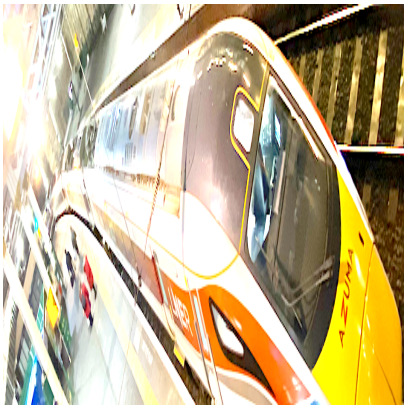


â??Smart cityâ?• claims

## Description

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A â??smartâ?• public transportation network is one where schedules and real-time data are delivered on demand to smartphone users. Such an effective and â??smartâ?• system enables a traveller to transition from bus to train to tram without having to wait due to missed connections. The system adapts its information flows to the travellerâ??s changing needs and circumstances.

Effective public transportation is one indicator of a â??smart city.â?• Digital retail is another. Market competition provides strong incentives for retailers to adopt an anywhere any-time â??smartnessâ?• to browsing, selecting, comparing, delivering, upgrading, maintaining, repairing, and recycling consumer products. The smart city idea extends such convenience and efficiency to city sanitation, health care, education, and governance, as well as consumer monitoring of metered local and city-wide water, gas and power networks â?? i.e. smart grids.

A smart city filters, delivers and displays information in ways that are convenient to service users and decision makers. Smart cities might display relevant information via a screen â??dashboardâ?• described by critic Shannon Mattern as

> â??an assemblage of tickers, gauges, feeds, and widgets that register whatever is measurable and trackable within the smart cityâ?• (16).

She adds: â??thereby revealing its instrumental logicâ?• (16).

# IoT

A smart city is also a place where people have smartphones that draw on rich infrastructures for communicating and exchange. The â??Internet of Thingsâ?• (IoT) provides another lens through which to understand the smart city where not only phones, tablets and desk computers but everyday products and services are connected via the Internet. These include

â??Smart toasters, connected rectal thermometers and fitness collars for dogsâ?•

according to a light hearted summary in *Wired*, with the potential and challenges they imply.

But the â??smart cityâ?• doesnâ??t only process and display information. It will use data sourced from traffic movement, pedestrian flows, air temperature, sunlight and myriad scanners and sensors to activate elements of the built environment: adjust traffic lights, open and close access points, activate shading, turn up the heating, direct flows through grids, and send messages to people, machines, networks and systems.

This is an upbeat account, at least from the point of view of developers and citizens able to take advantage of these resources. For alternatives see articles by Simon Joss (The smart city as global discourse) and Shannon Mattern (*The City is not a Computer*) in the bibliography, and my post: Hacking the city of the future.

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1. Techno-utopias

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1. city
2. cryptography

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