

Source 1

When people talk about transport systems, they usually think about the road, rail, water and air networks designed to support the movement of people, goods and services.

However, walking is an essential form of transport. Nearly all journeys involve walking, especially in the first and last kilometre of travel. Throughout the world, walking is one of the most important ways people move around their local communities.

Source 2: Walking as a form of transport has many benefits



Cheap and affordable transport for everyone.

Reduces noise pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Creates a more safe and pleasant environment.

Improves health and well-being through physical exercise.

Supports sustainable development in the economy.

Increases social interaction between people.

Source 3: Walking should be a priority in cities

For the past century, cars have dominated transport in cities. Now it is time for walking to be the main form of transport in urban environments.

If we neglect walking, cities will continue to be dangerous. The World Bank shows that traffic accidents kill over 1.25 million people around the world each year – pedestrians more than any other group. Air pollution is the greatest environmental risk to human health and contributes to one in nine deaths annually. Cities are responsible for about 80 per cent of carbon emissions globally. Walking can also help to reduce air pollution, global warming and loss of biodiversity.

Environmental action groups explain how walking and reducing the number of cars will create a safer, healthier, and more equal society. It will also attract business and investment growth to cities. Traffic congestion wastes time and money.

Walking is part of a greener, more sustainable future, according to the United Nations.

Governments must plan cities around walking, not cars and motorised transport!

Extract from an Asian transport blog, 2021

Source 4**Aput**

Walking is good, but cities are becoming larger and larger. Cars, trams and trains are needed to travel long distances.

We already have many roads and transport networks. Use electricity to power vehicles and build more roads to relieve congestion. This will make our cities cleaner, more efficient and cheaper, therefore attracting investment by businesses.

My friends love the freedom of having personal transport. Cars give people control over their lives; they are fun and help people to move around quickly. Cars can express your personality and be a fashion statement.

My job helps me to understand the benefits of roads and cars. As the manager of a large company selling cars, I know that most people want to own a car. Personal choices in transport need to be supported.

Yura

It would be helpful to make cars cleaner, Aput. But walking is so much better.

Instead of building roads, we should ban cars from the centre of cities. Congestion charges should discourage cars from entering cities, like in Stockholm and Bogota. Increase taxes on motorised transport and lower speed limits to reduce pollution. This could save so much money.

Motorised transport makes people lazy. Walking is healthy for your body. To help pedestrians, we can create attractive and safe walking environments.

Research by a university shows that clean, well-lit city centres with good walkways and paths really improve the well-being and mental health of residents. Walking networks help people to meet others and create closer relationships in the community. They are also more accessible for people with disabilities.

Research studies by psychologists in the United States in 2019 show that pedestrianised areas with attractive seating, trees and plants, art and sculpture, as well as places to get refreshments and socialise, all help to increase the health of citizens.

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