

La nueva generación del transporte sostenible en Latino América

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SUMMARY

Worldwide, cities are experiencing massive urbanization. At least 56% of people from developing countries and 84% from developed countries will be living in urban areas by 2030. Transportation systems have been a fundamental instrument for growth dating back to the ancient and imperial cities through to European expansion and modernization. Thus, sustainable urban transportation is considered critical for sustainable development and thereby for the Millennium Development Goals. The Latin America region, with a population of approximately 597 million, has the highest global urbanization. Nearly 480 million people representing 80% of the total population live in cities. Approximately 75% of the population is reliant on public transport, and uses public transportation, cycling and walking as their primary means of transport for their daily journeys. An additional challenge for Latin American is that it is the most unequal region in the world in terms of distribution of wealth. Consequently, urban transportation initiatives in the region should aim to provide equitable access to needed transportation. An ideal democratic system is responsive to society's needs, and the need for sustainable transportation is an example of an important societal demand.

Latin America has serious deficiencies in its urban transportation management practices even though citizens of the region have a strong desire for the systems to be improved. This thesis suggests that many mistakes are repeated yet at the same time many solutions are actually quite obvious. Political willingness, on behalf of elected leaders is essential to overcome urban transportation issues. A pragmatic model for establishing a sustainable transportation system and critical reflections on current efforts are presented. This contributes to the creation of a new generation of urban transportation in Latin America.

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