

THE EVOLUTION OF URBAN TRANSPORTATION

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A

In the past, people usually travelled around cities on foot or by horse. As cities became larger, people needed faster ways to travel. In the 1800s, horse-drawn buses became popular in some European cities. Later, trains and electric trams were introduced. These new forms of transport allowed people to travel longer distances and helped cities grow. They were the beginning of modern public transport.

B

During the 20th century, cars became cheaper and more people could afford to buy them. Cars gave people more freedom because they could travel whenever and wherever they wanted. As a result, many cities built more roads and highways for cars. People also started living farther away from city centres. In some places, buses and trains became less popular as more people chose to drive their own cars.

C

Although cars are convenient, having too many cars creates problems for cities. Roads can become very busy, especially during the morning and evening. This causes long traffic jams and makes travelling slower. Cars also produce air pollution and noise. In addition, people who cannot drive, such as some elderly people or people with disabilities, may have difficulty travelling around cities when public transport is limited.

D

Because of these problems, many cities are trying to improve public transport again. New buses, trains and tram systems are being introduced or improved. Some cities are also building special lanes for buses and better train stations. Public transport can carry many people at the same time and can help reduce the number of cars on the roads. Many cities now see public transport as an important part of a cleaner and more convenient future.