

Setting up a multi modal urban transport system. “Learning by doing”

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ABSTRACT

The Netherlands – like other urban regions in Europe – accommodates a vast road network connecting a “sprawl” of urban nodes, in which peak – hour traffic congestion has become intolerable. In Holland’s “polder model” environment, nothing appears to be more valuable than producing ideas and plans for solving congestion problems, yet the relevant organisations and institutes lack the ability to convert ideas into reality. They keep on getting entangled in coalitions, cartels and monopolies. Can we allow ourselves this state of inaction ? No. Inaction inhibits even more innovative progress and degrades rather than enhances the environment. It seems inevitable that serious clashes between mankind and nature will grow worse.

Let there be no illusion. Taking effective action towards sustainability, the mobilisation of technology and more importantly, political rethinking, co-operation and sacrifice is mandatory. All that matters is not how many ideas you have, it is how many you actually make happen. The conclusion seems unavoidable: we do not have generations, we only have years in which to attempt to turn things around.

When comes to intelligent Urban, Environment and Transport Technologies and the contribution of ICT to it, our task is to enhance our networks, physically and virtually.

Any network has two ingredients: nodes/clusters and connections. These two realms need reconsideration: the nodes/clusters and the connections need optimising measures in terms of quality and capacity. It is the belief of the two participating – speakers that tackling meant network reconsideration c. q. enhancement need inter-disciplinary task forces, following step by step procedures, rather than indulging in a “grand design”. Based on our network philosophy, we – since 1996 - actively pursued small “bottom up” business opportunities to expand multi-modal passenger transport systems, including car-sharing projects. Speakers – together with relevant stakeholders from the world of PT and automotive” started and are starting up a series of pilots and try outs. Once bitten, twice shy, our credo: To make things happen, just start up “small is beautiful” projects. They will be more easily “dispossessed” and made a common property. In the end the grand design for an inter modal – and city car system will crystallize. Making ideas to happen is learning by doing.