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from VREF*

# ACCESS AND MOBILITY IN CITIES

THE FIRST TEN YEARS OF THE FUTURE URBAN TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

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A VOLVO FOUNDATION



**Urban transport** has an impact on a wide range of issues beyond mobility, such as justice, security and equality as well as climate change and finite natural resources. While challenges, needs and opportunities vary from city to city, research has an important task to investigate, influence and draw conclusions from these stories across the world. With this in mind, the Volvo Research and Educational Foundations (VREF) initiates and supports research and educational activities under a programme called the *Future Urban Transport Programme* (FUT), with the overarching vision of promoting fair access and sustainable transport in cities. The FUT programme has focused on the question of how cities and transport providers can deal with the complex issues of urban transport, which is at the interface between technology and social science.

After ten years and 27 million Euro of investment in research and educational activities, eight Centres of Excellence had been established globally, and VREF decided to summarize the results and findings of the FUT Programme. A project team was established under the leadership of Associate Professor *Marie Thynell* at Gothenburg University to summarise the output of the programme. The 10 years with the FUT Programme project has included interviews with all the Centres and a review of publications. The work is presented in this booklet, edited by British author and broadcaster *Christian Wolmar*, together with Marie Thynell.

The booklet sets out selected research results for the first ten years of the Future of Urban Transport under six themes:

**Policy and Planning**  
**Management and Control**  
**Public Transport**  
**Rapidly Changing Cities**  
**Walking and Cycling**  
**Traffic Safety**

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You can order a copy of the book, free of charge, by sending an e-mail to the VREF Secretary, Ms Fabienne Niklasson, e-mail: [secretariat@vref.se](mailto:secretariat@vref.se). Please give your name, affiliation and mailing address. The booklet will also be available in pdf format at the VREF web site, [www.vref.se](http://www.vref.se).

VREF inspires, initiates and supports research and educational activities promoting sustainable transport for fair access in urban areas. Through the Future Urban Transport Programme - How to deal with the complexity of urban transport (FUT), VREF invests in the development of new knowledge as well as communication and demonstrative examples. The aim is to nurture change processes in cities and businesses by disseminating and implementing research findings. Our target groups are university researchers, practitioners, decision makers and other relevant urban transport stakeholders. The FUT Programme started in 2001 and has created ten Centres of Excellence globally, and a number of projects and events.