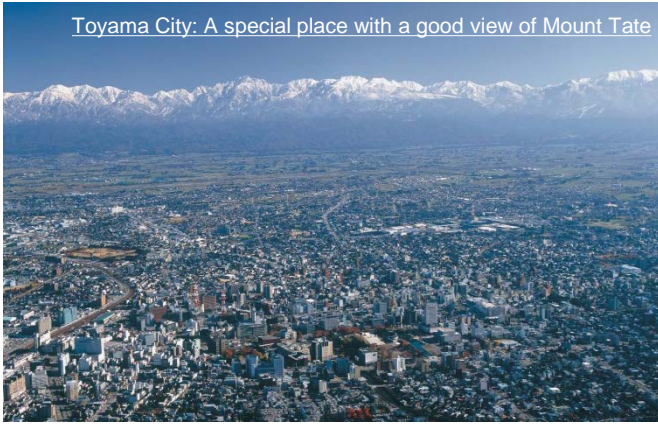


Toyama City: A special place with a good view of Mount Tate



The Tateyama Mountain Range seen from the urban area

Toyama City is a major urban area with a population of about 420,000, has diversified landscapes from Toyama Bay to Tateyama mountain range in the Northern Alps, and is rich in nature blessed with water and greens.

With its flat ground, high road-maintenance rate, and strong aspirations of residents to own detached houses, the urban area rapidly expanded to the suburbs, which in turn caused the weakening of the central urban area. Also, with the excessive dependence on automobile traffic, public transportation has significantly declined.

In order to address the above issues as well as rapid aging and falling birth rates, the city has set its basic policy to develop a compact city centering on public transportation, with a view to realizing an elderly-friendly, low-carbon, sustainable city by promoting the use of public transportation and relocation to the urban area.

Formation of LRT Network

Toward the realization of the development of a compact city centering on public transportation, the city has made such efforts as the conversion of JR Toyamako Line into LRT, development of a belt line for trains in the city, and inclusion of Toyama Station in the route of the newly started Hokuriku Shinkansen. For the future, the city intends to form an LRT network with a total length of 25.3 km by connecting north and south-bound street cars under the elevated tracks of Toyama Station and expanding train lines in the city to the Toyama Chihou Tetsudou's Kamidaki Line in accordance with the opening of the Hokuriku Shinkansen.

These efforts resulted in creating the effects of multifaceted regional vitalization, such as a significant increase in the number of users, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, creation of outing opportunities for senior citizens, increase in housing starts along railroad lines, increase in the number of visitors at tourist facilities along railroad lines, etc.



Figure of future LRT network



Train's belt line in the city (Centrum)

The Sixth Industry of Perilla with the Use of Heat from Ushidake Onsen

The city intends to create new specialty products under the theme of the environment and health by upgrading a plant factory with complete artificial light that uses heat from Ushidake Onsen (hot spring), photovoltaic power, etc. in order to conduct the nation's first hydroponic cultivation of perillas in mountainous areas that suffer from depopulation and population aging. The city will also expand the production of perilla seeds and oil based on open cultivation using a large, abandoned cultivated area in the city, to establish a unified process of production, processing, distribution, and sale of perilla leaves, seeds and oil.

Also, the city intends to become a city with health and longevity such as the employment of local senior citizens at the plant factory to create motivation in their life, using perillas that contain effective ingredients in the food services at hospitals and schools in the city, etc.



Ushidake Onsen plant factory

Creation of a City with Health and Exchanges

In order to realize the development of a compact city in which senior citizens can securely and safely walk around and live, the city will create a pedestrian network by upgrading pedestrian roads in the central city, promote the improvement in senior citizen's outing and exchange opportunities, as well as the guidance on attracting Toyama version of a day service facility and build a city with health and exchanges useful for senior citizens' health promotion.

By developing a mechanism that uses walking support tools that are useful for senior citizens' health maintenance and enhancement, the city will realize the living that senior citizens can spend healthy and independent life and aims at controlling social security spending such as medical charges, care insurance benefits, etc.



Images of the pedestrian network