

Future Perspective of Lifestyles and Mobility in Utsunomiya City

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Abstract

Japan is experiencing a “super-aging” society with population decrease and fewer children. Most of the local cities in Japan, including Utsunomiya City, are dependent on automobiles. They suffer from urban and transportation problems such as road congestion, traffic accidents, urban sprawl, and low mobility for the elderly and disabled persons. In order to solve these problems and make the city sustainable, Utsunomiya City has a future vision of “Network Compact City” where all the people can live safely, securely and in comfort. The city has an urban center and local sub-centers providing various urban functions and facilities. They are connected by hierarchical road and public transport network. As a main public transport for east-west direction, Utsunomiya City will introduce a new light rail transit (LRT) system, which is the first and ambitious trial in Japan. On the other hand, our lifestyles and mobility have been changing dramatically by ICTs, shared economy, and new transportation technologies such as autonomous vehicles. I will discuss future perspective of urban lifestyles and mobility in Utsunomiya City to increase quality of life for all.