

Kumamoto City

Creating a compact community with effective public transport



Situation

- In the city, urban area had continued expanding due to the population growth and progress in motorisation.
- As the population is starting to fall and age, the city now faces such problems as an increase in elderly people with difficulties driving cars and the scaling down of the bus network reflecting a decrease in users.
- Concerns have emerged that commercial, medical and financial services, and other functions needed for daily lives could become inaccessible because most services have been offered on the premise that customers drive to stores.

Intervention

- City office is planning to put city areas into following 3 categories.
 - 1. The central urban area:** the area where advanced city functions are concentrated
 - 2. Some local hubs:** the areas where service functions needed for daily life are concentrated
 - 3. Many living hubs:** the residential areas of citizensThe local hubs and living hubs will form “Local Living Centres”.
- City office is also planning to connect the central urban area and local hubs by securing public transport networks such as street cars and buses.

Impact

- City office expects that it will be able to ensure access to necessities for those who get rid of their cars.
- City office expects that exchange between the central urban area and local hubs will be promoted, thereby the vitality of the city will be increased.