



Session Title: Parking & Mobility, Infrastructure & Urban Planning

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Description:

For most of us, at least some aspects of our daily life now are carried out online from our homes. Despite this, we continue to travel for a multitude of reasons including in-person meetings, medical appointments, and leisure activities. The towns and cities where we live, and work must evolve and respond to our changing mobility demands.

Municipalities everywhere are seeking solutions for sustainable growth and development. Their focus is on improving the quality of public spaces and the pedestrian experience while providing space for bicycle and scooters. At the same time, their main arterial routes must also function effectively providing access for vehicles arriving in and departing from the city and as connecting links for journeys and deliveries across the city,

The mobility needs of private citizens and those of businesses are often in conflict. To resolve those conflicts cities, need to implement innovative urban planning concepts and develop high quality multi-modal transport infrastructures (both physical and digital). Sustainable urban plans must provide for all modes of transport and all types of vehicles: large and small, slow and fast, four wheels, three wheels or two, electric or other.

One innovative approach to managing traffic, freeing up public space and promoting walking and cycling is the superblock concept pioneered by the city of Barcelona. A superblock is an area of urban land bounded by arterial roads that is the size of multiple typically sized city blocks. Within the superblock, the local road network, if any, is designed to serve local needs only and is often enabled by an important supply of off-street parking spaces.

In addition to Barcelona, London, Paris and Vienna offer inspiring examples new urban planning concepts such as the 15-minute city, where the most important daily activities are all located within fifteen minutes of home. London's new Canada Water development is a good example of this new form of urban planning. Medium sized cities such as Vitoria Gasteiz in the Basque region are also transforming themselves to provide a high quality of life.

These cities are fine examples whereby conviviality and attractive urbanity have been created for residents and visitors, as well as for businesses. Different modes of transport are available (some on request, some shared, some not) located where residents and visitors need them. Increasingly they are station-based facilities located in Mobility Hubs, often but not always in combination with public transport nodes.

As operators and investors, the parking industry has an important role to play ensuring that existing and new parking infrastructures meet the changing needs of residents, visitors and businesses in urban areas.