



**PODCAR CITY**  
Mobility For All



# PODCAR CITY NEWSLETTER

The End of the Private Automobile & the Rise of Mobility for All

# EDITORIAL

- CHRISTER LINDSTRÖM

## There Is No Such Thing as a Green Car



Image: Digital render generated by 4Dialog AB from 3D models

At the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2022, a significant paper was presented on the future of the private car and the automotive industry. The report acknowledged something that many of us have known for a long time: we are witnessing a considerable waste of human and earth resources in the production of vehicles that are parked or idle for the majority of their existence.

This is a topic I have been speaking about for years — and it is genuinely refreshing to see more analysts, economists, and policy thinkers arriving at the same conclusion.

What is discussed less often, however, is what we do about it. We must ensure that people can move freely in a safe and efficient way, with as low an impact as possible on our planet and its resources. My approach is to start with the dialogue — to establish a clear, shared target for what we want to achieve — rather than rushing to solutions. We must work together transparently and, critically, include the people most affected by the future of mobility: **young people.**

To guide all future work — from procurement of mobility systems to research and new technical ideas — I have developed what I call the **Eleven Commandments**. These are read aloud at the beginning of every Podcar City gathering:

### We strive for:

1. Minimal use of earth resources in production and operations
2. Minimal use of energy consumption across the full lifecycle
3. Exclusive focus on solar and renewable energy
4. Elevated pathways, separated from regular roads, non-interfering with other modes
5. Protection of environment and biodiversity as a core design principle
6. Affordable access for all communities
7. Resilience against natural impacts — storms, floods, and climate stress
8. A comfortable and safe passenger experience
9. Financial viability as a scalable mass transportation system
10. Low visual intrusion with attractive, human-centred design
11. Fun, engaging, and inspiring to ride

And to be absolutely clear: **there is no such thing as a green car.**



**Christer Lindström**

CEO 4Dialog and Podcar City  
Programme

*Search terms for further reading: "World Economic Forum end of private car"*

# ALABAMA WORKSHOP, FEBRUARY 18–20, 2026

## Podcar City Convenes in Alabama: Decisions Made, Momentum Building

The Podcar City organisation gathered for a three-day workshop on February 18–20, hosted by the **Alabama Transportation Institute** under the leadership of **Dr. Steven Jones**. Approximately 40 participants attended — vendors, engineers, architects, urban planners, and academics representing eight different countries.

The energy in the room was unmistakable. Three significant decisions came out of the workshop:

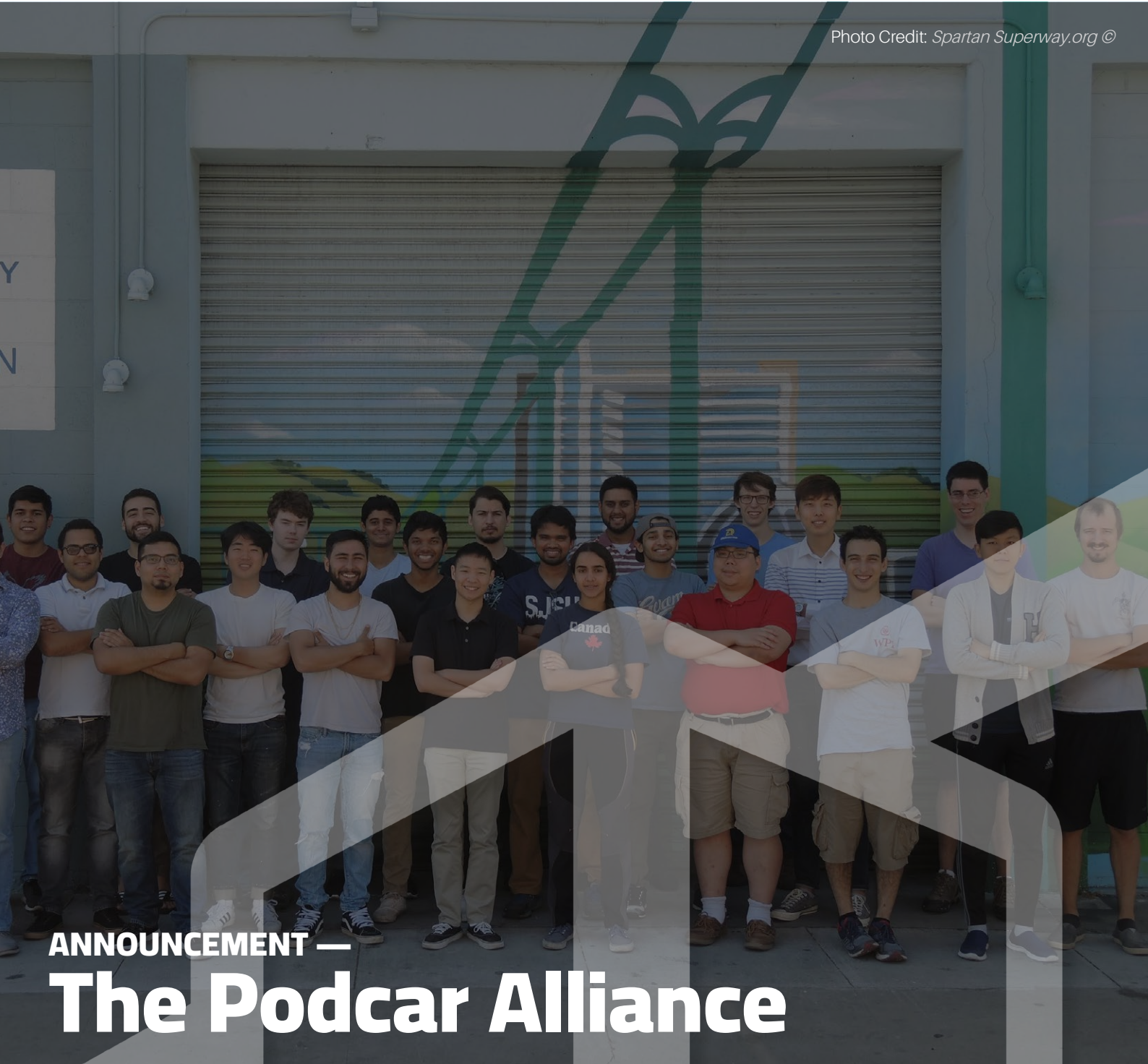
- 1. Students for Future Mobility** The programme Students for Future Mobility will be formally initiated. Outreach to funding entities will begin immediately, with the support of a dedicated grant writer. This initiative reflects our core commitment to engaging the next generation in shaping the future of transport.
- 2. Fall European Gathering — Save the Date** Podcar City members will convene in-person in Europe this autumn. Details on the location and format are being confirmed — watch this space. (See teaser below.)
- 3. The Podcar Alliance — An Industry Coalition is Born** Members voted to form a formal industry coalition — **The Podcar Alliance** — bringing together all vendors who support Podcar Technology for mass mobility, aligned with the Eleven Commandments. This is a landmark step toward a unified industry voice.

You can listen to recordings from the Alabama meetings on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/EOnyVJ-CFcY>



Denny Chines

Photo Credit: *Spartan Superway.org* ©



**ANNOUNCEMENT —**

# **The Podcar Alliance**

## **A Coalition for the Future of Automated Mass Mobility**

The formation of **The Podcar Alliance** marks a new chapter for the Podcar City network. For the first time, vendors working on compatible, principle-aligned mobility technology will come together under a shared framework — the Ten Commandments — to advance automated, elevated, sustainable transit as a credible alternative to the private car.

More details on membership, structure, and the coalition's first initiatives will follow in the coming weeks.



# OTTOBAHN

## Urban mobility without traffic jams, stops or waiting lines

Ottobahn presents an elevated, fully automated mobility system designed for both passengers and cargo, aimed at bypassing ground-level congestion. The company describes its concept as emission-free, autonomous transport operating above existing traffic with direct, on-demand routing.

On its technology pages, Ottobahn highlights several core claims: elevated operation at roughly 5-10 meters, modular cabins (including passenger and cargo variants), and an AI-coordinated routing approach intended to reduce waiting and avoid intermediate stops.

The company also publishes technical figures for speed, payload, and energy consumption, positioning the system as a high-efficiency option for dense urban and regional corridors.

Visit <https://ottobahn.de/en/home/> for more about Ottobahn.



# SPARTAN SUPERWAY

## A student-powered innovation platform advancing practical ATN development

Spartan Superway continues to stand out in the PRT/Podcar/ATN field through its student-led development model. In a recent update, the team explicitly described its unique differentiator in one word: **students**.

The programme combines academic learning with practical design and prototyping activity, including international workshops and project work conducted through the Spartan Superway Design Center in San Jose.

The same update highlights participation from students across multiple countries, reinforcing Spartan Superway's role as both a technology development effort and a talent pipeline for future mobility.

Visit <https://www.spartansuperway.org/2024/05/spartan-superway-is-unique-in-prt.html> for more about Spartan Superway.



## Reimagine Your Commute with on-demand elevated pod transit built for speed, scale, and cleaner cities

Futran positions its system as an elevated autonomous podcar network designed to deliver on-demand public transport without the delays of road congestion. The company emphasizes

grade-separated guideways and non-scheduled operation as key design choices for faster and more predictable urban trips.

In its published system summary, Futran frames the solution as a cleaner, scalable transit model and shares headline performance targets, including urban operating speeds and high corridor throughput. The company also points to active project development in India, where it identifies Vadodara as an ongoing project location and describes India as a major supply-chain and market base.

Visit <https://futrangroup.com/> for more about Futran.



## Transform Your Community Into An Urban Oasis - With Vuba

Vuba positions itself as an urban mobility technology focused on elevated, human-centered transportation. Its core message is that communities need a faster, safer, and cleaner alternative to congestion-heavy ground traffic, and that ATN-style mobility can complement

existing transit while improving access to jobs, schools, and services.

Vuba, envisions a future where people can move around their communities easily, like the hummingbird zips quickly through the forest. Where people thrive with no worries of traffic congestion, pollution or accidents. Where businesses can flourish because customers and employees arrive effortlessly. Where human equality and access to opportunities are supported through the democratization of mobility.

Visit <https://go-vuba.com/> for more about Vuba.



# SUPRAWAYS

## **CARBON-FREE INTELLIGENT MOBILITY - AUTONOMOUS, FAST & DURABLE**

Supraways describes its SUPRAS concept as a decarbonized, autonomous, on-demand transport mode built for both passengers and goods. The company consistently frames its value proposition around five priorities: traffic

fluidity, service quality, lower environmental impact, high safety, and controlled public cost.

Its technology pages provide detailed operating parameters, including 7-9 seat passenger cabins, 24/7 on-demand operation, average urban speed around 50 km/h, and an elevated network approach with bypass stations to enable direct trips. Supraways also presents a logistics variant, centralized fleet management, and deployment scenarios for cities, airports, activity zones, and university districts.

Visit <https://www.supraways.com/> for more about Supraways.



# DLR & SUMO (SIMULATION OF URBAN MOBILITY)

## Open simulation infrastructure for testing future mobility networks

For network planning and scenario testing, SUMO (Simulation of Urban MObility) remains one of the most relevant open platforms for multimodal transport modelling. The Eclipse SUMO project describes itself as an open-source, highly portable, microscopic, continuous traffic simulation package built for large networks.

In practical terms for Podcar and ATN-type planning, SUMO supports multimodal simulation, traffic-management logic, demand generation, and live control through TraCI. The official project pages also show DLR in the ecosystem, including DLR contact context in project/community materials, making SUMO a credible reference environment when discussing digital validation of advanced mobility systems.

Visit <https://eclipse.dev/sumo/> for more about DLR & SUMO.

# OUR PARTNERS & SPONSORS

In a special way, we thank all our friends & Partners in Mobility! We can do better, Together!



# THE PODCAR CITY COMMUNITY HEADS TO EUROPE

## COMING SOON — Munich, Autumn 2026

This autumn, Podcar City will hold its next major in-person gathering in Europe — and all signs point to Munich as the host city. Munich represents one of Europe's most dynamic intersections of engineering tradition, urban

mobility ambition, and sustainability policy — a natural home for the conversations we need to have.

More details are coming. For now: mark your calendars, and start planning your trip.

Full announcement in the next issue.



## OUR VISION

Podcar City is a global initiative promoting sustainable, automated, and people-centered mobility. Through research, education, and innovation programs, we connects cities, universities, and industry leaders to advance Podcar and Automated Transit Network (ATN) systems that reduce congestion, emissions, and urban sprawl—shaping smarter, greener transportation for future generations.

### WEBSITE

[www.podcarcity.org](http://www.podcarcity.org)

### CONTACT

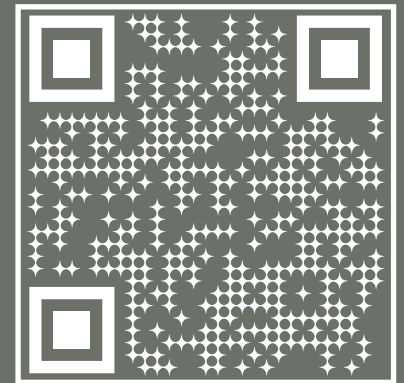
Phone: +46 735 459 179

+1 (408) 332-5375

Email: [info@podcarcity.org](mailto:info@podcarcity.org)

### ADDRESS

147 South River Street, Suite 207  
Santa Cruz, CA 95061, P.O.BOX 7080



SCAN TO BECOME  
A MEMBER

