

7 Benefits of Reducing Automobile Use

1. **Less Pollution:** Instead of increasing the air and water pollution, we can decrease pollution. Emissions are recognized as sources of water pollution and acid rain, storm water runoff from roads also contains contaminants, which work their way into the water system.
2. **Less Traffic Congestion:** Reducing our dependence on cars will result in less traffic congestion. Traffic congestion threatens economic growth, public health and overall quality of life. With our increased growth, traffic delays are bound to surface, proving costly to our overall quality of life, wasted time, and wasted fuel.
3. **More Open Space:** Roads take up more open space than any other form of transit, such as light rail. Construction of more roads and highways (more parking) is not going to improve travel conditions for individuals. It does take away from our precious open space, and covers it with solid surfaces
4. **Least-Cost Planning:** Reducing our dependence on an infrastructure based on cars reduces the need for the higher cost planning done by cities, counties and states and focuses us on the least-cost planning strategies.
5. **More Efficient Use of Energy:** The use of cars and trucks promotes the least energy efficient methods of transportation per person.
6. **Better Bike and Pedestrian Mobility:** Switching our focus to other modes of transit will enhance bike and pedestrian paths. When the car is the only or the dominant mode of transport, hardships are created for pedestrians and cyclists in terms of distance, safety, and health.
7. **Enhanced Social Equity:** Changing the way we design our communities from dependence on cars to dependence on mass transit, bicycles, or foot would lessen the need for cars. Individuals who do not have a car or would like to lessen their car usage to meet basic needs are at a disadvantage in the current system.