

RMV2go – a central element of the mobility of the future.

October 01, 2007. – In 2050, estimates say that the global population will fall at around 9.1 billion people. Whereas at the start of the 20th century there were 11 cities in the world with more than one million inhabitants, in 2015 this number will most likely have climbed to 550. Scientists predict that the population of cities worldwide will double from 3 to 6 billion people within the next 50 years.

The Swiss appropriately refer to public transportation systems as "Agglomerationsverkehrsmittel" (transportation for high density population areas). Public transportation is the key to the strategic approach of providing a fast-growing urban society comprised of individuals, who are characterized by mobility and who function according to their daily routines, with transportation means that are affordable and environmentally friendly and that can get them from A to B ("the capacity to cover distance").

Gaining support for public transportation

Public transportation is competing with the car. The advantages of cars, as is reflected in the term "individual transportation," reside in the fact that you can just get in and go whenever you want to and that you can use them to get to out-of-the-way destinations.

(The possibility of going anywhere). And since the introduction of navigational devices, drivers don't even have to plan their trip ahead of time. Cars are easy to use and usage costs - except for parking fees - are already paid in advance. In contrast, public transportation requires its passengers to know the departure place and time, where they need to transfer, connection details, the route they are going to take and at which stop they need to exit all in advance. Buying a ticket at ticket machines or online also makes demands on users of public transportation. These inconveniences mean that people are reluctant to "switch over" to public transportation.

The idea for RMV2go has become a central element for the future of mobility for this reason. Information about departure times and delays are personalized and sent to your cell phone. You can buy your ticket without the machine: It's easy to use!

Dubai invests in buses and trains

The essential challenge that the traffic sector will be facing in the future will be to make public transportation more attractive. For the Olympic Games, Beijing will need to reduce its air pollution to a reasonable level. The city of Dubai, built on sand and oil and made for cars, is currently making huge investments in public transportation in order to master its congested streets. Traffic and energy experts such as Dr. Gerd Eisenbeiß from the German Aerospace Center all agree when it comes to car development in China, India, Pakistan, Russia and Latin America: "There is currently no solution in sight for the future when it comes to making energy abundant and inexpensive, stopping climate change and continuing to indulge our demands on mobility as elegantly and affordably as we have done so far."

That means that the main objective is to develop public transportation in the high-density population centers of the world to such an extent that it can help relieve the burden being placed on transportation networks.

Environmentally friendly and good for your ears

Public transportation saves space, is not very noisy and helps minimize air pollution. Public transportation has the opportunity to take on a pioneering role in the introduction of environmentally friendly "sun and bio fuels" since refueling and fleet set-up is conducted centrally. Many buses use more environmentally friendly gas fuel. An extensive test in Luxembourg proved the effectiveness of hydrogen engines in the public transportation system. Buses and streetcars run especially environmentally friendly when they are powered with electricity that has been generated in an environmentally friendly way - as is the case with hydroelectric power in Switzerland.

As part of the new urbanism movement, Americans are now taking the compact, versatile, grown European cities as a model and are trying to apply this model in contrast to their common development model of the urban sprawl, which is eating away space. In regards to its city development model, new urbanism is based on transit-oriented development and concentrates areas for stores, offices and housing at the transit stops. At the stations, development structures will be set up in a way that is oriented to local accessibility and mobility.

Europe as a role model

Europeans already have cities like these. And in Europe, we already have well-developed public transportation systems in place. We need to retain and re-establish the attractiveness and accessibility of our cities, which is based on a great public transportation offer, by supporting local transit (sidewalks, bike paths). Great public transportation in our country is a good role model and is a hot product for the development of sustainable transportation and city structures for the young population centers of the world.