Urban Mobility & Smart Cities

Large cities are breeding grounds for economic growth, education, communication, technological innovation, arts and leisure. The global trend is that large cities are growing rapidly. The UN predicts that by 2030 over 50% of the world's population will live in cities, and this percentage will grow to 75% by 2050.

Growing cities all over the world are faced with major challenges such as the energy transition, climate change and sustainable, healthy living environments. Smart cities – the winners of the future – succeed in successfully combining the sustainable economic prosperity of the city with these large societal challenges.

Large cities are attractive to people as productivity, innovation, creativity and income are generally at higher levels within cities than outside [1], but there are some factors that hamper the growth of urbanisation. High energy usage, air pollution and limitations to the capacity of the infrastructure within a city are serious obstacles.

The ideal *smart city* is a city with a pleasant, healthy, sustainable and safe residential atmosphere, where reliable transportation and relevant work are amply available. Concepts like *circularity*, *sharing* and *Products as a Service* (PaaS) are developing quickly.

Can we ensure that large and growing cities remain pleasant and healthy for inhabitants for the long term and that they do not become unhealthy surroundings which are continuously polluted by a gridlock of cars and other means of transportation or nearby industry?

Starting from the premise that cities will continue to attract increasing numbers of people, please develop a new idea for or a product related to city planning that helps to improve the living environment and the ease of living in sustainable ways for the people who live in these cities. We challenge you to think about how we will live and spend our days in cities. In your solution, be sure to keep in mind the important balance between the following three pillars: Economic Growth – Sustainability – Quality of Life.

1. Duranton and Puga 2004 – Handbook of Regional and Urban economics, volume 4