Hidden Subsidies for Urban Car Transportation

Public Funds for Private Transport







Jennifer Ewing Thiel

ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

UN Seminar on Sustainable Transport

April 13, 2010

New York City, NY

ICLEI: Leading local governments to sustainability

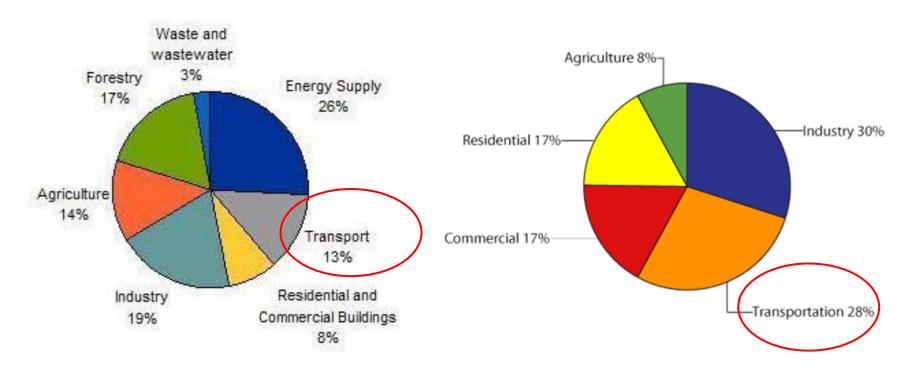
Key Facts:

- 75% of Global Emissions come from urban areas
- Global population is now over 50% urban
- Automobile use in developing countries on the rise

ICLEI's mission is to build, serve, and drive a movement of local governments to advance *deep reductions* in greenhouse gas emissions and achieve *tangible improvements* in local sustainability.

Transportation is one of the largest sources of GHG emissions

Global GHG emissions by Sector (2004) U.S. Emissions by Sector (2006)



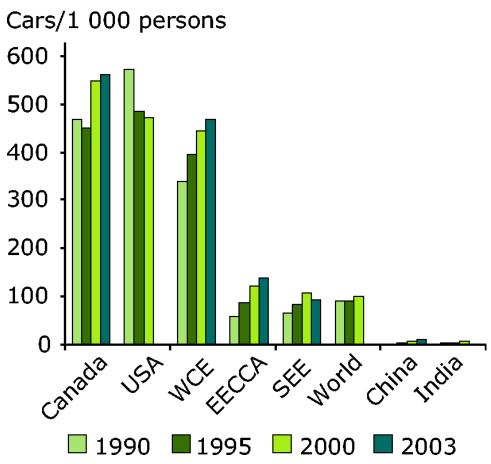
Source: IPCC Assessment Report 4 (2007)

Source: US EPA Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks, 2006



Car ownership and Transportation GHG emissions are on the rise

Car ownership



Legend:

- WCE: Western and Central Europe
- EECCA: Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
- **SEE:** South East Europe



Sustainability in the Public Urban Transport Market project

Goals of Project:

Research hidden public subsidies for private transport in European cities

- Assess local costs for private transport:
- Assess local revenue from private transport (parking fees, taxes

Develop recommendations for reducing subsidies and balancing subsidies between public and private transport

Revenue:

- Parking Fees
- Taxes
- Tolls

Costs:

- Maintenance of roads
- Traffic signals and lighting
- Traffic police
- Parking

Total = Cost Recovery



Results: Cost Recovery Ranges from 14% - 47%

15 Cities Studies in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Italy

	Budget year	Inhabitants	Income from car transportation	Expenditure for car transportation	Difference	Subsidy per inhabitant	Cost- Recovery
Heidelberg	2004	142.500	13.137.822	30.634.581	17.496.759	122,8	42,9%
Rotenburg	2003	22.500	693.380	3.094.252	2.400.872	106,7	22,4%
Ludwigsburg	2000	86.936	9.090.874	19.293.557	10.202.683	117,4	47,1%
Düsseldorf	2002	569.046	24.699.867	167.106.878	142.407.011	250,3	14,8%
Lüneburg	2000	70.000	3.411.848	9.194.623	5.782.775	82,6	37,1%
Augsburg	2000	254.867	21.046.353	47.766.056	26.719.703	104,8	44,1%
Aschaffenburg	2002	67.788	3.041.045	11.366.940	8.325.895	122,8	26,8%
Freiburg	2000	201.000	17.163.087	37.993.383	20.830.296	103,6	45,2%
Ingelheim	2003	26.000	1.264.617	6.985.282	5.720.665	220,0	18,1%
Bremen	2000	547.000	12.551.020	72.959.184	60.408.163	110,4	17,2%
Dresden	2000	459.000	9.132.653	65.306.122	56.173.469	122,4	14,0%
Stuttgart	2000	581.000	20.663.265	104.591.837	83.928.571	144,5	19,8%
Average Germany (based on inhabitant numbers) 145,5 29,1							29,1%
Graz	2003	238.000	20.832.664	60.959.484	40.126.820	169,0	34,0%
Geneve	2002	182.560	13.944.143	40.038.362	26.094.219	142.0	34,8%
Ferrara	2002	130.000	3.553.267	9.310.289	5.757.022	440	38,2%

Example: Graz, Austria 238,000 inhabitants

Private Transport Cost Recovery

Revenue -Parking fees -Local taxes -Regional/national government	€21 million		
Costs -Construction/maintenance of streets -Traffic and street lights -Parking management -Municipal car fleet	€60 million		
Cost Recovery	€21 million €60 million = 35%		
Subsidy per inhabitant	€169		

Private Transport €169 / inhabitant

Public Transport €84 / Inhabitant



Key Issues

Increasing use of automobiles in cities in the developing world has a number of effects:

- Increased congestion
- Poor air quality
- Increased GHG emissions

Hidden subsidies in most cities not known

Public Transport lacks sufficient funding

Public Transport requires large upfront capital expenditures







Recommendations for Sustainable Transport

Analyze hidden subsidies in cities in developing countries

Increase public transport in urban areas, focus on multi-modal transport: buses, subways, bicycles, walking, and cars

Increase cost coverage for private transport – users pay for a greater share of costs, e.g. tolls, parking fees etc.











Thanks!

Contact Info:

Jennifer Ewing Thiel

(w) +1-212-788-1629

(c) +1-917-318-4241

jennifer.ewing-thiel@iclei.org

www.icleiusa.org



