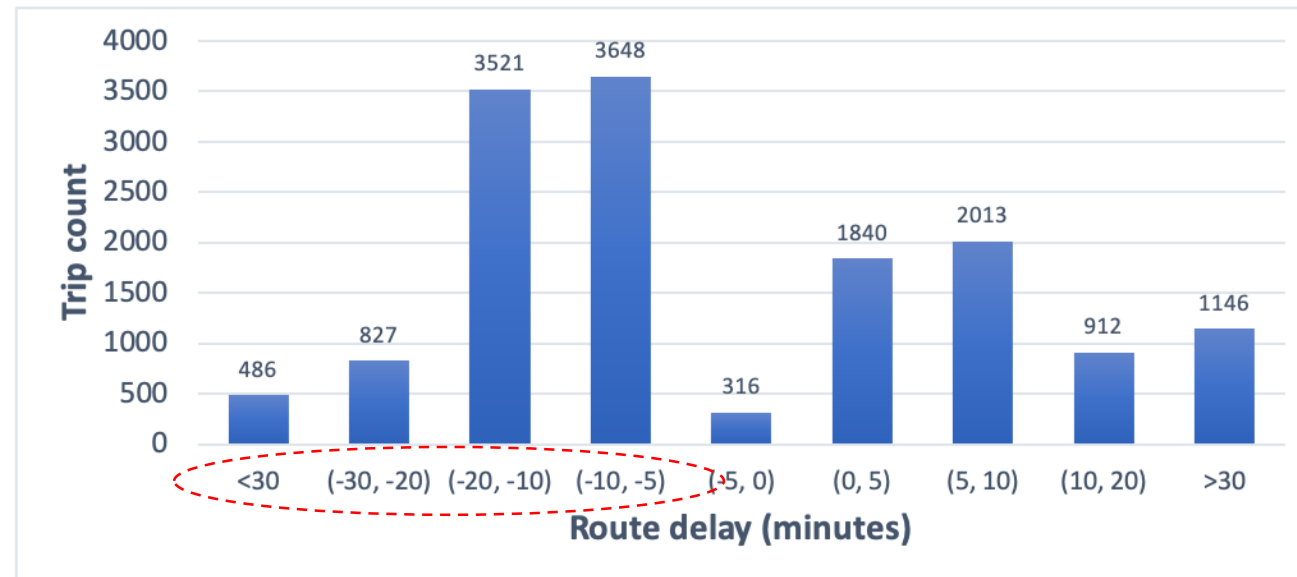
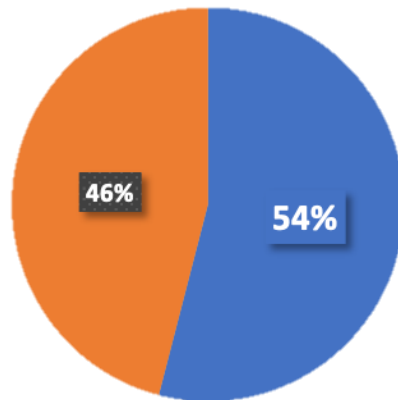
Need to improve open-data quality  
& reusability



Unknown trips



Not recorded trips in schedule



# Conclusions and future work

## SmartCityBus

- Enrich existing models with **context awareness** in buses, bus stops
- Federate with other smart city models, enabling new applications
- Address the many and diverse forms of data
- Address challenges with **open data**, to facilitate exploitation
- Several other directions currently under investigation

G. Bouloukakis, C. Zeginis, N. Papadakis, P. Zervakis, D. Plexousakis, and K. Magoutis. *Enabling IoT-enhanced Transportation Systems using the NGSI Protocol*. In 12th IoT Conference, pp. 33-40, Delft, NL, November 7-10, 2022

**Special thanks to all members of the SmartCityBus Consortium for their contributions in the research presented today**

