Share the Road

Invest in walking & cycling

FIA Foundation
for the Automobile and Society

UNEP

Air Pollution: Emissions from motor vehicles are responsible for up to 90% of urban air pollution, which cause more than 1.2 million premature deaths per year.

Energy Security: Road transport accounts for 25% of global energy demand, 90% of which is derived from fossil fuels.

Climate Change: 17% of global energy-related CO_2 emissions come from road transport and transport is the fastest-growing sector in greenhouse gas emissions.

Road Crashes: Every 6 seconds someone is killed or seriously injured on roads, making the yearly toll about 1.2 million fatalities.

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Congestion: The number of cars is expected to triple by 2050, mostly in developing countries, signaling massive gridlock under a business as usual scenario.

Poverty: Huge portions of household income are spent on transport costs, rising to 25% for the poorest in large cities.

Vehicles: The vast majority of people do not own cars but bicycles, which outnumber cars by almost a billion.

Unsustainable Roads: Infrastructure investments are biased towards the motor vehicle, building roads for cars, not people.

road transport by the numbers: major challenges

The **"Share the Road"** initiative highlights one of the most cost-effective yet overlooked actions: **make walking and cycling convenient, safe and enjoyable.**

To do this, roads must support non-motorised transport (NMT) by having the following features in a city-wide network:

- sidewalks
- crosswalks
- cycling lanes

When these NMT facilities are integrated with public transport such as bus rapid transit (BRT) systems, the result is an even higher number of people using both non-motorised and public transport. After all, each public transport trip begins and ends with walking; sometimes cycling, as well.

Systematic investments are needed in NMT. It is a matter of **providing road space for all** and sharing the resources allocated to maintain and improve urban road transport.

This kind of **better balance** between motorized and non-motorised transport is crucial if we are to overcome the multiple challenges faced.

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The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with co-founder the FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society, started Share the Road to:

- Work with governments and their donors to develop policies that will ensure all urban road investments include NMT facilities.
- Possible financing mechanisms are a set-aside percentage of national road development funds and urban transport investment portfolios or a separate fund for NMT.
- Both rehabilitation and new road projects are targeted and the regional focus is Africa.

pivotal action to take:
invest in NMT road infrastructure

Powered by human energy, non-motorised transport is the **cleanest** form of transport, with no emissions.

NMT is also the most **space-efficient** form of transport. For example, new bike rack designs show up to 15 bikes can fit in a single parking space for cars.

Being able to walk or cycle to reach destinations makes the city environment more enjoyable and raises the standard of living. For example, pedestrianisation projects can reduce pollution, increase economic activity and create vibrant public spaces.

The **majority of urban trips are short distance**, making them ideal for walking and cycling. On a bike, the travel range can increase significantly.

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Cities must move from a car-dependent to multi-modal transport system in transitioning to a green economy.

When sidewalks and cycling paths are **integrated into public transport** networks, more people walk, cycle or commute instead of using a private motor vehicle.

This is the kind of modal shift highlighted by the International Energy Agency (IEA) as one of the three main sources of greenhouse gas reductions in transport.

Walking and cycling road infrastructure encourages people to either stay out or get out of cars. It also promotes more healthy lifestyles.

Share the Road for the **Environment**

We can radically reduce our environmental footprint

Although walking is still the most widely used mode of transport, **road infrastructure has not been built for people** on foot, let alone cyclists. Since the advent of the motor vehicle, road development has continuously pushed the majority of people onto less and less space.

The result is that those who can afford it ride a car while those who cannot have to compete for road space with high-speed motor traffic, often risking their very lives.

The lack of NMT facilities is one of the top reasons why pedestrians and cyclists make up a disproportionate amount of the 1.2 million who die in road crashes each year.

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Designating road space for pedestrians and cyclists in proportion to the demand for NMT is crucial. It is also one of the most cost-effective actions for saving hundreds of thousands of lives.

For example, the top two countermeasures for improving safety in Nairobi, Kenya, recommended by the International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP) are pedestrian crossings and sidewalks.

Safe road infrastructure for all users is emphasized in the global action plan for the **UN Decade of Action for Road Safety**, 2011-2020, spearheaded by the Make Roads Safe Campaign.

Share the Road for Safety

We can dramatically improve road safety for all users

Cyclists need less than a third of the road space that is used by a car, while a pedestrian only needs a sixth of that space. More people using non-motorised transport means that limited land space is optimized for maximal accessibility.

NMT facilities, such as cycling lanes connected in a network, mean better accessibility for the whole society, especially for vulnerable groups such as the urban poor.

Up to 25% of urban household income can be spent on public transport costs. Either to save these high costs or because it cannot be afforded, the urban poor often walk for hours to reach their school or place of employment.

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For everyone, well-designed sidewalks and crosswalks are necessary to ensure journeys can be made as safely and quickly as possible. A city-wide cycling network can not only lower household transport expenditures but also increase the travel range.

Many cities are developing public bike share systems that provide people with both a bicycle and the necessary road infrastructure to use the bicycle to meet their mobility needs.

Congestion is a major headache for cities worldwide. More people using NMT means less congestion since there are fewer cars on the road.

Share the Road for Accessibility

We can significantly increase mobility for all users

Investing in walking and cycling road infrastructure is a win-win-win situation: reducing harmful air pollutants & climate emissions, improving road safety and increasing accessibility for all.

Taken together, such investments contribute towards sustainable development by promoting all three pillars of environmental, social and economic sustainability in the context of urban road transport.

Developing systematic road investment policies for NMT is important for poverty reduction and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), both directly and indirectly.

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Massive savings are possible by reducing the high economic costs of urban air pollution (5% of GDP in developing countries in healthcare costs alone) and poor road safety (up to 100 million USD a year in low- and middle-income countries, where 90% of road crashes occur).

Massive savings are also possible by reducing transport expenditures at both the household and national level, for example reducing the demand for fuel imports.

Also, for millions, especially the urban poor, the bicycle, or handcart, is a tool to earn a livelihood, such as delivery services or taxis. When these people can go about their work on safe and convenient road infrastructure, the result is upward economic mobility.

Win Win Win

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Many governments are increasing investments in walking and cycling as part of their wider plans for creating sustainable urban transport systems.

Positive examples are developing around the world, from South America, Africa and Europe to North America and the Asia-Pacific.

rising trend worldwide: more investments in NMT

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Nairobi, Kenya

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Bogotá, Colombia

before and after pictures: examples of good investments

Still, between the demand for walking and cycling road infrastructure and its provision, the financing gap is massive, especially in Africa. Nowhere else in the world will more roads be built, expanded and tarmacked in the coming decades than in Africa.

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In Kenya, Share the Road's first pilot country, UNEP has successfully worked with the government to affect changes both on the ground and in policy. A showcase road is under construction – 100% financed by the government – featuring pedestrian and cycling facilities. Also, the government has developed policies for NMT investments.

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focus on Africa

Share the Road can help your government by:

- Providing technical support on design aspects
- Helping explore financing opportunities
- Supporting policy development on investments

Share the Road has worked in Kenya and as a result, a road rehabilitation project features top-quality NMT facilities, connecting to public transport ('matatu') stations. Furthermore, the government now systematically integrates NMT facilities on all new urban roads and demands safety audits on projects.

Next, Share the Road will launch national initiatives in Uganda and Rwanda, helping to develop action plans for policy change, with necessary research, awareness raising and pilot projects. UNEP and partners look forward to working in more countries.

Building on national initiatives, Share the Road will also develop a regional Africa partnership on financing walking and cycling road infrastructure.

See www.unep.org/transport/sharetheroad for:

- global report with original research and analysis
- communication tools such as brochures and films
- updates from ongoing projects

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The concept of **Share the Road** is to try and influence those who design, plan, and finance roads to think more broadly and to change how we look at roads.

The future needs to be not about more tarmac and vehicles, but about more effective movement of people and goods in society.

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UNEP Executive Director
United Nations Under-Secretary General

join Share the Road

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