



CALL FOR PAPERS...

PUBLIC (MASS) TRANSPORT – A 19TH–21ST-CENTURY PHENOMENON

The 44th International Conference of the Prague City Archives organised in cooperation with the Prague Public Transit Company, the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the History Department of the Faculty of Arts at Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem, the National Archives (Prague) and the National Technical Museum (Prague).

7–8 October 2025, Prague, City Mayor's Residence, Mariánské nám. 1

The year 2025 marks the 150th anniversary of horse-drawn railway in Prague (23/9/1875) as well as the 100th anniversary of Prague public motor bus transport (21/6/1925). These upcoming anniversaries merit all the more attention since the topic of urban transport has been often sidelined in both the traditional historiography and urban history, despite its considerable importance for the development of larger modern cities. As such, the conference provides a link between the essentially isolated treatment of the history and technology of public transport and the broader historical context. After all, the creation of urban transport networks lies at the intersection of several historical disciplines and specialisations (e.g. administrative, economic and social history, sociology, history of science and technology, industrialisation, energy, urban planning, architecture, regime propaganda, art, etc.). The conference aims to take a closer look at public transport in Prague, in the Czech lands and Central Europe from the 19th to the 21st century as a continuation of the earlier 'horse-drawn carriage' era in a comparative and multidisciplinary dimension, so as to highlight both its universal constants (still evident in the 21st century) and its historical singularity in individual cities.

Subjects:

The transport of people and goods in cities in the 18th and 19th centuries prior to the advent of modern public transportation (coachmen, hackney coaches, omnibuses, post, etc.).

The beginnings of modern public transport

Means of transportation: boat transport, horse-drawn railway, trams, cableway, buses, trolleybuses, underground railway—metro, train, etc.—changes over time, popularity, modernisation, interconnection

The main (iconic) means of public transport from the perspective of the history of science, technology and design; their manufacturers

The urban development function of railways and their impact on the beginnings and growth of public transport
Public transport operators: private companies, municipalities and municipal organisations, region, state

Public transportation policy—institutions (political, party, autonomous), management mechanisms, actors (visionaries, leaders)

Administrative aspects (e.g. public transport companies of individual cities): organisations, economy/investments; employees, social system

Public transport infrastructure—major transport structures, esp. bridges, tunnels; the role of geomorphology in the development of public transport

Public transport and the industrialisation of larger cities:
interconnection of economic and transportation aspects;
sources of energy for public transport, impact of energy
crises on public transport preferences
Public transport in state and urban planning (in market and
central economic planning systems)
Public transport and the growth of metropolises (e.g.
reaction and adaptation to the construction of housing
estates and the incorporation of new city districts)
Urban public transport and its integration with neighbour-
ing regions—history and prospects
Public transport versus the growth in individual automo-
bilism
Public transport and legislation—a flexible tool or obstruc-
tion?
Public transport at times of war, catastrophe, epidemic,
mass (esp. sporting) events

Public transport in light of statistical data (e.g. transport
capacity, profitability/financial loss, etc.)

Public transport as an interdisciplinary topic and cultural
heritage; a subject of interest for museums, heritage care,
industrial archaeology, private collectors and associa-
tions of public transport supporters; historical visualis-
ations, 4D models, etc.

Public transport as the 'showcase' of all regimes—ideolog-
ical and artistic aspects, architecture (esp. the metro);
appearances in film, documentary, literature and fine arts

Public transport as part of everyday life and celebration
(travel culture; public reaction; terminology, anecdotes,
folklore, slang, etc.)

Public transport and sensory history (colours, sounds,
smells, odours)
and many others

Those interested in presenting a paper are asked to register by 15 June 2025 by e-mail: jan.hrdina@praha.eu

In addition to the title of the work, please send an abstract (max. 1 SP) and a brief CV. Conference organisers reserve the right to make selections among the submitted papers. Papers will be printed in a monothematic volume as part of the *Documenta Pragensia* series. Foreign participants will be provided accommodations at the expense of the conference organisers. The official languages of the conference are Czech, Slovak and German (or English). Simultaneous interpretation from German will be provided.

Organisational committee:

Mgr. Jan Hrdina, Ph.D. (Prague City Archives)
PhDr. Kateřina Jíšová, Ph.D. (Prague City Archives)
Ing. Petr Malík (Prague Public Transit Company, Museum of Public Transport)
Ing. Robert Mara (Prague Public Transit Company, Archives)
prof. PhDr. Milan Hlavačka, CSc. (Institute of History of the Academy
of Sciences of the Czech Republic)
prof. PhDr. Michaela Hrubá, Ph.D. (Department of History at the Faculty
of Arts of Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem)
Ing. Miroslav Kunt (National Archives, Prague)
PhDr. Miloš Hořejš (National Technical Museum, Prague)
Mgr. Michal Novotný, Ph.D. (National Technical Museum, Prague)

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