

## The City Car

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**Scientists at MIT have designed a model for a “city car” that folds in half at your destination with the press of a button. All of the cars will stack like shopping carts in the streets in places that are now parking lots in urban areas. They haven’t built the real car yet, but they plan to a full-scale model in the spring. The car will be smaller than normal cars, with two seats, and it will be half the size of a normal compact car or about the size of a golf cart. It is meant for dense urban areas. You don’t actually own a specific one, they will be stacked together around a city and when you swipe your credit card, you take the first car available. It is supposed to be part of mass transit, but it is also individual mobility. They also said it isn’t supposed to replace mass transit, but be another option. It could help with traffic in the Unites States, Europe, and Asia, since it will take up less space and it will be easier to find a place to park. It could also help with pollution and energy use, because it will run on a rechargeable battery. When it is parked, it will be hooked into an electricity grid to recharge it. The designer of the foldable frame of the car, Franco Vairani says that it is a virtual computer on wheels. He also said that when the car folds it will take up one-eight the amount an average car needs to park. Also, the car can drive by itself with robotic wheels called “wheel robots,” which will control the car and there will also be a computer system with a button or joystick. Additionally, the car has 360-degree movement so it can spin in a circle. The people at MIT would like to manufacture the car within the next three to four years. The only problem is that a consultant for the project from General Motors doesn’t think the “City Car” is ready for the road yet.**

**I think that the idea of this car is really interesting. It will make it easier to find a spot and it will be a good type of mass transit, because it is mass transit, but at the same time you take it where you want to. It is also a good idea that the cars can fold up and they are stored like shopping carts. It is also good because it will help the environment since it will run on battery. It is cool that the wheels are like robots and they control the car. I would like to see a bigger version of this same type of car. Although this car seems like something distant in the future, it is only a few years away.**