The engine, first the steam engine and then the internal combustion engine was crucial for the growth of the modern city. It allowed power to be harnessed in great quantities in a congested area where more traditional forms of energy, such as running water and horses were not practical. The first steam engines were so inefficient that they were only practical for use at coal mines. But as engines became more efficient, they became increasingly common in cities and allowed for the development of urban industry. Industrialization as a result of the engine, spurred the growth of cities and caused their populations to explode even as machines were taking the place of hand-laborers. The engine was not only used in factories. It was also employed in locomotives which allowed large quantities of goods to be shipped into cities from surrounding centers and from around the world. The application of the engine in trains was crucial for allowing goods to be shipped into cities in order to supply for the needs of their many residents. Without trains, it would have been extremely difficult to provide the goods that so many people living in congested areas would need.

Modern cities no longer rely on the railway for transport. Instead, the primary means of transportation and shipping is the automobile. This has created a new problem for many modern cities around the world—traffic and congestion. One popular effort to address this growing problem is to develop faster and more efficient public transportation systems. One example of this is Elon Musk’s Boring Company’s research efforts towards developing a hyperloop train to carry passengers between cities at speeds of several hundred miles per hour. The company is currently looking at cheaper means of digging long distance tunnels which can then be depressurized, to carry high-speed trains. 1 Another solution is to make existing public transport more efficient by streamlining the ticket process. Ford is currently working with several cities to develop a smart system that uses facial recognition to identify commuters and save time in purchasing transport passes. 2

1. <https://www.wired.com/story/great-elon-musk-building-hyperloop/>
2. <http://mashable.com/2017/09/18/city-of-tomorrow-vision/?utm_cid=mash-com-Tw-main-link#XJKanbBcOSqo>