The “High Shift” Scenario for Global Transportation: Slashing CO₂ Pollution, Saving Money, Improving Lives

Transportation is the fastest growing source of energy-related CO₂ in the world. A new study from the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) and the University of California, Davis, shows how shifting investments away from cars and towards public transport can save trillions of dollars and drastically cut CO₂ pollution.

This “High Shift” scenario would:

- Significantly increase rail and clean bus transport, especially Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).
- Ensure that urban areas accommodate safe walking and bicycling.
- Lower the rates of road construction, parking garages and other ways in which car ownership is encouraged.
- Adopt more protective motor vehicle emission control standards.

By 2050, the “High Shift” scenario could:

- Eliminate 1,700 megatons of annual CO₂ pollution from urban passenger transportation, a 40 percent decrease from what business as usual would yield.
- Slash more than US$100 trillion in the projected cumulative costs of vehicles, fuel, infrastructure construction and operations, a 20 percent savings.
- Boost access to jobs, affordable housing, health and education, especially for lower income groups.

Total CO₂ Pollution From Urban Passenger Transportation