Students For Future Mobility

SFFM - A Podcar City Program

Students For Future Mobility (SFFM) is a global program by Podcar City offering a platform for students to tackle real-world public mobility (transportation) issues and showcase their innovative skills, creativity, and knowledge while engaging with peers and experts in the field.

The program provides the opportunity for students to design their own urban mobility future using advanced software and planning techniques. The aim is to create something substantially better in all aspects – energy, materials, economy, capacity, safety, personal mobility, architecture and more.

The yearly programs (2026 to 2030) are supported by international agencies and institutions. Awards and prizes are presented in the first half of the year. There are expected to be 10 teams or more each year.

Each category has three levels - Professional, Undergraduate and Master level prizes. The judges use their experience, expertise and discretionary criteria in deciding on the winners. All cash prizes are after taxes, if applicable. The rules and application form can be obtained at www.podcarcity.org

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For the February 2026 PCC meeting - A Challenge!

PODCAR CITY
Mobility For All

PCC offers any student and young person the opportunity to suggest an idea according to the PCC development & research framework. The PCC tech board will review proposals no later than February 1 2026 and PCC will offer financial aid up to ten ideas. Currently (September 2025) the total sum of support is:

$5,000

For latest on SFFM, updates see www.podcarcity.org or https://podcarcity.org/contact-us/

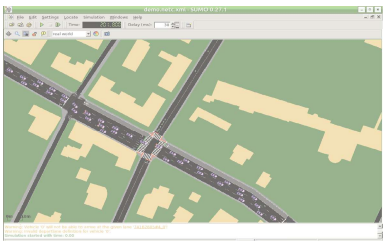
Note: Always read the criteria to be eligible for the SFFM program. See end of this document.
We support to the student teams mentoring and support on:

Urban Design, Engineering, Social issues and Development

We find a suitable area for the student teams

The training area is selected with the student team and the city. The area will be one or more focused areas such as a transit hub, a station or other specific places needed for visualization and application.

We help software for simulations



With support from professional software technologies (SUMO and Podaris) we have a comprehensive basis for finding new implementations by the students..

The area selected is used for the simulation of a new innovation with data based on urban ridership use and modes

To select teams we provide a 4D model

Selected teams are provided with a 4D model for visual dialogue to inspire students on current innovation ideas. We support with initial applications to be followed up by the students, adding their own creative simulations and images for stakeholder outreach.4Dialog is responsible for this part of the project for all teams.

- **Training and support** *Foto: Davit Saroyan*

The SFFM support team comprises specialists on urban transit solutions with years of experience for help with architecture, urban planning, mobility, energy / Solar and much more. Students will also benefit from the experts in the business community

who support and guide to ensure each team's success.

- **Final delivery to the City and stakeholders**

  We review all work to ensure quality for all presentations to city officials and local stakeholders.

  Some Previous teams

Teams from 2017 to 2022

The program began in 2017 until 2022 mentored and guided by current Podcar City team members. Since 2023, the program has been incorporated as a part of the Podcar City organization.

From left to right the Southern Illinois University (for Ithaca NY), the Perth harbor study by Ms Arnafara Najnin, the San Jose State University team.

Perks for student teams and Topics

We offer special funding for teams and assist in finding sponsors for material needed as much as we can in the following subject categories:

Topic: Urban planning (U1-3)

Here we look for the teams' best ideas and presentations on implementing a better shared mobility in their city. We expect to evaluate ridership data, placing on station and inter modal hubs, interacting with micro mobility and walking, how the proposal can make better equity and gender equality, promoting green corridors, considerable conservation of human, energy and earth resources, a safe and enjoyable travel experience for all.

Topic: Mechanic and electronic engineering (M1-M3)

Here we look for teams' best ideas and presentations on implementing innovation in mobility. These include the ability to handle mass mobility in a large city and regional area, ensure availability for all, cost efficiency implementation, direct origin and destination, and connection to regional and local transit hubs.

This subject category also includes Industrial Design/Car, Design/Product, Design/Mobility, Design/User Experience.

This category is possibly eligible for external direct funding and sponsorship support from the PCC program for hardware needed.

Topic: Infrastructure for all (I1-I3)

The best use of a technology is to ensure it is beneficial to all stakeholders. It must be attractive and useful for all - regarding social background, age, physical abilities and financial possibilities. This category benefits from GIS data, something most cities are able to provide to their teams. Visuals and statistics are encouraged. Workforce generation and profitable technologies are important.

Topic: Behavioral travel and other human factors (B1-B3)

The psychology of mobility is a major field to address. Why, where and how do we travel? What choices are we making? Can we learn from what might be a new mode of transportation? Understanding existing modes of transportation - why the "addiction" to private cars even if there are alternatives that offer lower cost and faster and less stressful journeys?

Topic: Financing and Real Estate (F1-F3)

We research options for planning, implementation and operations of systems. Real estate and land use is a critical part of financing - transit oriented development has shown strong results and interesting implementations. A new technology is always a risk. Therefore risk mitigation is a considerable research topic in a financing plan and we are looking into the mix of real estate, financing and risk mitigation. Tax issues and fare box considerations are also a part of financing studies.

Topic: Environmental studies (E1-E3)

The transition of shared mass mobility from private to public transit has a considerable impact on human and earth resources. We need less materials to produce vehicles, less fossil fuels, electric motors and electric batteries. At the same time we need to aim to improve mobility for better safety, urban living, accessibility and best use of materials, existing and new. This also needs to be quantified - how many mines, steel & concrete

production facilities do we need? How do we implement new ideas of mobility in a world of environmental changes?

Other Topics: (X1-X3)

The SFFM program is open to suggestions on any additional topic categories not mentioned in our program. Please use the contact form at the podcarcity.org homepage to get in touch with us.

The long-term benefit to Students, Academia, Industry and Communities

We provide real projects with real benefits for all stakeholders. In the past we have seen several of the projects turn into employment opportunities and even new business cases. The SFFM support team is always behind the students to support them after the program is completed.

For Industry and communities - various ideas can be tested and reviewed, challenges can be spread out to many teams for different approaches, new coming employment opportunities open up.

SPONSORS AND MENTORS

PODCAR CITY
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A major part of the Students for Future Mobility are the Podcar City Members and the sponsors. A few of all the people below that have been involved in previous student projects:

Ron Swenson, International Institute of Transportation, USA

Prof. Dr. Burford Furman, San Jose State University, USA

Peter Muller, PRT Consulting USA

Christer Lindstrom, 4Dialog Sweden

Kjell Dahlstrom, Former Secretary Green Party Sweden, Director of SIKA

Magnus Hunhammar, ISTCAB Sweden

Marcus Svensson, CEO Byggvesta Sweden

Prof. Dr. Steven Jones, Alabama Transportation Institute, USA

Prof. Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University, USA

Gerald McDowell, Executive Director AACIDS Atlanta

Douglas Kamoga, CEO Kamlasmwm Kampala

Jennifer Rodrigo, Journalist Malaysia

Rosdayana Rosti, Mageagle Studios, Malaysia

**1 Podcar City Program (PCC)*

The Podcar City, is a membership organization, creating an industry program for encouraging creation of Intellectual property and real world implementations for innovative transportation mobility technology. The work is done in collaboration with academics, innovators, policy makers and students. The PCC is based on previous work done in Sweden and USA since 2007. The focus is to propagate knowledge to a broader audience and make a basis for a public mass transportation system using minimal earth resources and renewable energy in a context of workforce creation and skill - In short Mobility for all.

The main output of the PCC are real world implementations of profitable mobility systems coupled with innovations containing high value of Intellectual property. The existing technology member sponsors have the option of profiting from the development work by any student team and their findings. The PCC collaborates with member communities in order to support local implementations for pilot projects and developing large scale shared mass transit implementations including funding mechanisms.

RULES FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDENTS FOR FUTURE MOBILITY PROGRAM (SFFM):

- Make sure that your proposal is addressing these values
    - A minimal use of earth resources, in production and operations
    - A minimal use of energy in production and operations
    - Focus on solar and renewable energy only
    - Separated from regular roads and not interfering with other modes
    - Ensuring environmental protection and biodiversity
    - Affordable for all
    - Safe and resistant against impact from nature
    - Comfortable
    - Financially viable as a mass transportation system
    - Low Visual intrusion, attractive design

- Send in the proposal in a 1 page document to **info@podcarcity.org**. We will get back to you within 2 weeks and if we are positive about the proposal, we will send you a form to fill in with details about your team and type of idea.
- When you are sure your proposal is according to the values above, do the registration cost of $25 for the entire team (you only need to register one person). Please go to www.podcarcity.org and go to “membership”. You will then receive a confirmation and a score from the PCC Tech board.