

Clic.cat Digitalised DRT in Catalonia

7 March 2024

First approach

Catalonia

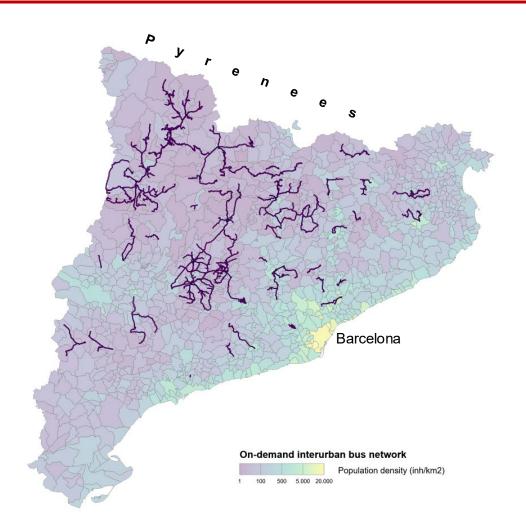
- Population: 8,000,000
- Surface: 32,000 km2 (= Belgium)
- Capital: Barcelona
 - 1,600,000 inh. within city limits
 - 3,300,000 inh. in the metropolitan area

The Government of Catalonia is responsible for interurban public transportation.



Location of DRTs

- □ **Main purpose:** serving public transportation in small towns located far from main roads
 - Most of small towns didn't have public transportation
 - Existing regular bus service was not frequent nor efficient
- 233 routes / services (25% of all routes)
 736 small towns and villages are served by DRT
 135,591 passengers in 2022
- □ Service is provided by minibuses or taxis





Evolution and types of services

□ From 1991 to 2021: fixed-schedule services

- 1. Fully on-demand
- 2. Partially on-demand:
 - Off-route stops
 - Specific trips during off-peak times

Both types of services will be progressively digitalised and integrated into the Clic.cat brand, starting this year.

□ Since 2021: the brand **Clic.cat** is created, meant for **digitalised DRTs** via apps. New services include:

- 1. Fixed-schedule services (fully or partially on-demand)
- 2. Flexible services (Point cloud)



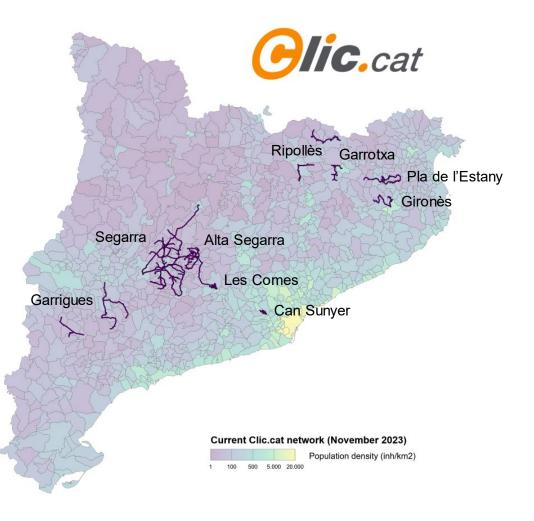
Clic.cat

de Territori

Clic.cat: a new brand for digitalised DRTs

- Started in 2021
- □ Main improvements:
 - Service is labelled under the Clic.cat brand (vehicles, stops, information, app)
 - Service is digitalised: reservation through app
 - Request margin time decreased from ~24 hours to 15 minutes





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Clic.cat

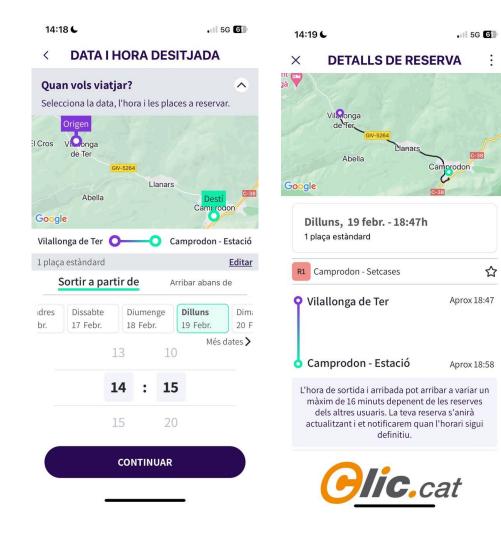
Apps and booking process

Requirements:

- □ Minumum request margin time: 15 minutes.
- Availability to request a service by phone call.

Steps for booking a ride:

- 1. Download the app.
- 2. Register as a user.
- **3**. Book a ride (select origin, destination, date, time and number of passengers).
- 4. The app confirms the booking and the expected departing time.





Clic.cat

Information campaign

- □ **Creating a brand** to associate all DRTs servies.
- Information campaigns: flyers, posters, stands in markets, information sessions
- □ All stakeholders are important:
 - Government of Catalonia
 - Bus operator
 - Local councils









Clic.cat: different solutions for each zone

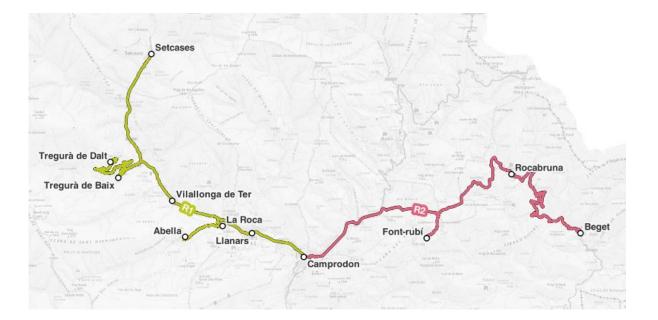
Ripollès / Vall de Camprodon

Conditions

- □ Rural and mountainous area. Population: 3,300
 - 2,200 in the market town
 - 1,100 in small towns
- Existing regular line with 3 trips/day (only serves main towns)

Solution

- DRT with 2 lines, as an addition to the existing regular line
- □ Fixed-schedule service
- □ On-request trips and stops





Clic.cat: different solutions for each zone

La Segarra

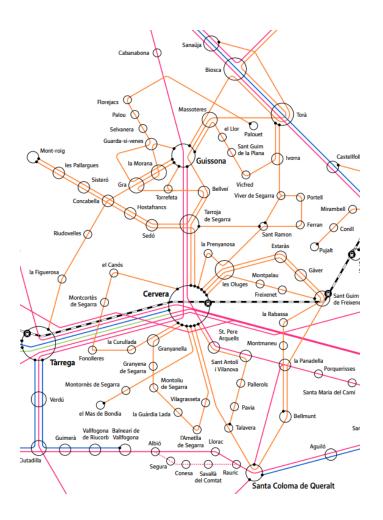
Conditions

- □ Rural area. Total population: 22,000 inh.
 - Cervera: 9,000 inh.
 - Guissona: 7,000 inh. Main industrial town in the area
 - Small towns: 6,000 inh.
- School buses allow non-scholar users

Solution

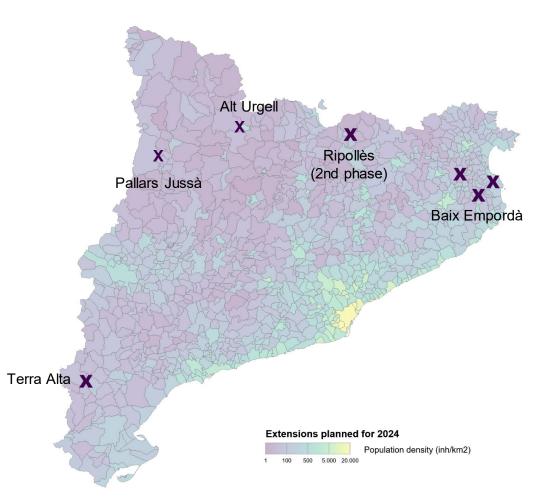
- □ Fixed-schedule service, same routes than school buses.
- DRT works at times not covered by school buses + holidays.
- □ Interannual demand increased by 43%.





Network extension

- Planning methodology is based in comarca*wide projects (2-3 per year)
 *Comarca: Kreis / Arrondissement / County / Amt / Okrug
- Existing DRTs will be progressively digitalised and integrated into the Clic.cat brand, starting this year.
- Current transport licenses expire in 2028. A new bus network will be implemented. Planning will start in few months.

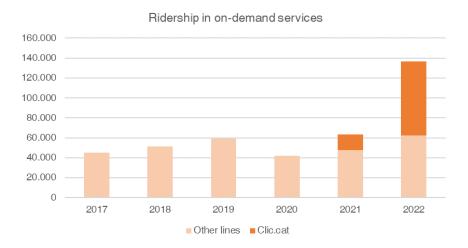


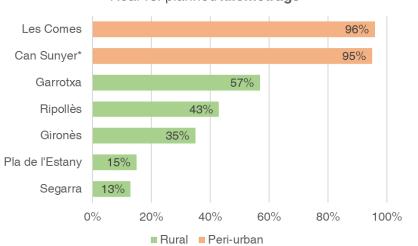


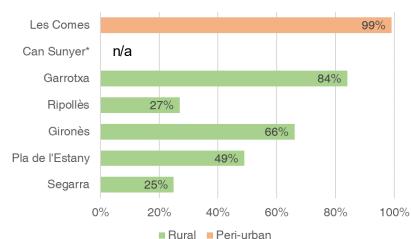
Overall results

Ridership and kilometric savings

- Total DRT demand increased by 175% in 2022, compared to 2021:
 - Existing DRT services: +148%
 - Converted from regular services: +60%
 - New services account for the rest of the increase







Real vs. planned departures

Real vs. planned kilometrage

Costs

□ Distance costs: 0,50 €/km – 1,05 €/km

- Highest in flexible DRTs
- ☐ Time cost: 33 €/h 54 €/h

Fixed costs:

- App licenses 6,000 € 10,000 €
- Callcenter

- ☐ Highly deficitary systems: revenues cover between 2% and 9% of the costs.
 - All services are funded by the Catalan Govenrment.

DRTs might increse operational costs despite optimising the shortest paths ...but...

have a **positive social impact** in rural and depopulated areas



Some conclusions according to our experience

Economic: transforming an existing service into a DRT noes not guarantee reducing costs.

Digitalisation: **around 70-80% book via app.** 20-30% still prefer calling by phone.

□ **Information:** success is possible if all stakeholders collaborate (city councils, operators, potential users). Informative sessions are appreciated.

□ **High user acceptance**: users easily accept DRTs, especially when they realise that the offer will be better.





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