

## BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE MEGADOC

### INTRODUCTION:

This is an ongoing document of compiled resources in favor of removing the dominance of car-dependent infrastructure (especially in the US). If you're anything like me, you noticed the shortcomings of the car infested hellscape you live in but didn't have the right references or even vernacular to properly criticize it. I'm not an expert nor should this document be taken as the product of one. I'm just somebody who got interested in infrastructure and always hated growing up in a drab suburb.

Cars have become the [dominant mode of transportation](#) for a [handful of countries](#), and it has been at the expense of good urban planning in some of our [most influential countries](#). Hopefully this document can help to [demystify our car-centric city planning](#), and explains why and how to [reach better alternatives](#). [Cities that used to be more economically efficient](#) and built for pedestrians have [been bulldozed in favor of the car](#). This is something that the general population didn't ask for, and was ultimately economically impacted forever since the highway boom in the 1950's.

### USEFUL TERMS:

Terminology regarding the zoning and urban planning concepts

*R1 (layman's):*

[What Does Zoned R1 Property Mean? \(sfgate.com\)](#)

*R1 (legal):* <https://www.codepublishing.com/AZ/Taylor/html/Taylor18/Taylor1820.html>

*Suburb:* [Suburb - Wikipedia](#)\*

*Zoning:* [Single-family zoning - Wikipedia](#)\*

\* Wikipedia link

\*\*Scholarly source

\*\*\*Contains legitimate citations/references

*Mixed-use:* [Mixed-Use Zoning – Sustainable Development Code \(sustainablecitycode.org\)](https://sustainablecitycode.org)

*Urban Planning:* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban\\_planning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_planning)\*

*Induced Demand:* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Induced\\_demand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Induced_demand)\*

## **BASIC INFO:**

Informative general facts

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoning\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoning_in_the_United_States)\*

[Mixed Use Development 101: 6 Impressive Examples | FortuneBuilders](#)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Car\\_dependency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Car_dependency)\*

[Developmental Standards for Mixed-Use](#)

[What is Traditional Development? \(strongtowns.org\)](https://strongtowns.org)\*\*\*

[Why even driving through suburbia is soul crushing – Quartz \(qz.com\)](https://qz.com)\*\*\*

[Burden of disease from environmental noise : Quantification of healthy life years lost in Europe \(who.int\)](https://who.int)\*\*

[“American Suburban Experiment”](#)

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Road\\_diet](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Road_diet)\*

\* Wikipedia link

\*\*Scholarly source

\*\*\*Contains legitimate citations/references

## Public Transportation Facts

### EPA: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

## **FACTS AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS ABOUT CAR DEPENDENCY:**

History, politically relevant informations, and other facts about US (mostly) infrastructure

### The Racist History of Single-Family Home Zoning | KQED\*\*\*

### Growth Ponzi Scheme\*\*

### Evidence of White Flight\*\*

### State and Local Infrastructure Spending Compared\*\*\*

### Democrat Failure to Address Housing

### Who Pays For the Roads?\*\*\*

### Public Transportation's Role in Preventing Climate Change\*\*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fossil\\_fuels\\_lobby](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fossil_fuels_lobby)\*

### The Footprint of Highways in America (Visualized)\*\*\*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peak\\_car](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peak_car)\*

### Footprint of Parking Lots in the United States

### The Illusion of Choice When it Comes to Driving\*\*\*

\* Wikipedia link

\*\*Scholarly source

\*\*\*Contains legitimate citations/references

[Zoning - Wikipedia\\*](#)

[Traffic Returning to Normal Since COVID-19](#)

[Economic Benefits of Mixed-Use, People Oriented Cities\\*\\*\\*](#)

[Impact of Highways and Why They Were Built in America\\*\\*\\*](#)

[How to Make Cities More Walkable\\*\\*\\*](#)

[Why Millennials are Disillusioned With Suburban Life](#)

[The High Cost of Transportation in the US\\*\\*\\*](#)

[Why America Gave up on Public Transportation](#)

[US Transit Use Falls Behind Other Countries\\*\\*\\*](#)

## **JUST DATA**

Raw data or heavily data based sources about infrastructure, zoning...etc.

[City and Suburban Crime Trends in the US\\*\\*](#)

[Death Due to Combustion Emissions\\*\\*](#)

[Sprawl Costs America a Trillion \\$ a Year\\*\\*\\*](#)

[Advancing Multimodal Transportation Systems\\*\\*](#)

\* Wikipedia link

\*\*Scholarly source

\*\*\*Contains legitimate citations/references

[Inside the New Suburban Crisis](#)\*\*\*

[Jurisdictional and Functional Analysis of Urban Cores & Suburbs](#)\*\*\*

[Why the Average US Household Can't Afford Newer Cars on Average](#)\*\*\*

[Wikipedia: Corridor Capacity](#)\*

[Houston Highway Expansion Debacle](#)\*\*

[Household spending on Transit in the US](#)\*\*

[Kids Who Walk and Bike to School](#)\*\*

## **ANTI-SPRAWL, PRO-DENSITY & PUBLIC TRANSIT RESOURCES:**

Useful information for debunking pro-car sentiments, and enforcing pro-density

[Mixed-Use Zoning – Sustainable Development Code \(sustainablecitycode.org\)](#)\*\*\*

[Youtube: Can We Make Cities Car Free?](#)\*\*\*

[Road Diet](#)\*\*

[Starving Cities to Feed the Suburbs](#)\*\*\*

[Different Housing Types Can Mix if Designed Properly](#)\*\*\*

[Most Car Owners Wish They Didn't Have to Drive Cars](#)

[The Political Economy of Car Dependence](#)\*\*

\* Wikipedia link

\*\*Scholarly source

\*\*\*Contains legitimate citations/references

[Why Widening Highways Doesn't Bring Traffic Relief \(Induced Demand\)](#)\*\*\*

[Self Driving Cars Won't Fix Transportation](#)\*\*\*

[Self Driving Cars Won't Save Our Cities](#)\*\*\*

[\(PDF\) It's Time to End Single-Family Zoning \(researchgate.net\)](#) \*\*\*

[News Analysis: Why single-family home zoning is under attack - Los Angeles Times \(latimes.com\)](#)

[Build Cities For Bikes, Buses, and Feet -- Not Cars](#)

[Conservative Backlash to Zoning Proposals Explained](#)

[The Negative Consequences of Car Dependency \(strongtowns.org\)](#)

[Effects of the car on societies - Wikipedia](#)\*

[Sprawl Costs the Public More Than Twice as Much as Compact Development – Streetsblog USA](#)\*\*\*

[Comparison of Energy Use and Emissions From Different Transportation Modes \(buses.org\)](#)\*\*\*

[CDC: Designing Activity-Friendly Communities](#)

[Best bet for tax revenue: mixed-use downtown development | CNU](#)

\* Wikipedia link

\*\*Scholarly source

\*\*\*Contains legitimate citations/references

[Automobile Dependency \(vtpi.org\)](https://vtpi.org)\*\*\*

[A Brief History of Zoning in America—and Why We Need a More Flexible Approach | Economics21](#)

[Curbing Traffic \(modacitylife.com\)](https://modacitylife.com)

[Noise Levels and the Source of Noise Pollution](#)\*\*

[The Invaluable Inefficiency of Neighborhoods](#)\*\*\*

[8 Benefits of Public Transportation](#)

### **BEFORE/AFTER HIGHWAY BOOM PHOTOS:**

“A picture is worth a thousand words.”

[60 Years of Urban Change](#)

[Transit Street Design Guide](#)

### **GOOD NEWS:**

News of positive outcomes regarding urban planning

[FACT SHEET: President Biden Announces Support for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework | The White House](#)

[California housing: Will zoning bill help ease the crisis? | CalMatters](#)

[Walkable Suburbia | Planetizen Features](#)

\* Wikipedia link

\*\*Scholarly source

\*\*\*Contains legitimate citations/references

[Charlise Rail to Take 40,000 Cars Off the Road](#)

[Why Parking Minimums Almost Destroyed My Hometown and How We Repealed Them \(strongtowns.org\)](#)

[Can Removing Highways Fix American Cities?](#)

[Barcelona's Superblocks and Their Benefits](#)

[California Says Goodbye to Single Family Zoning](#)

[Urban Retrofitting Tactics](#)

#### **CITY PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS/INFLUENCERS:**

People or organizations that speak positively about urban planning

[Strong Towns](#)

[Not Just Bikes - YouTube](#)

[Infrastructure Report Card](#)

[City Beautiful - YouTube](#)

[Eco Gecko - YouTube](#)

[American Public Transit Association](#)

[Bloomberg City Lab](#)

\* Wikipedia link

\*\*Scholarly source

\*\*\*Contains legitimate citations/references

[Center for American Progress](#)

[NATCO](#)

\* Wikipedia link

\*\*Scholarly source

\*\*\*Contains legitimate citations/references