

ES GILT DAS GESPROCHENE WORT!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be part of this panel and to share with you my thoughts on innovative and efficient urban mobility. I will do this as Mayor of Bonn and as President of ICLEI - a global network of more than 1,750 jurisdictions. When talking about our mobility of the future, we are thinking of cities without traffic stress, about people reaching their destination quickly, safely, reliably and at a reasonable fare. We are talking about well connected, smart and shared systems. Our vision says no emissions, clean air and spaces to people. And we already have solutions in mind and at hand. Our pilots proof that it is possible.

The opportunities are vast. However, there are challenges - the biggest lie in conflicting goals and interests. It is our challenge as mayors and leaders to prioritize and balance in order to get to sustainable solutions.

In our growing cities we need to decide about the future ranking of individual motorized traffic in the competition on traffic space. Even more: about the future role of cars and the desirable level of car traffic in our cities altogether.

Considering innovative mobility infrastructure like an aerial railway as we are currently doing in Bonn means that we will need to take into account how people and nature are affected by its construction and operation. The transition process from car-shaped cities to eco-mobile cities will demand a lot of prioritization and harmonization effort.

However: reducing individual motorized traffic will only work if we can offer attractive alternatives to our citizens.

In many places, city transport systems are already struggling to take in the growth of population. However, the real challenge goes beyond growth in terms of capacity; it means shifting to different priorities. We need an entirely different infrastructure! We must repurpose and reallocate our spaces and land! We must change our mobility patterns for transport and individual travel!

This calls for coalitions like ACT – Action for climate-friendly transport. And it demands more money and capacities than local governments can invest on their own.

Pilot Projects with national funding like the German LEAD City Project for cleaner air, which Bonn is part of, are helping – but they need to be scaled up to reliable investments and financial commitments allowing for consistent, sustainable planning of the transformation in our cities.

ICLEI is supporting the deployment of sustainable mobility in cities by developing guidelines to procure clean fleets including e-buses, highlighting and documenting success stories of cities, and exploring enabling technology and policy measures for accelerating the uptake of e-mobility. With cities in Argentina, Colombia and India, we are working on solutions on clean freight in a project called “EcoLogistics: Low-carbon freight for sustainable cities”.

Together with local and national governments, we are designing strategies and policies to promote low-carbon and more sustainable urban freight. ICLEI is also developing a methodology and tool that facilitates city planning for sustainable urban freight.

In order to meet our climate targets, we need low or no-emission mobility. Traditional ways of mobility will shift, as will our infrastructure and system. However, our biggest challenges may turn into our greatest opportunities to shape our livable city of the future! And our joint expertise will help us to get there!