

ExpansãoSP

September 20, 2010

ExpansãoSP: Metro Expansion São Paulo

Today we enjoyed our first company visit. We went to the governmental institution that takes care of the metro expansion project in São Paulo. In order to arrive at the office we took a metro line (line 2) that is subject to expansion itself. After a short and safe trip we arrived at the office and attended an interesting presentation about the whole project from the viewpoint of the public administration. The São Paulo metro system is currently 36 old and consists of 65 kilometers of rail tracks. Every metro line has to transport about 1 million passengers every day. Compared to other metro systems of similar age and demography, the São Paulo metro system is rather small. Therefore, an expansion of the system is needed.

The main goals of this expansion project are increasing capacity, linkage between lines and other modes of public transport and improving accessibility for low income groups. First of all, capacity cannot be increased anymore with current infrastructure. During the last years, the government has been boosting public transport usage to reduce kilometers travelled on the road. Therefore, new lines are under construction to provide a better alternative for private transport. Secondly, the railway system was not well integrated in the city because of a lack of linkage between lines. By building new integration lines, the formerly isolated lines were interconnected as an important step to close the metro network. In this new situation, the bus system will operate as a feeder for the metro stations. These systems will cooperate as one integrated PT system. These expanded metro lines will reach both high density employment areas and residential areas. As 6 to 7 million people need to travel from the outskirts to downtown daily, this expansion and integration will have a positive impact on their quality of life. Travel times are heavily reduced up to 25%.

Within this project, sustainability is a major topic. New technologies are adopted in order to consider energy savings and introduce environmental friendly building materials. For instance, one of the programs, called Estação verde, has the goal to develop new technologies to implement green stations. Furthermore, in collaboration with Brazilian universities, hydrogen busses are being developed. This fact shows that the government is currently investing in research and innovation to create sustainable infrastructure. Another sustainable aspect is the fact that from now on, new metro trains are produced in Brazil which creates more than 2000 qualified jobs. This is another step to reduce unemployment.

To gain insight in these innovations, we took a look at one of the major constructions sites. With the metro we went to the Luz station where a new connection hub is under construction underground. Here we realized that the São Paulo government is making serious efforts in improving sustainable

transport. After this visit and excursion we learned about the key issues involved which will definitely contribute to improve our final report keeping the significant topics in mind.

REINIER: please insert the beautiful picture of our magnificent team. You know which one.