

Transport Reviews >

Volume 27, 2007 - [Issue 4](#)

6,070 288

Views | CrossRef citations to date | 9 | Altmetric

Original Articles

Urban Transport Trends and Policies in China and India: Impacts of Rapid Economic Growth

John Pucher , Zhong-ren Peng, Neha Mittal, Yi Zhu & Nisha Korattyswaroopam

Pages 379-410 | Received 22 May 2006, Accepted 25 Oct 2006, Published online: 02 Jul 2007

 Cite this article  <https://doi.org/10.1080/01441640601089988>

Sample our
Geography
Journals
>> [Sign in here](#) to start your access
to the latest two volumes for 14 days

 Full Article

 Figures & data

 References

 Citations

 Metrics

 Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

 Share

Abstract

This paper provides a comparative overview of urban transport in the world's two most populous countries: China and India. Cities in both countries are suffering from severe and worsening transport problems: air pollution, noise, traffic injuries and fatalities, congestion, parking shortages, energy use, and a lack of mobility for the poor. The urban transport crisis in China and India results from continuing population growth, urbanization, suburban sprawl, rising incomes, and skyrocketing motor vehicle ownership and use. This paper critically assesses government policies in each country and suggests a range of specific improvements. It advocates a slowdown in the massive roadway investment in recent years and a shift in emphasis to expanding and improving public transport, cycling, and walking facilities. While continued growth in motor vehicle use is inevitable, China and India should restrict motor vehicle use in

congested city centres and increase taxes, fees, and charges to reflect the enormous social and environmental costs of motor vehicle use. At the same time, much stricter regulations should be imposed on manufacturers to produce cleaner, more energy-efficient, quieter, and safer cars, motorcycles, buses, and trucks. Mitigating the many social and environmental impacts of rising motorization is obviously important for the future well-being of Chinese and Indian cities. It is also crucial for the future of the rest of the world. Unless the problems of motorization in China and India can be effectively dealt with, the world faces sharp increases in greenhouse gases, accelerating climate change, and rapid depletion of a range of non-renewable resources.

Notes

1. Population numbers of the Chinese cities cited in this article are lower than those reported in official Chinese statistics. The extensive rural populations within the official administrative boundaries of each city have been excluded, so that the population figures used here include only urban residents. The urban populations cited in this article include both officially registered urban residents and the estimated number of unofficial residents, those without a residence permit (Hukou), referred to in China as the 'floating population'.

Related Research Data

[Urban transport in developing countries](#)

Source: Transport Reviews

[Advanced Traveler Information System for Hyderabad City](#)

Source: IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems

[Preventing death and injury on the world's roads](#)

Source: Transport Reviews

[Oil consumption and CO2 emissions in China's road transport: current status, future trends, and policy implications](#)

Source: Energy Policy

[Review of Urban Transportation in India](#)

Source: Journal of Public Transportation

THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF PARTICULATE AIR POLLUTION IN URBAN INDIA: A Synthesis of the Science

Source: Annual Review of Energy and the Environment

Non-motorised Transport and Sustainable Development: Evidence from Calcutta

Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by
288

[Urban mobility and public transport: future perspectives and review >](#)

Avishai (Avi) Ceder

International Journal of Urban Sciences

Published online: 29 Jul 2020

[Travel and the Built Environment: A Meta-Analysis >](#)

Reid Ewing et al.

Journal of the American Planning Association

Published online: 11 May 2010

[Urban transport in developing countries >](#)

Ken Gwilliam

Transport Reviews

Published online: 26 Nov 2010

[View more](#)

Information for

[Authors](#)

[R&D professionals](#)

[Editors](#)

[Librarians](#)

[Societies](#)

Opportunities

[Reprints and e-prints](#)

[Advertising solutions](#)

[Accelerated publication](#)

[Corporate access solutions](#)

Open access

[Overview](#)

[Open journals](#)

[Open Select](#)

[Dove Medical Press](#)

[F1000Research](#)

Help and information

[Help and contact](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[All journals](#)

[Books](#)

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email



Sign me up



Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited [Privacy policy](#)

[Cookies](#) [Terms & conditions](#) [Accessibility](#)

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG



Taylor & Francis
by informa