

Transit as a Climate Solution: Telling a Compelling Story

Tony Dutzik

Frontier Group

Rail~Volution

22 October 2018

About Frontier Group

FRONTIER GROUP

Frontier Group is a non-profit, public interest think tank that provides information and ideas to help citizens build a cleaner, healthier and more democratic America.

www.frontiergroup.org

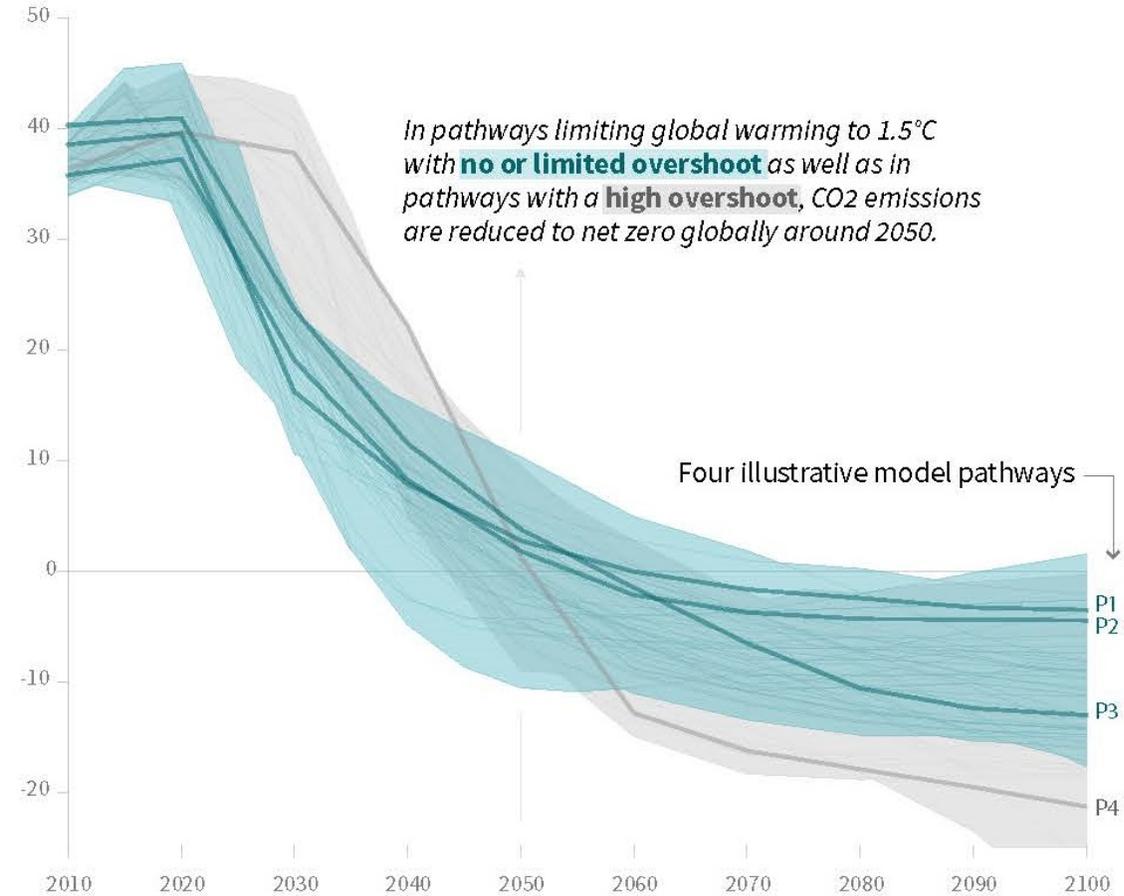
Part of

thepublicinterestnetwork

Climate change: A time for urgency

Global total net CO₂ emissions

Billion tonnes of CO₂/yr



Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Transportation is Climate Enemy #1

EMISSIONS FLIP

Transportation is Biggest Source of U.S. Emissions

Million Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide



Source: EIA, Annual Energy Review

CLIMATE CO₂ CENTRAL

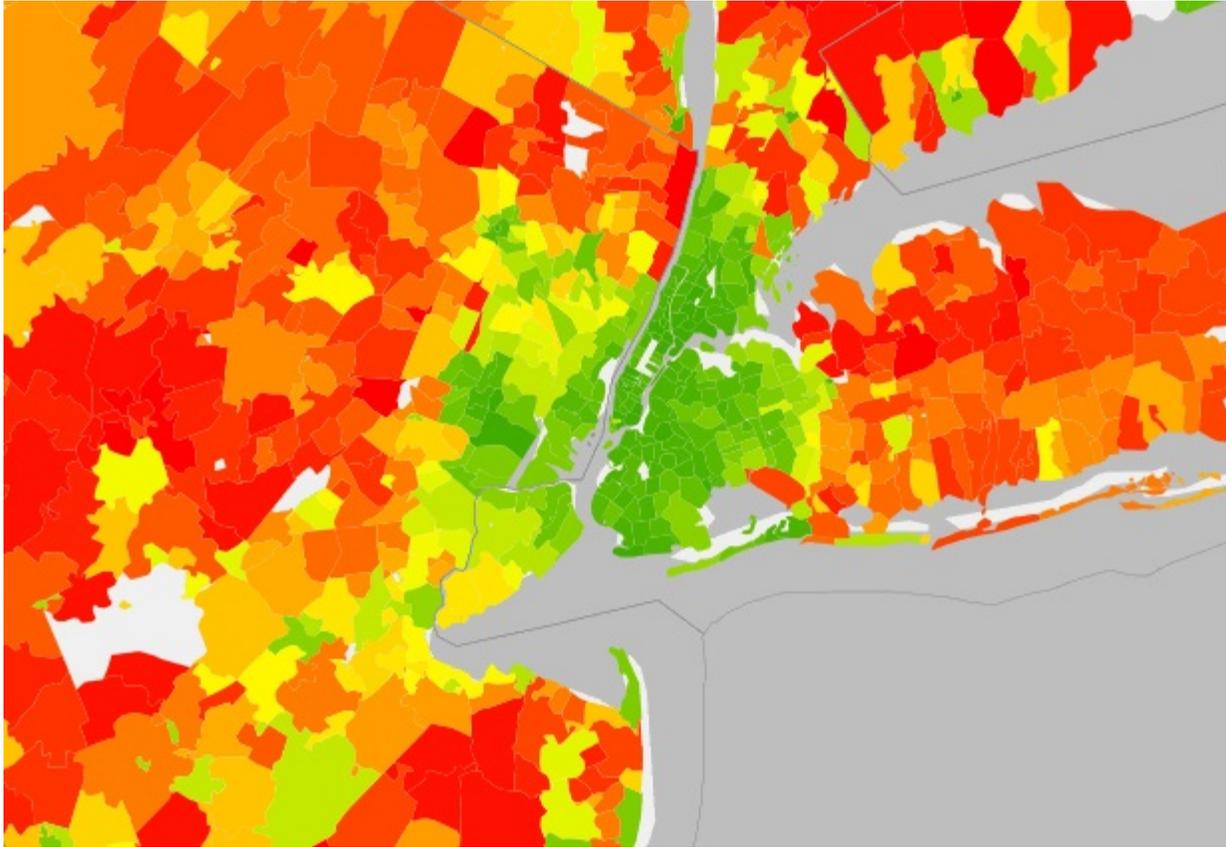
Transit is a key element of a zero-carbon transportation system.



**A New
Way
Forward**

Envisioning a
Transportation System
without Carbon Pollution

Transit-oriented
cities emit less
carbon.



UC Berkeley CoolClimate Network, [Average Annual Household Carbon Footprint \(2013\)](#)

Is the public getting the message?

Responding to a question about public transit and urban sprawl, Musk said, "I think public transport is painful. It sucks. Why do you want to get on something with a lot of other people, that doesn't leave where you want it to leave, doesn't start where you want it to start, doesn't end where you want it to end? And it doesn't go all the time."

Right now, fully autonomous cars are rolling around Pittsburgh, the San Francisco Bay area, and parts of Michigan, shuttling people from here to there with minimal manual intervention. Instead of fixing the old trains, let's rip out the tracks and fill the tunnels with fleets of autonomous vehicles running on pavement. The result would be radical improvements in throughput while saving money and increasing the ability of the system to survive a fire, flood, or terrorist attack.

Three narratives on transit and climate for the 21st century

- Transit as the centerpiece of a car-light transportation system.
- Transit as the centerpiece of livable cities.
- Transit as the leading edge of the electric vehicle revolution.

Transit as
centerpiece of
car-light
transportation
system.



“[S]hared services can act as feeder for existing metro and commuter rail lines, thus complement metro and commuter rail services and help **increase** their ridership.”
- International Transport Forum



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Transit as
centerpiece of
livable, low-
carbon cities.



ENOUGH

**Over-Development at
Friendship Heights.**

Citizens Coordinating Committee of Friendship Heights, Inc.

Payton Chung via Flickr, CC-BY-2.0

Transit as the leading edge of the electric vehicle revolution.



Alana Miller



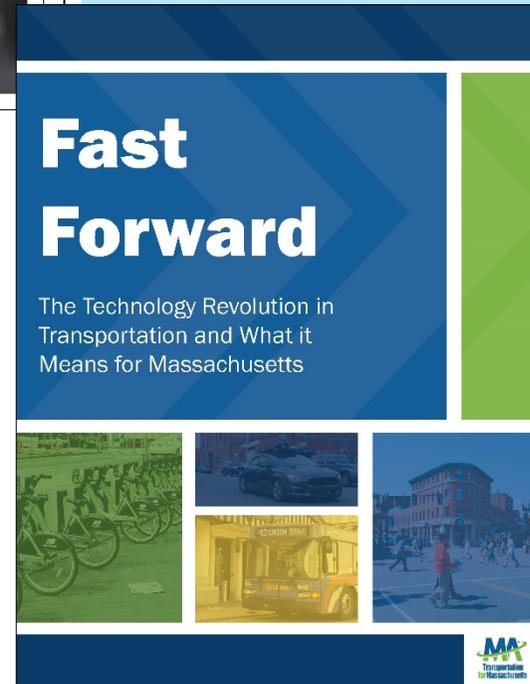
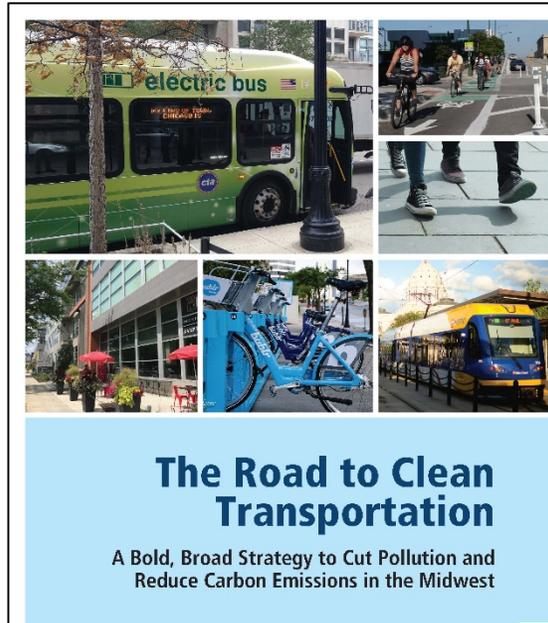
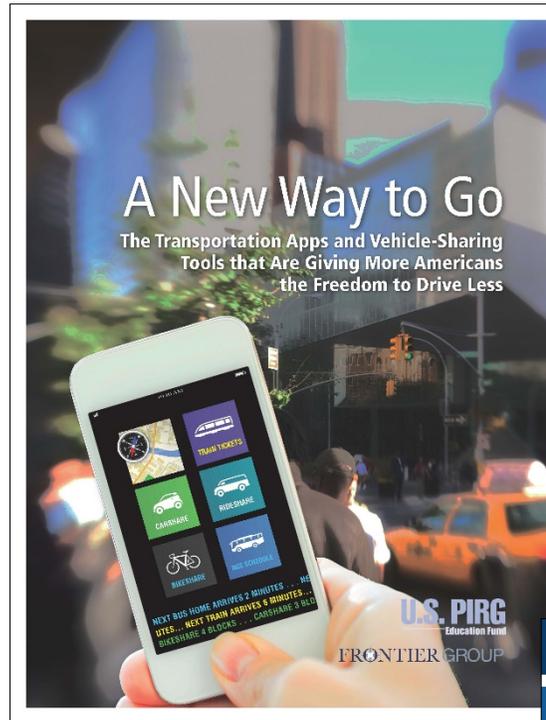
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No time to
lose



By B137 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia commons

Additional resources



Thank you!

Tony Dutzik

Frontier Group

www.frontiergroup.org

tony@frontiergroup.org

Twitter: @FrontierTony