

Madrid Public Transport Interchanges (Spain)

The Project:

Transport interchange stations are a crucial part of the PT system, allowing travellers to make multi-leg trips with ease and comfort. In Madrid, the core of the transport system is the Madrid metro, which is complemented by the urban bus network. To ensure transfers were made as simple as possible to increase the quality of public transport journeys, the Madrid Interchange Plan was developed, the planning of which started in the mid-1990s. It consisted in the construction of 5 main interchanges in the nodes where the metropolitan bus lines terminals linked to the Circular metro line.

These interchanges are used as a hub for radial buses that cover the city of Madrid, and have been designed so as to reduce the times of trip changes between all modes (including all public/private and motorised/non-motorised modes) and to improve the quality of the service.

The project was funded through a 30-year concession, to cover the construction and operation of the infrastructure, where private companies recover their investment by collecting a fare from each bus passenger getting on or off at the interchange.

Cooperation between all relevant stakeholders (including the city council, the public transport authority and transport operators) was key to the success of the project.

Current successes/problems

The interchanges have achieved their main objectives, including reduced journey times and an improved quality of service. Two further main interchanges are to be built, with continued work to improve the intermodality in smaller areas of the city set to continue.

