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# Upgrade the city

This could be an urban area near you within the next few years

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**URBAN AREAS ARE GETTING smarter**, with city projects such as solar-powered bike paths in Krommenie to cardless ATMs in Chicago already underway. Technologies such as environmental sensors and self-driving cars are being rolled out: later this year, Dublin will become one of the most densely monitored cities in the world when L200 Intel sensors are placed around the capital to gather and monitor noise and air quality data.

Singapore, meanwhile, wants to lose the car driver. "If a city were to go driverless, then you could satisfy the mobility of everybody with 20 per cent of the cars we use today," says Carlo Ratti, director of MIT's SENSEable City Lab, a research group investigating how emerging technologies are changing cities. "The technology is there. We are discussing with the Singaporean government how it could be one of the first places where this could happen." Here are WIREID's favourite urban upgrades, currently being tested from Lima to London. *Sophia Epstein*

ILLUSTRATION: ARUNAS KACINSKAS

**1. AIR PURIFIERS**  
Billboards in Lima are claimed to do the pollution-filtering of 1,200 trees. [ufic.edu.pe](http://ufic.edu.pe)

**2. ON-THE-GO WI-FI**  
Portuguese company Veniam is turning vehicles into hotspots. [veniam.com](http://veniam.com)

**3. LOCAL MONITORS**  
Dublin-based BuildingEye alerts San Franciscans of planning permits. [buildingeye.com](http://buildingeye.com)

**4. CARLESS ATMs**  
Chicago's Wintrust Financial lets customers take out money using QR codes. [figlobal.com](http://figlobal.com)

**5. BIKE ESCALATOR**  
In Trondheim, Norway, cyclists get up the hill on the CycloCable. [tramp.no](http://tramp.no)

**6. COP-CAMS**  
Smart bodycams for police officers are being trialled in cities including New York and Rio.

**7. TRAFFIC CONTROL**  
New traffic-control systems in Los Angeles have cut commute times by 12 per cent. [wqwt.com](http://wqwt.com)

**8. VIRTUAL SATNAV**  
Jaguar is working to show directions and warnings directly on the windscreen. [jaguarlandrover.com](http://jaguarlandrover.com)

**9. SOLAR COMMUTE**  
Solar-powered iPod transporters are being tested in Secaucus, New Jersey. [ipods.com](http://ipods.com)

**10. ELECTRIC BUS**  
Scania will test Sweden's first wireless-charged bus in Soderstje. [scania.com](http://scania.com)

**11. SMART METERS**  
Madrid's parking prices are adjusted to reflect the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of your vehicle. [madrid.es](http://madrid.es)

**12. WASTE ANALYSIS**  
Sewer scans could spot disease outbreaks before they begin to spread across the city. [senseable.mit.edu](http://senseable.mit.edu)

**13. CYCLIST LIGHTS**  
"Simultaneous green" crossings allow bikes to go ahead of other vehicles. [tfg.gov.uk](http://tfg.gov.uk)

**14. SOLAR BIKE PATHS**  
Solar cells in Krommenie's 100-metre SoliRoad harvest energy to power street lights and electric cars. [solroad.nl](http://solroad.nl)

**15. TELEMEDICINE**  
Airedale NHS Foundation Trust treats patients via video link. [airedale-trust.nhs.uk](http://airedale-trust.nhs.uk)

**16. SHARING APP**  
Dutch app Peerby allows users to find tools, bikes and more to borrow for free. [peerby.com](http://peerby.com)

**17. EASY PARKING**  
SmartEye sensors detect when spaces are filled. [smartparking.com](http://smartparking.com)

**18. UPCYCLED HUBS**  
New York payphones will be replaced by Wi-Fi hotspots in a \$200m plan called LinkNYC. [link.nyc](http://link.nyc)

**19. SMART HELMET**  
Vireo's bike helmet communicates with the cyclist and nearby cars. [vireo.com](http://vireo.com)



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