



Sign-up for the Podcar City Conference

- San José, USA, November 30th - December 1st 2023

What's in this newsletter?

- Podcar City 2023
- Technology
- Planning for the Future Cities
- Peter Muller Article

Get involved

We are now in the planning phase of the conference. We would love for you as a major stakeholder and interested party to have the opportunity to use this event in the best way possible. We share all our planning and ideas for the conference. Please contact us if you have any questions or want to get involved.

See our sponsor packages at podcarcity.org

Our goals for the conference in 2023

In 2010, we had our first Podcar City conference in San José. Over 239 people came and listened to what was going on in the Automated transportation business and how the new ideas could impact our urban fabric for the future.

This year we find out how things developed since then. We know that greenhouse gas emissions and congestion are still pressing, putting strain on our environment, climate and health. But we do see a positive trend, automated Podcars on separate guideways are starting to take off. Learn more as you join us in San José, where the City is planning to build the first California Podcars. Welcome!



Planning automated shared mobility

Nov 30th - Dec 1st 2023



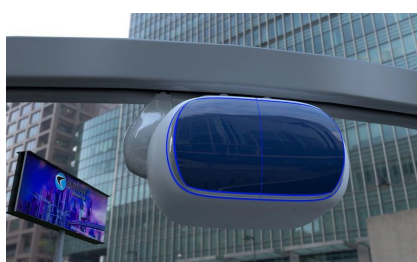
- Christer Lindström

CEO 4Dialog and Podcar City



Technology update since 2010

Since 2010, a rather long list of new technologies have been started and several cities, regions and airports are actively exploring automated podcar solutions. To get you up to speed before the conference, we list some of the latest developments that have either acquired funding, been tested or, been implemented. A more complete list can be found on the [ATRA homepage](#)



Futran, South Africa

A technology developed in South Africa from a mining mobility project. Today the company has signed an agreement to develop a system in Cebu, Philippines.



Glydways, USA

Glydways just won a contract for the development of a connector between the San José Airport and the Diridon Transit Center.



2Getthere Netherlands

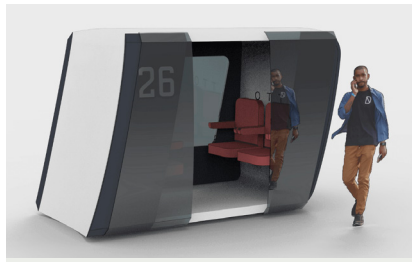
2Getthere has been around for over 20 years, with successful implementations in Rotterdam and Masdar City.





Supraways, France

Supraways is a suspended technology in Lyon and is based on a solar design with an attractive French design.



Ottobahn, Germany

Ottobahn is a suspended system idea with unusual stations, where the cabin is lowered by a cable lift.



Urban Loop, France

The Urban Loop has a contract with an ultra-low energy profile and is doing a system in Nancy for the Paralympics in 2026.



Ultra PRT Heathrow, United Kingdom

Ultra PRT has been running at Heathrow Airport for several years and is currently in discussions with several cities.



Skytran, India

Skytran started at NASA's Ames Research Center in California and is currently building a new test track in San Antonio.



Swift Cities, USA

A Swift Cities is a cable solution derived from former Google engineers and is currently in discussion with Dallas-Forth Regional Transportation Council.



Modutram / Autotren, Mexico

Modutram has developed an impressive technology with small vehicles that can work in a train configuration and have high capacity.



VUBA USA

Vuba is a US-based Smart City mobility company providing a solar powered, zero emission ICT solution for public transport.

Want to know about more projects?
Contact us at info@podcarcity.org or visit our website at podcarcity.org



Planning for the future

Swyft Cities, Urban Loop

In this issue, we have chosen to feature two ongoing developments - Swyft Cities and Urban Loop. They are quite different from one another, but share several features;

- low energy use
- modern design
- efficient capacity
- use for the general public



Building transportation solutions for the Paralympics 2026

What do you do when you have a medium size city in France that is about to host the Paralympis 2026? Large masses of people, many with various special needs, need to be able to move around in an efficient and safe environment.

The University of Lorraine, in collaboration with the City of Nancy, came up with a shared and efficient system, easy to implement and cost-effective for the games, called Urban loop. Urban loop is only at a pilot stage, still it is a great example of how big challenges can be solved by clever innovation. By testing these kind of solutions, Urban loop helps create a needed shift in public perception, that “more of the same” (i.e. cars, buses etc) just isn’t enough.

[Read more about the Urban Loop project](#)

Swyft Cities development in Texas

In the Dallas-Fort Worth area, the Plano City Council is planning to move forward with the application for a system developed by Swyft Cities during. The application is part of a program by the North Central Texas Council of Governments, that reviews emerging technologies designed to ease traffic congestion. In turn, companies that are approved for the program can solicit interest from local governments.

[Read more about Swyft Cities](#)





Flying high with Peter Muller!

One day you will just get into your flying car, and it will quickly take you to work, school or play. Won't that be wonderful! If only.

Flying cars will work but they will be very limited. They cannot travel close together and therefore must be big to have capacity. But if they are big, they will need to make intermediate stops which will greatly slow trips down or passengers will have to be grouped to share destinations and this also takes time. Besides being expensive, they will also be unreliable in wind, fog, snow, and rain. But the idea is great! Let's have lots of people travelling above the congested roads.

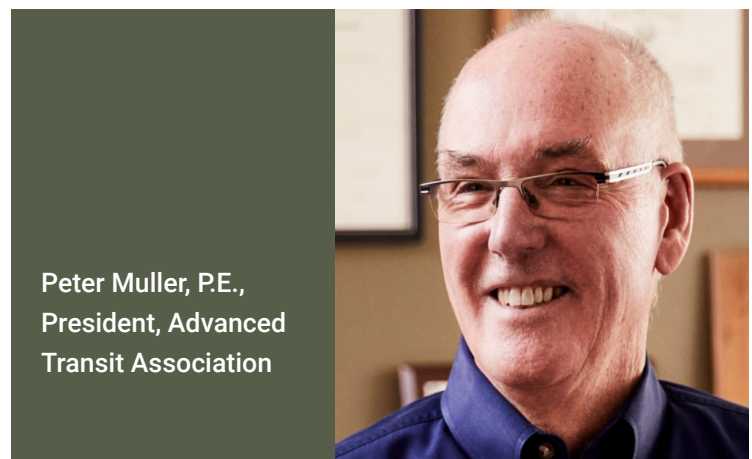
How are podcars a part of the solution?

They will get where they are going quickly, and they will relieve road congestion. Let's have passengers ride in vehicles travelling along guideways elevated above the traffic, this might not be as fast as a flying car but should have most of the benefits. OK, so we elevate rail lines – how does that help? It helps if we just do some things a bit differently such as:

We get rid of drivers by automating the vehicles

1. We use small (4 – 6 passenger) pods, which makes it easier for people to share rides yet not have to stop frequently

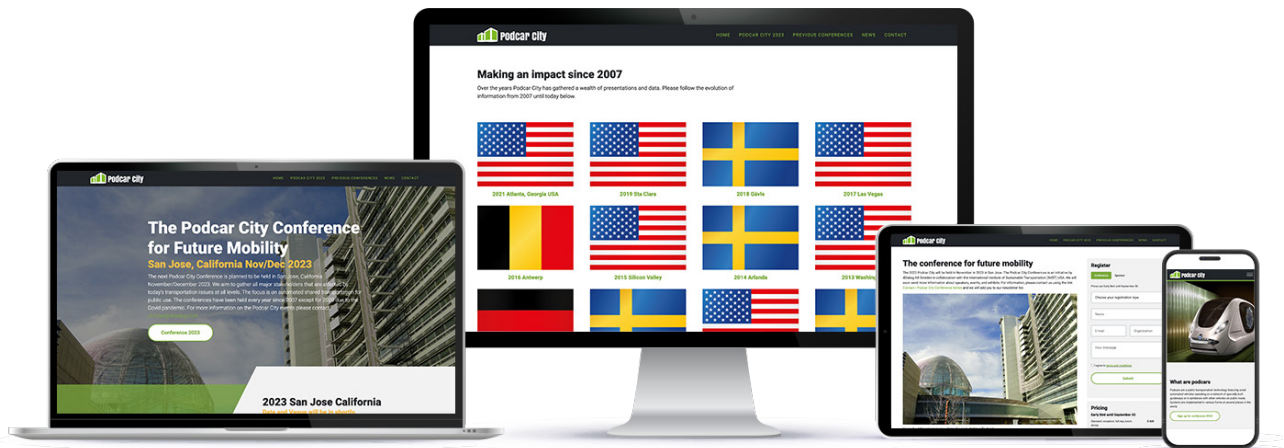
2. We keep the rails fixed and make the pods do the switching. This allows pods to safely travel close together providing the needed capacity
3. We put the stations offline (on sidings)
 - a. This allows express trips
 - b. It also means stations can be added without slowing everyone down
 - i. Now we can have lots of stations and short walking distances
4. All stations are interconnected by guideways
 - a. No transfers are needed
5. Small lightweight electric pods
 - a. Result in lightweight guideways that can be elegant while being less expensive
 - b. Use less energy that can be renewable
 - c. Means many pods are needed
6. Waiting times are short



Peter Muller, P.E.,
President, Advanced
Transit Association



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Our vision

We believe that there is something better beyond the horizon. What is there out there that can make a considerable change in how we get around in everyday life that is safer, more convenient, available for all, and affordable for both ourselves and the environment? Podcar City is a series of gatherings looking into short- and long-term ideas to solve this question. Come join us in finding a better way to develop our common future - together.

The Podcar City Conferences have been ongoing Since 2007 In Sweden, the US, and Belgium and are now again planned to be held in San José, the Capital of Silicon Valley.

