

## Special Issue

# Sustainable Public Transit Systems: Innovative Design, Planning and Operational Strategies

### Message from the Guest Editors

Transportation is one of the biggest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, producing over 24% of global CO<sub>2</sub>. Enhancing the role of public transit offers an effective means of reducing emissions and supporting long-term environmental sustainability. When public transit systems are properly designed, they also provide broader public benefits, such as connecting people to jobs, schools, health services, and economic opportunities in an affordable and equitable manner. Worldwide, public transit is undergoing a period of rapid change. Cities are investing in electric buses and rail systems to cut emissions and reduce fuel costs. Simultaneously, they are strengthening first- and last-mile access by linking transit with micromobility options like e-bikes, e-scooters, and other shared mobility services. New technologies are also being tested: autonomous shuttles and on-demand transit services are being piloted to serve neighborhoods where traditional fixed-route transit falls short. Beyond technology, planning practices are evolving as well. Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) is helping cities create walkable, transit-friendly neighborhoods that reduce car dependence.

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