Transport - the Essential Connector

A II over the world, people are on the move, but where are they going to, and why? And how do they get there, and back?

Mobility is the lifeblood of our communities; with roads, we have the power to heal, to educate, to generate prosperity. But mobility is not just about building roads; it's about creating thriving communities and propelling economies. It involves everything we do from day to day: driving to work, walking to school, getting produce to markets, visiting families and friends.

Getting together is a core feature of human existence: In this sense, **transport is the original social network—the physical social network.**

We see transport quickly evolving, adapting and shaping megatrends, from urbanization to climate change to digital transformation. Transport, data, and income are growing inseparable. Already, we see this in ride sharing and the doorstep delivery of goods purchased online. **GPS is driving**

GDP, in a very real

sense.

No vision for mobility is transformative or possible at all if it does not encompass the world's most pressing

development challenges. For the World Bank, mobility is critical to sustainable development—from education and health, to global warming and inclusive growth. Without it, there cannot be poverty reduction nor shared prosperity. Transport has a lot riding on it, for individual citizens and national economies.

The challenges are huge: In a crowded world, 1 billion people still live more than 2 km away from a usable road; in many cities, unsafe, poorly designed public transport bars women and girls, the elderly and the disabled, from fully living their lives; and the dramatic increase in the number of vehicles means more than 1.3 million people lose their lives every year on the road.

What is the World Bank's Transport sector doing to help countries chart their way forward? We embrace the future: Without getting rid of the roads, we are redrawing the map of mobility.

We are shaping urban and rural spaces and making virtual spaces real. We are working hand-in-hand with partners across sectors to make results possible in all development areas—from building and preserving human capital, to strengthening communities' resilience and response to shocks. When conflict erupts, severed trade routes inflict a heavy toll—Jordan reportedly lost 30 percent of its export markets during the Syria crisis. Mobility also plays an important role in addressing key factors that underline fragility and civil strife, such as lack of economic and social opportunities.

Through project financing, support for development policies, private sector mobilization, and world-class knowledge, we connect people to better lives, bringing



teachers to communities, patients to health centers, jobs to workers, goods to households, and prosperity to countries.

The World Bank is the only global one-stop shop for the full cycle of innovation, capacity building, planning, financing and implementation of transport solutions.

In Tanzania, drones deliver medicine to isolated villages on Lake Victoria. Young people in Freetown, Sierra Leone, are crowdsourcing data to send minibuses along more urban inclusive routes. The link between transport and human development is clear: In Sudan, 50 percent of parents say the high cost of transport prevents them from taking their children to a hospital. Women with access to roads in Pakistan are twice more likely—from 14 to 28 percent overall chance—to go to pre-natal consultations. In rural





Morocco, the enrollment of girls in primary school increased from 17 percent to 54 percent when their access to roads improved.

Transport is central to propelling green economies.

Decarbonizing transport and boosting resilience are at the center of our strategy, as transport represents 16 percent of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions, and direct damage to transport infrastructure from natural disasters costs about \$15 billion annually. The World Bank helps countries—and their cities—adapt their transport systems to extreme weather, preventing crippling infrastructure losses and making emergency support to affected populations more effective.

In cities, the World Bank is democratizing urban space, lowering costs and increasing social and environmental returns. We do this by paving the way to multi-choice



travel, combining systems of mass and individual transit that include low-carbon technologies, such as metro lines and electric mobility, and a mix of bus rapid transport, walking, and cycling. The options in transport are greater now than they have ever been. In Bangalore, we supported India's first Intelligent Public Transport and Public Bike Sharing systems, initiating a new urban ecology and model of mobility. In Lima and Bogotá, new metro lines will bring residents within an hour's commute of 25,000 more jobs.

On a larger scale, transport corridors shrink physical and economic distance, promoting growth through competitiveness and stimulating wider economic development. With Bank support, India is reviving the use of its inland waterways to move cargo and passengers, a relatively inexpensive mode of mass transport that reduces carbon emissions and resuscitates riverside ports, while taking the pressure off railways and badly congested roads.



Africa's growth also requires the expansion of waterways, roads, rail, airports and ports. Increased incomes and growing populations mean that transport is more in demand than ever—for tourism, imports and exports, services, economic migration, and jobs. Without modern global and domestic supply chains, and without logistics and public transport, African communities have no opportunity to escape poverty and countries cannot benefit from global value chains and economies beyond their borders: Even the most thriving economies would struggle.

All over the world, transport is the essential connector that links nations and people to a better future.

Through transformative financing, extensive knowledge, and world-wide engagement, the World Bank is positioned to lead the way.





