

What you see in this picture is the least of it!

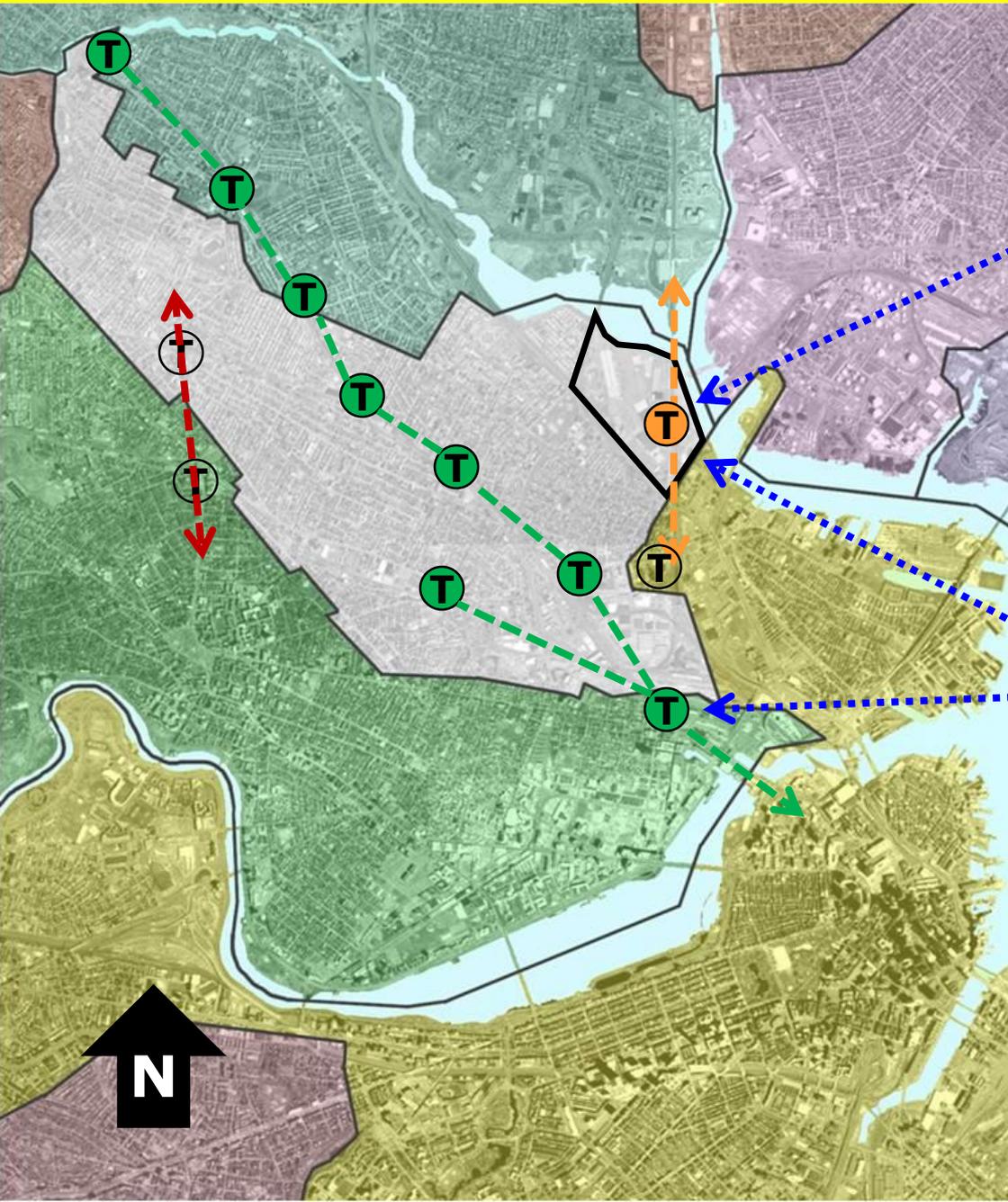
193 has 150,000 vehicles per day overhead

New housing proposed with retail to the right

MBTA diesel commuter rail lines (3) under



# FOCUS of STEP and Mystic View Task Force



**Land Use and Economic Development**  
Assembly Square - 145 acres  
Old underutilized industrial site (FORD plant)  
Developers preferred Big Boxes  
Community wanted dense mixed use (TOD)  
30 new acres open space  
30,000 jobs  
30,000,000 net annual taxes  
Settled December 2006 after years of battle

**Transportation**  
Orange Line - \$50M first T-stop 33 years  
Green Line Extension - \$1B - first light rail  
branches in several generations  
Solid T circles represent new stations  
Community Path to connect from Bedford  
through Davis Square to Green Line and Boston

**STEP and Mystic View used air quality and health  
in their advocacy for local and regional changes**

Recent Afternoon on I93 in Somerville MA – Citizens still learning to drive  
Somerville has 200,000 VMT per square mile per day and most diesel rail



Action-oriented focus of volunteer groups Mystic View and STEP in Somerville evolved as follows:

1998 to 2000 and Beyond

LIVE WORK BALANCE

Jobs, Taxes & Open Space

2001 to 2003 and Beyond

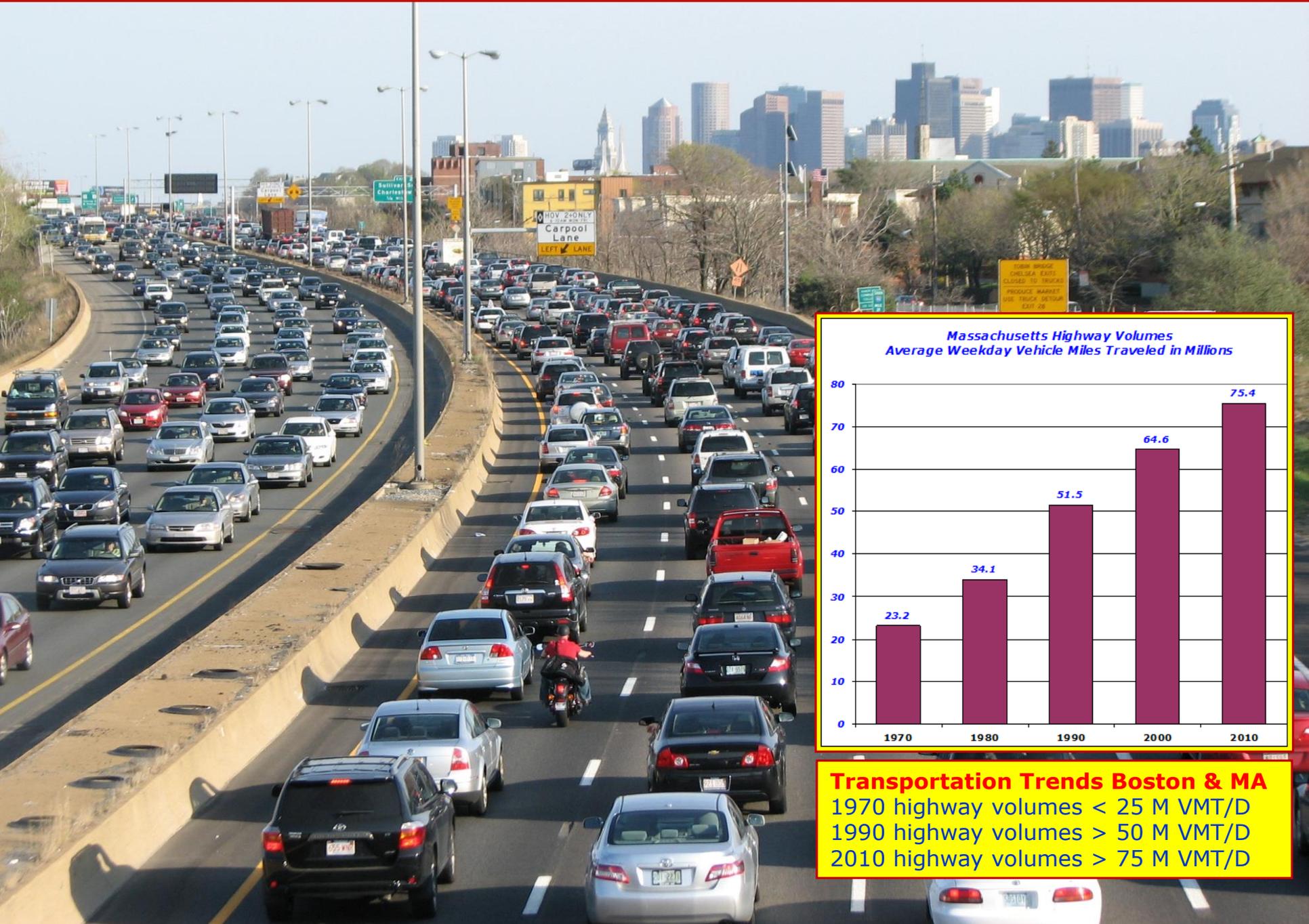
Transportation Capacity

2004 to 2006 and Beyond

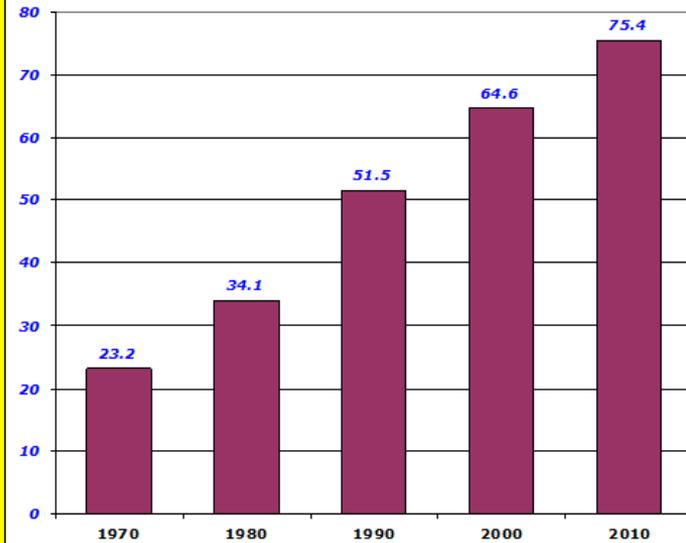
Air Quality & Public Health

These focal areas turned out to be highly interactive!

# Recent Afternoon on I93 at Somerville Medford MA city line – Citizens still learning to drive!



**Massachusetts Highway Volumes**  
Average Weekday Vehicle Miles Traveled in Millions

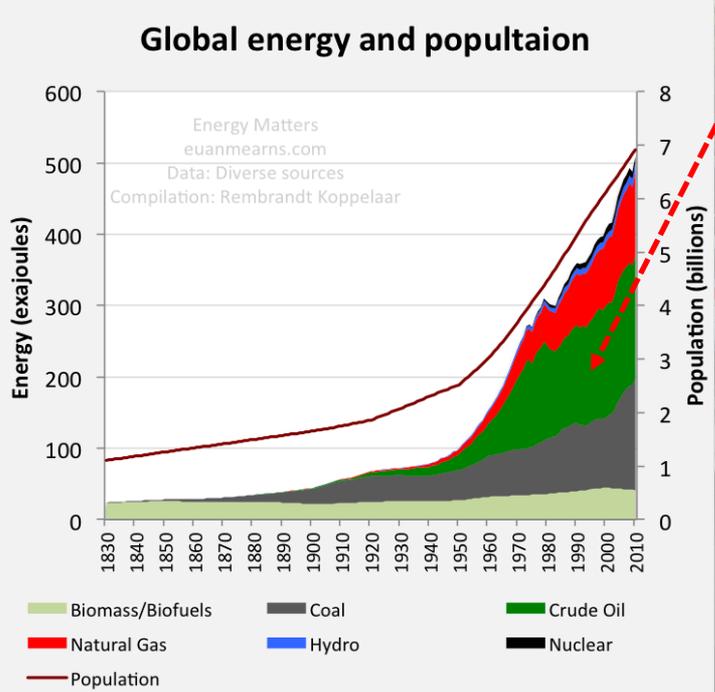


## Transportation Trends Boston & MA

1970 highway volumes < 25 M VMT/D  
1990 highway volumes > 50 M VMT/D  
2010 highway volumes > 75 M VMT/D

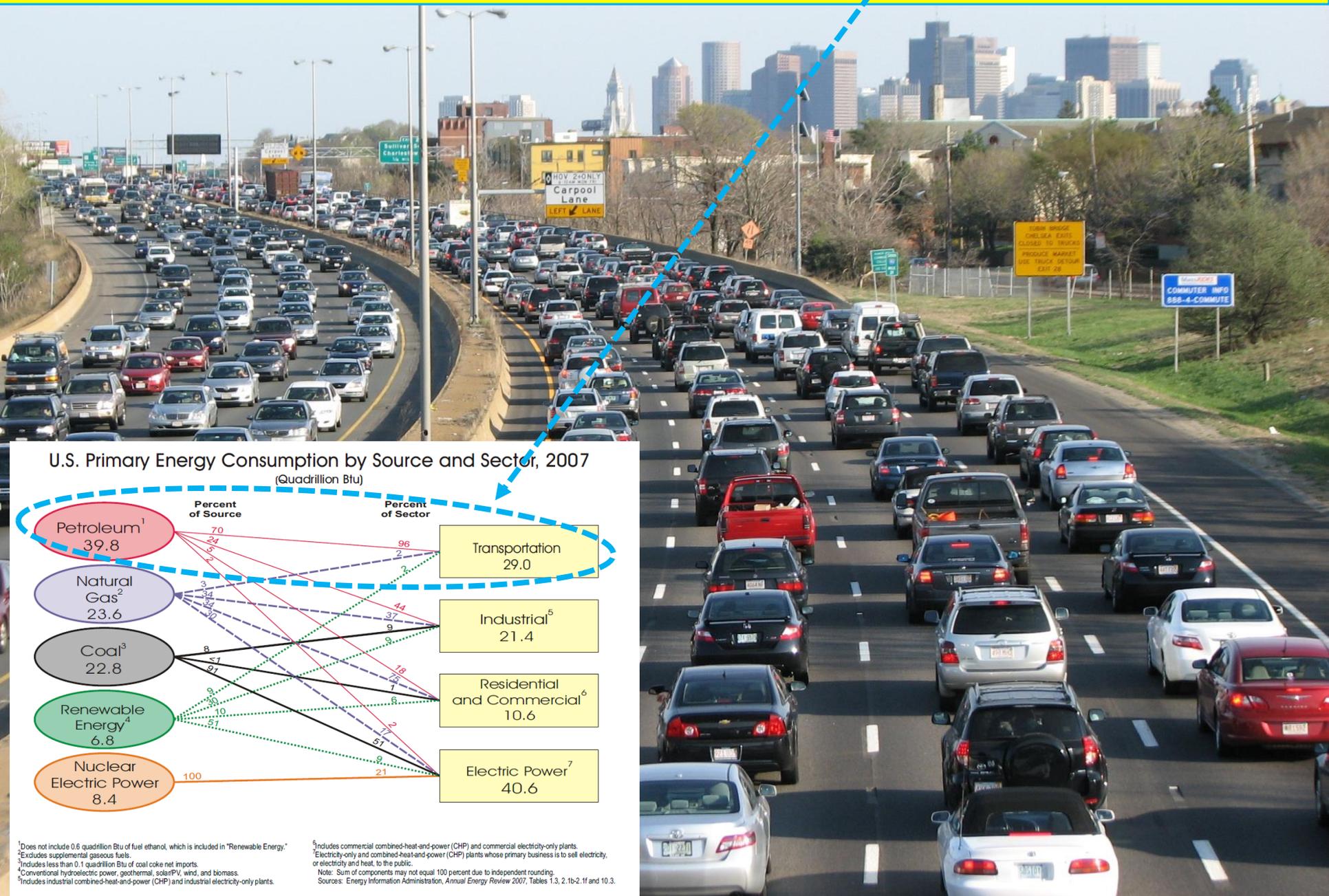
# Recent Afternoon on I93 in Somerville MA – Citizens still learning to drive

Transportation dominates petroleum consumption, but could be multi-source electric



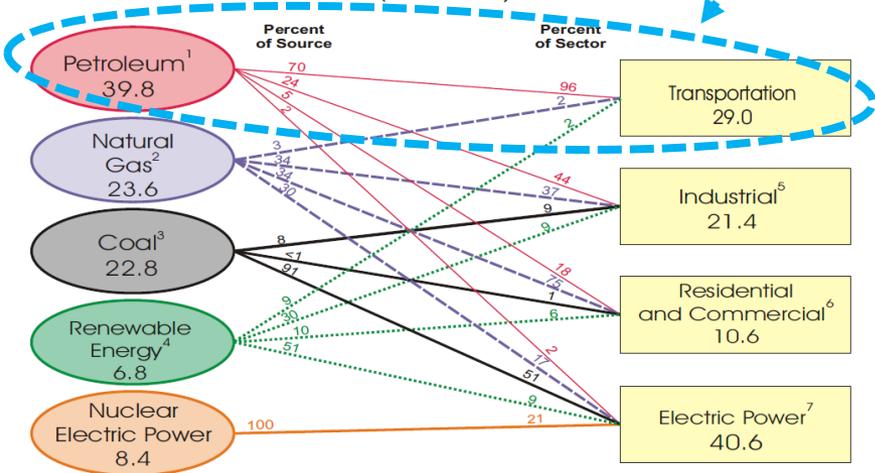
# Recent Afternoon on I93 in Somerville MA – Citizens still learning to drive

One big issue is that transportation dominates petroleum consumption (70%) but could be multi-source electric



U.S. Primary Energy Consumption by Source and Sector, 2007

(Quadrillion Btu)



<sup>1</sup> Does not include 0.6 quadrillion Btu of fuel ethanol, which is included in "Renewable Energy."

<sup>2</sup> Excludes supplemental gaseous fuels.

<sup>3</sup> Includes less than 0.1 quadrillion Btu of coal coke net imports.

<sup>4</sup> Conventional hydroelectric power, geothermal, solarPV, wind, and biomass.

<sup>5</sup> Includes industrial combined-heat-and-power (CHP) and industrial electricity-only plants.

<sup>6</sup> Includes commercial combined-heat-and-power (CHP) and commercial electricity-only plants.

<sup>7</sup> Electricity only and combined-heat-and-power (CHP) plants whose primary business is to sell electricity, or electricity and heat, to the public.

Note: Sum of components may not equal 100 percent due to independent rounding.

Sources: Energy Information Administration, Annual Energy Review 2007, Tables 1.3, 2.1b-2.1f and 10.3.

**Is this a healthy place and time for a young mother and daughter to exercise?**



**Are these healthy places for housing?  
Are HEPA filter interventions possible?**



**Urban alternatives can provide respite**



**Somerville Community Path near Davis Square**

**Is Route 28 a good place for a bicycle commuter in morning rush hour?**

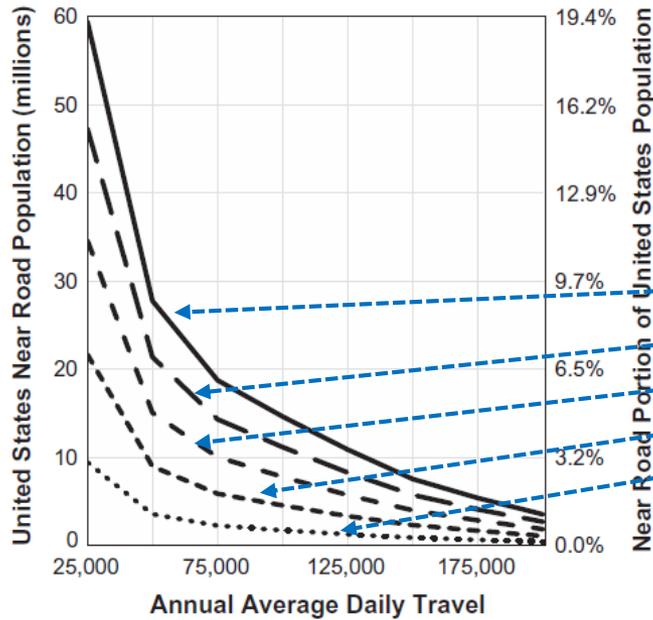


# A census of the US near-roadway population: Public health and environmental justice considerations



Gregory M. Rowangould\*

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**Meters from Busy Roadway**

- 500
- 400
- 300
- 200
- 100

## ABSTRACT

This study estimates the size and distribution of the population living near high volume roads in the US, investigates race and income disparities in these near roadway populations, and considers the coverage of the national ambient air quality monitoring network. Every US census block is classified by traffic density and proximity to roads falling within several traffic volume ranges using year 2008 traffic data and the 2010 and 2000 US Census. The results indicate that 19% of the population lives near high volume roads. Nationally, greater traffic volume and density are associated with larger shares of non-white residents and lower median household incomes. Analysis at the county level finds wide variation in the size of near roadway populations and the severity of environmental justice concerns. Every state, however, has some population living near a high volume road and 84% of counties show some level of disparity. The results also suggest that most counties with residents living near high volume roads do not have a co-located regulatory air quality monitor.

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Fig. 1. US population living near high volume roads during the year 2010.



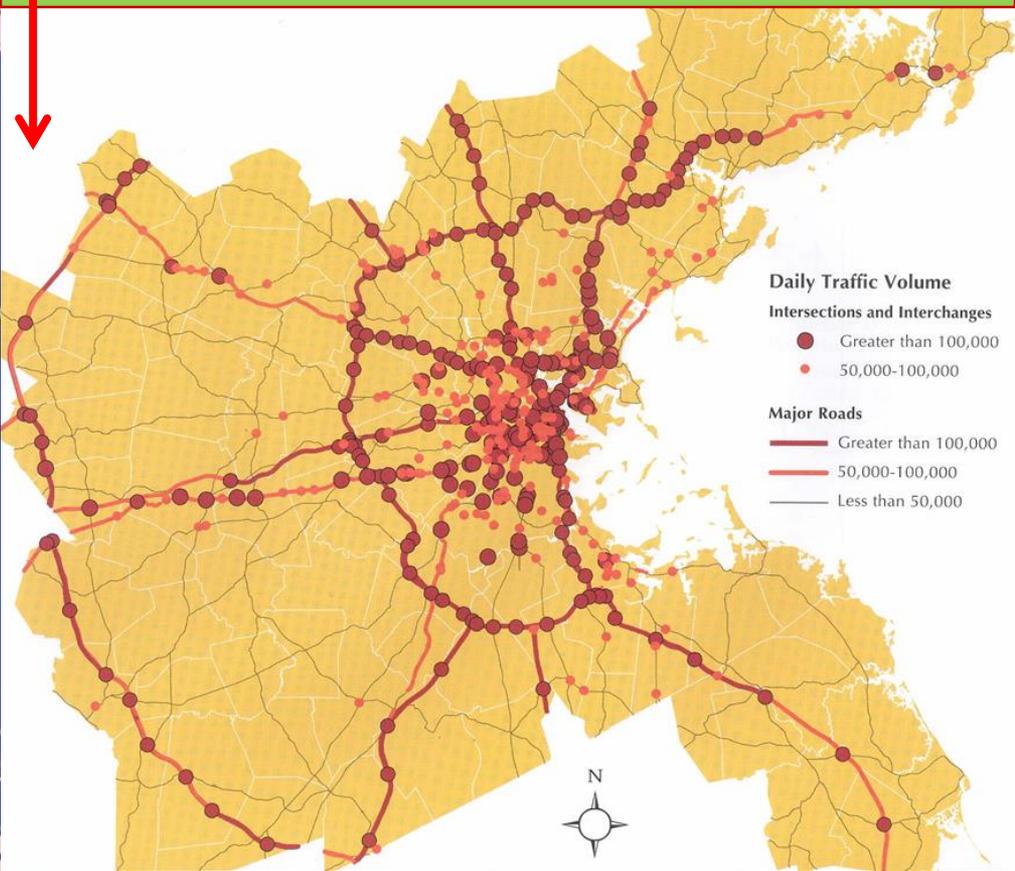
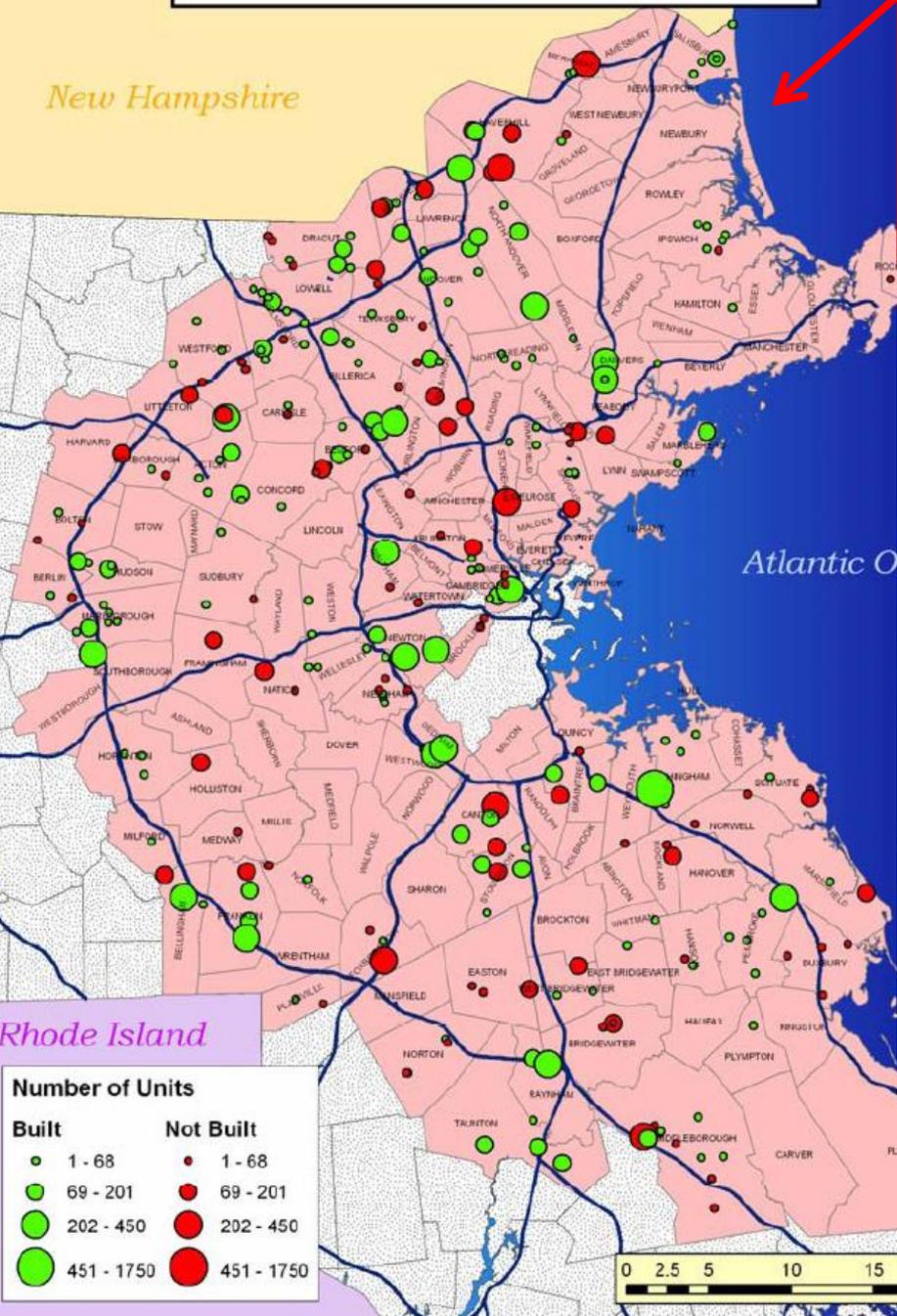
Near Roadway Exposure  
 ~60 Million US Residents  
 ~20% of US Population

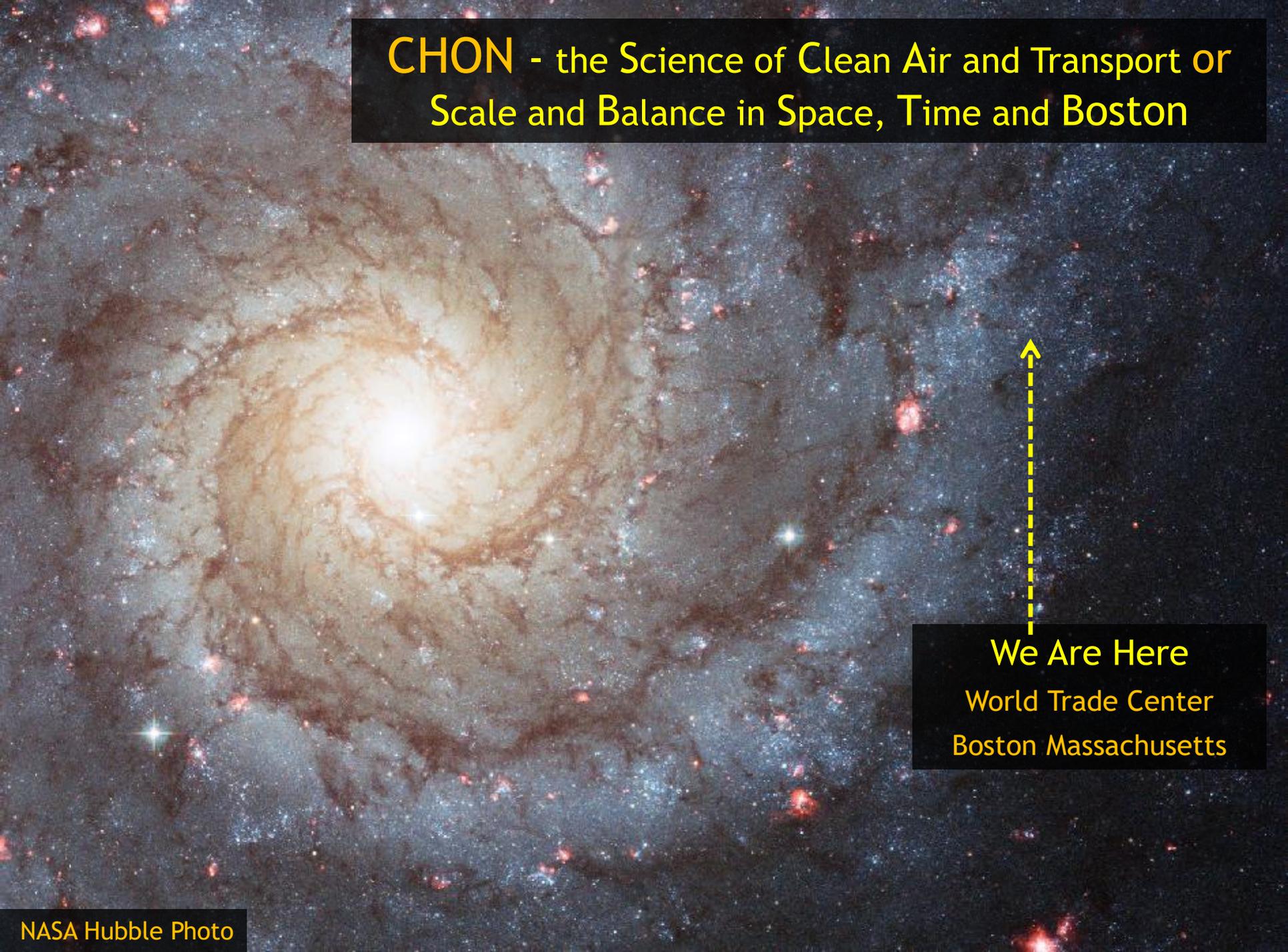
# 40B Applications

MIT's Map of 40B Affordable Housing Projects and MAPC's Map of Highway Pollution Health Hazards

**Are virtually THE SAME MAP!**

In the US, 9% of all people and 18% of all renters live within a few hundred feet of highways or other large mobile air pollution sources.





**CHON** - the Science of Clean Air and Transport or  
Scale and Balance in Space, Time and Boston



**We Are Here**  
World Trade Center  
Boston Massachusetts

# CHON

Carbon - Hydrogen - Oxygen - Nitrogen

THE MOST COMMON ELEMENTS OF:

Nuclear fusion in our universe - C H O N

Earth's atmosphere and oceans - O<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O

Climate and GHGs - CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O

Biochemistry of life - DNA, proteins, sugars - **YOU**

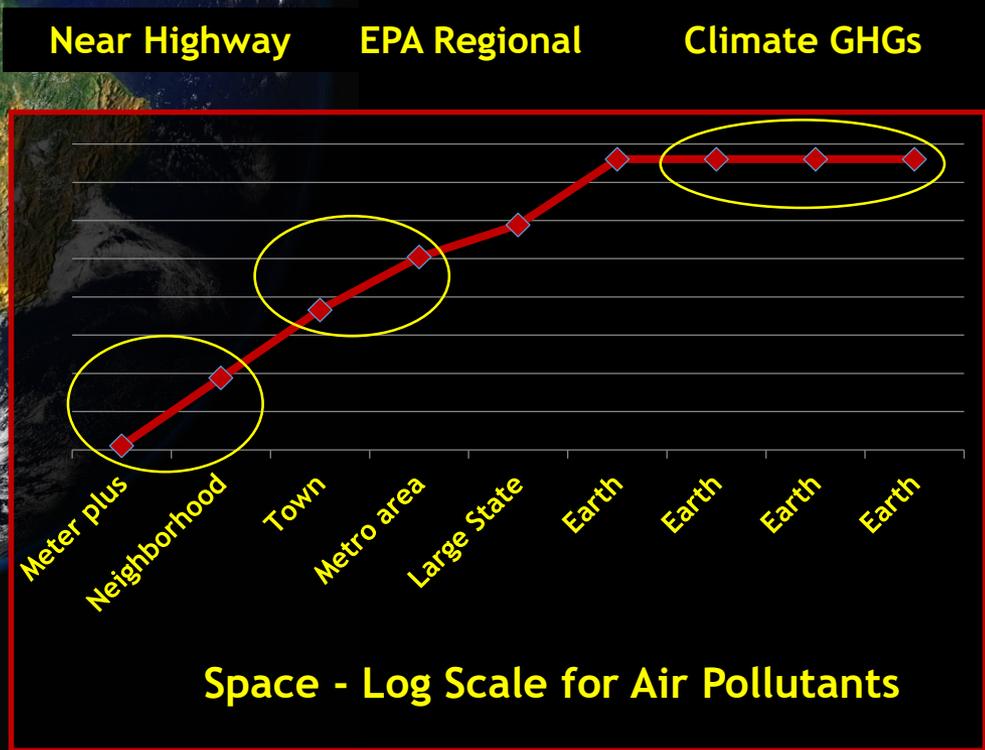
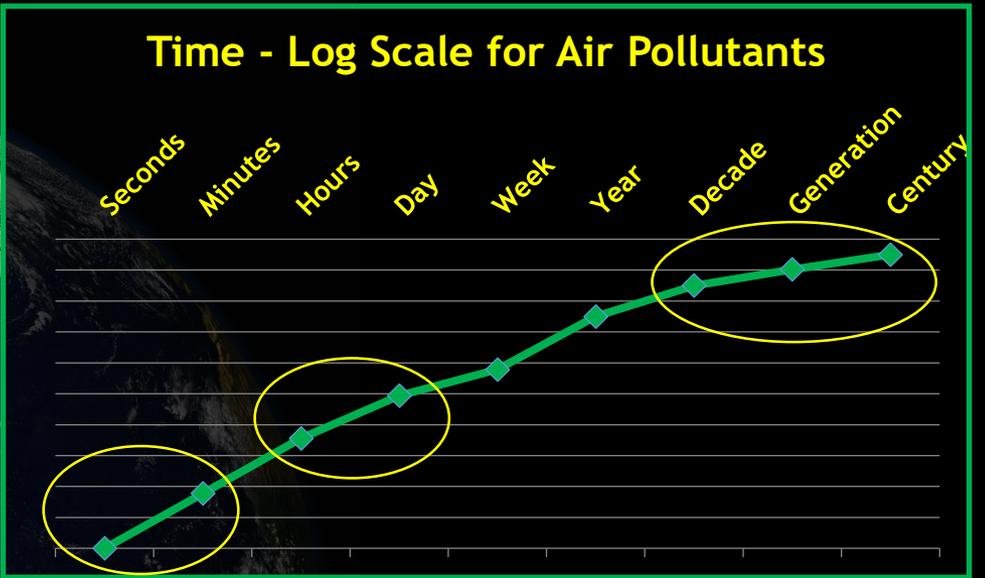
Breathing, drinking, eating - O<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O, HC

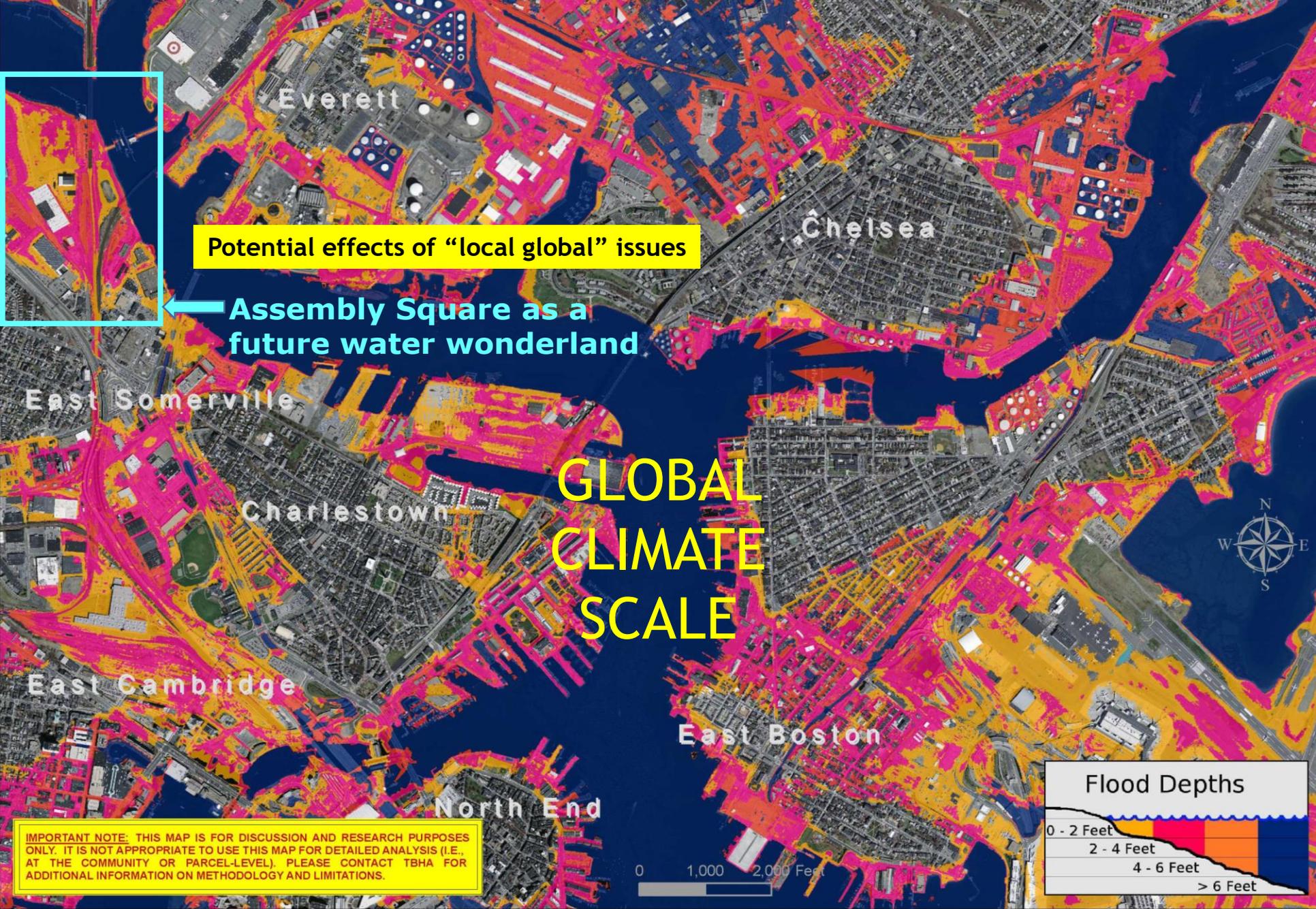
Energy and combustion - HC + O<sub>2</sub>

Air pollution at all scales - O<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM

Vast opportunity for unfortunate interactions

# Scale of Time and Space on Earth



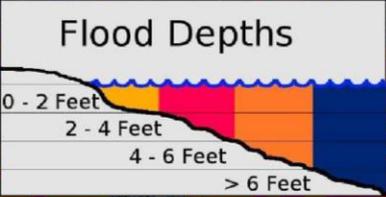


Potential effects of “local global” issues

← Assembly Square as a future water wonderland

# GLOBAL CLIMATE SCALE

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** THIS MAP IS FOR DISCUSSION AND RESEARCH PURPOSES ONLY. IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO USE THIS MAP FOR DETAILED ANALYSIS (I.E., AT THE COMMUNITY OR PARCEL-LEVEL). PLEASE CONTACT TBHA FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS.



**Notice the difference  
in PM2.5 scale**

US – 0 to 18

Europe – 0 to 35

SE Asia – 0 to 100

**~ 7 Million Deaths**

per Year due to PM,

mostly China and India

**Between 140,000 &  
360,000 in the US**

**Out of total of  
2,500,000**

Between 1990 and  
2010 a huge shift from  
communicable diseases  
to environmental

# REGIONAL PM2.5 SCALE

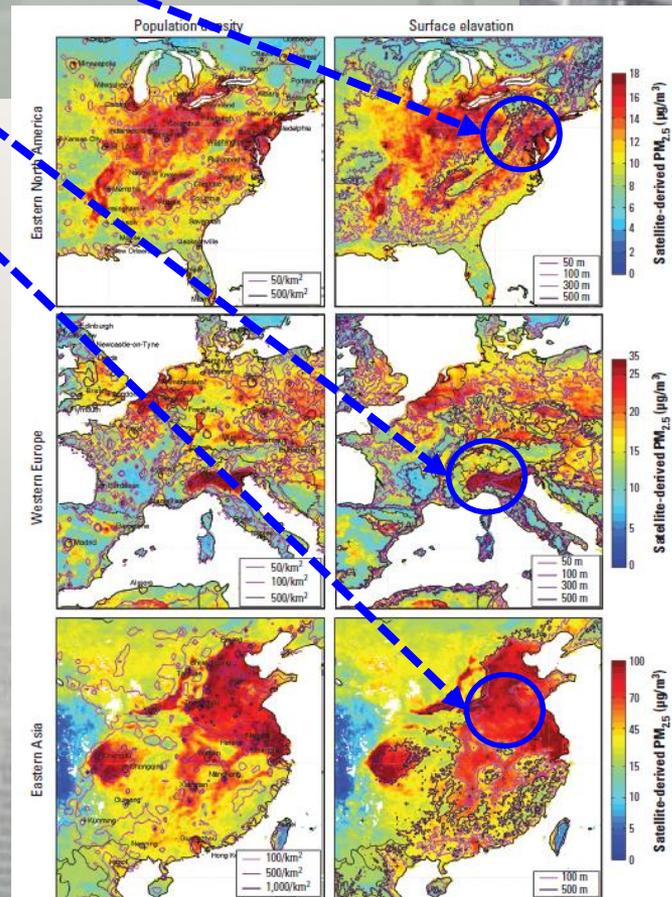
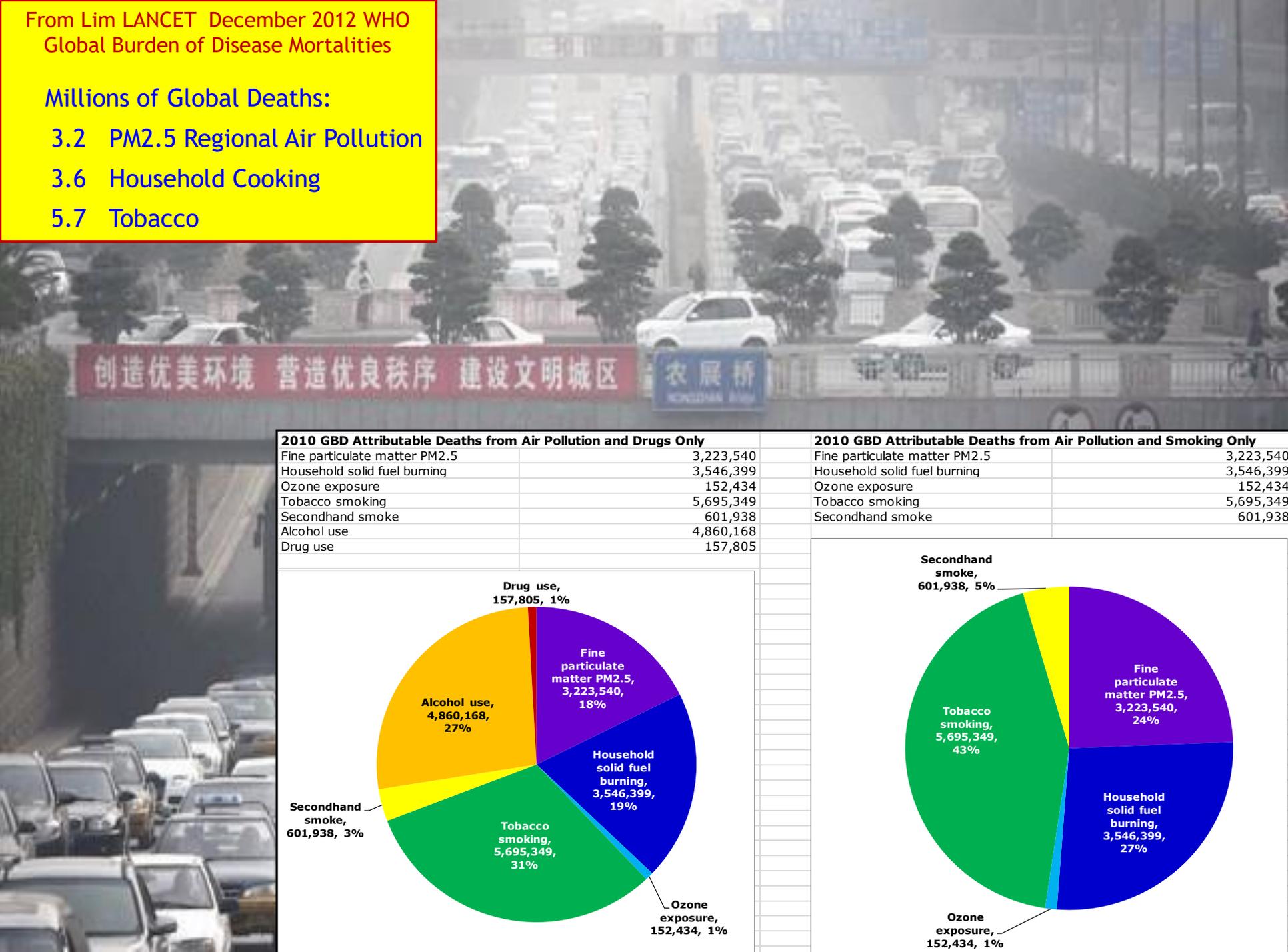


Figure 5. Regional satellite-derived PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations. Columns show mean satellite-derived PM<sub>2.5</sub> for 2001–2006 at locations that contain at least 50 measurements. Contours denote population density (left) and surface elevation (right). Crosses indicate city centers. Note the different color scales for each region. Altitude data are from the U.S. Geological Survey (1996).

**Shanghai a while back**

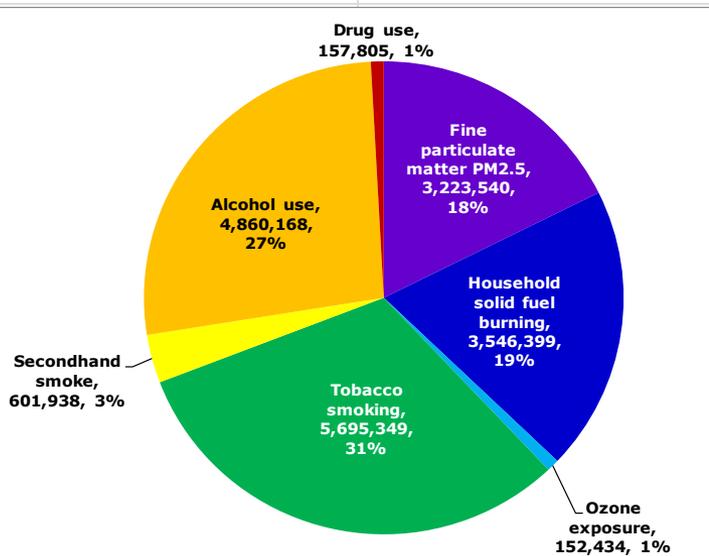
Millions of Global Deaths:

- 3.2 PM2.5 Regional Air Pollution
- 3.6 Household Cooking
- 5.7 Tobacco



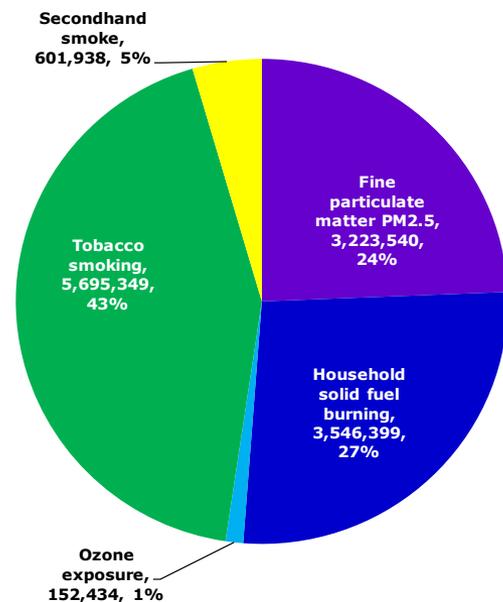
**2010 GBD Attributable Deaths from Air Pollution and Drugs Only**

Fine particulate matter PM2.5	3,223,540
Household solid fuel burning	3,546,399
Ozone exposure	152,434
Tobacco smoking	5,695,349
Secondhand smoke	601,938
Alcohol use	4,860,168
Drug use	157,805



**2010 GBD Attributable Deaths from Air Pollution and Smoking Only**

Fine particulate matter PM2.5	3,223,540
Household solid fuel burning	3,546,399
Ozone exposure	152,434
Tobacco smoking	5,695,349
Secondhand smoke	601,938



Eyjafjallajokull  
April 2010 - LA Times



# Second hand smoke



# Cooking indoors and out



Pasadena Burns 2009  
LA Times Photo



We are concerned with  
Urban Primary PM

*Environ. Sci. Technol.* 2009, 43, 7614–7618

## Organic Aerosols in the Earth's Atmosphere

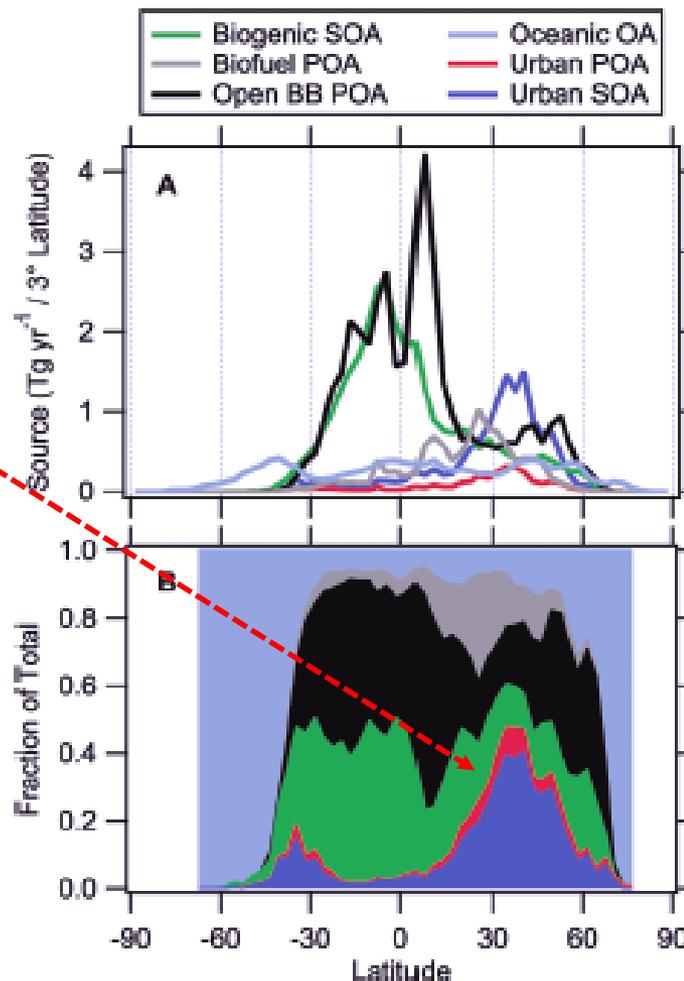
JOOST DE GOUW\*

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JOSE L. JIMENEZ

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Organic particles are abundant in the troposphere and  
important for air quality and climate, but what are their sources?

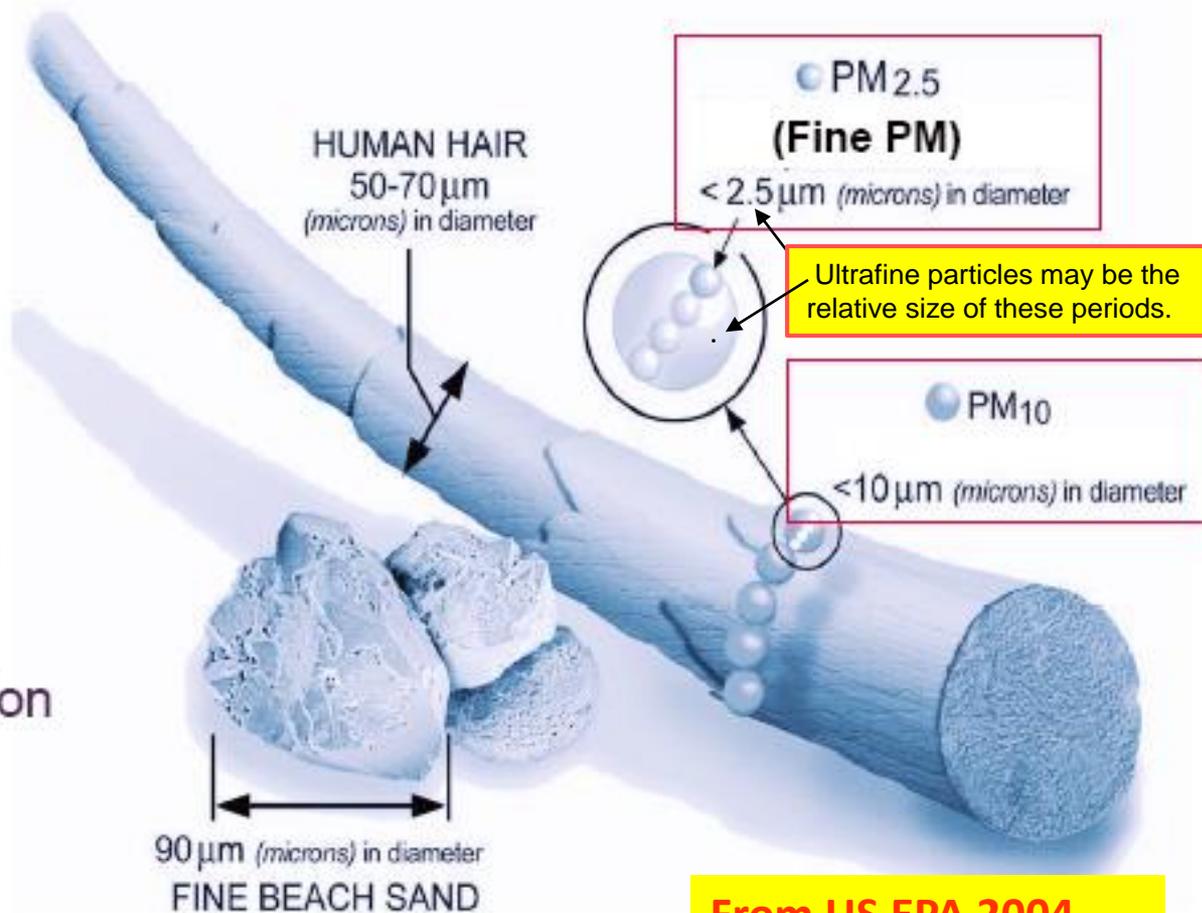


**FIGURE 3.** Estimated mean zonal distribution of organic aerosol sources. Biogenic SOA (4, 40, 52), oceanic OA (53), and POA (32) are taken from the literature. Urban SOA is calculated here. Note that the zonal distribution of concentrations may deviate from that of sources due to transport.

# What is Particulate Matter (PM)?

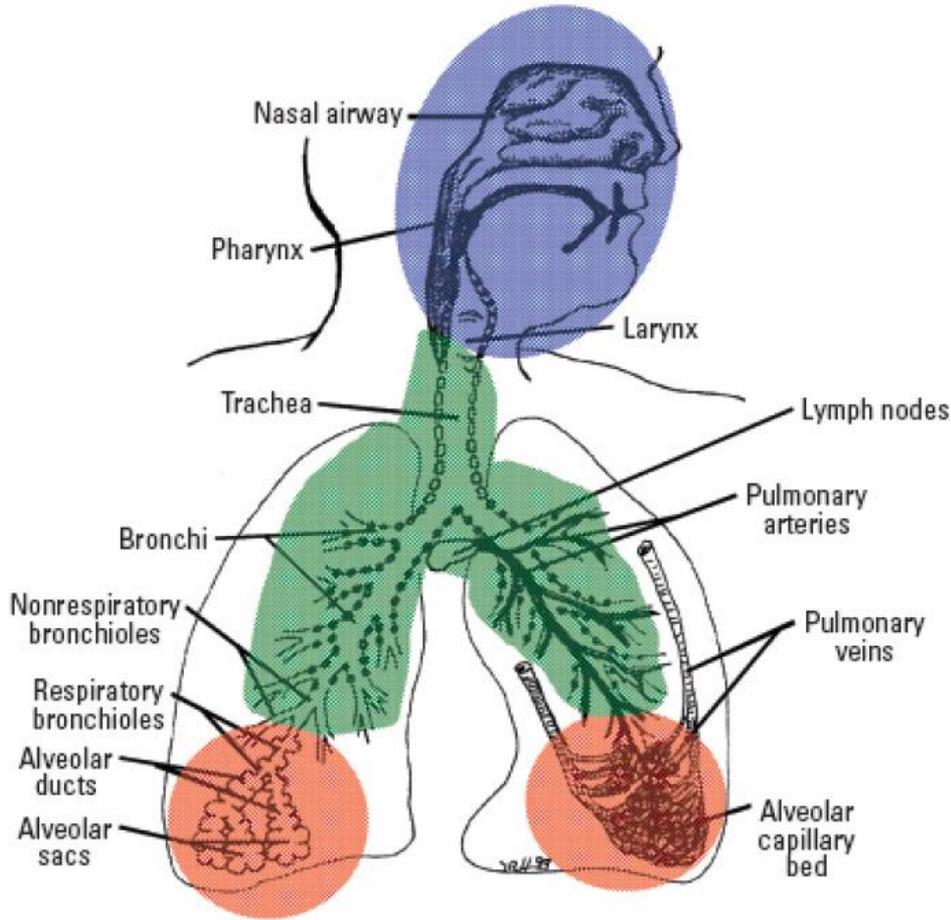
Ultrafine particles can be 100 to 1000 times smaller than coarse and fine particles.

- PM is a complex mixture of solid, semi-volatile and aqueous materials of various sizes found in the air.
- When inhaled, smaller particles generally penetrate more deeply into the lung.
- The size and composition of PM have important implications regarding health outcomes.



From US EPA 2004

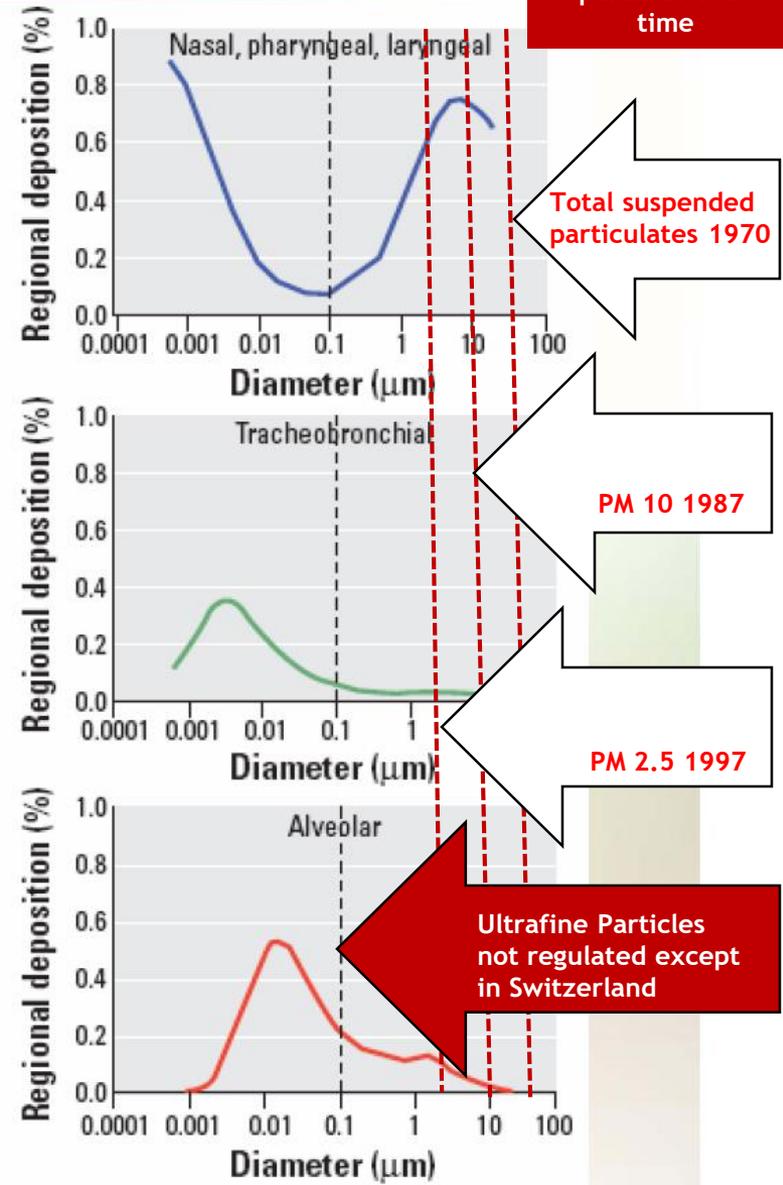
# Translocation, cont.



Oberdorster et al., EHP, 2005

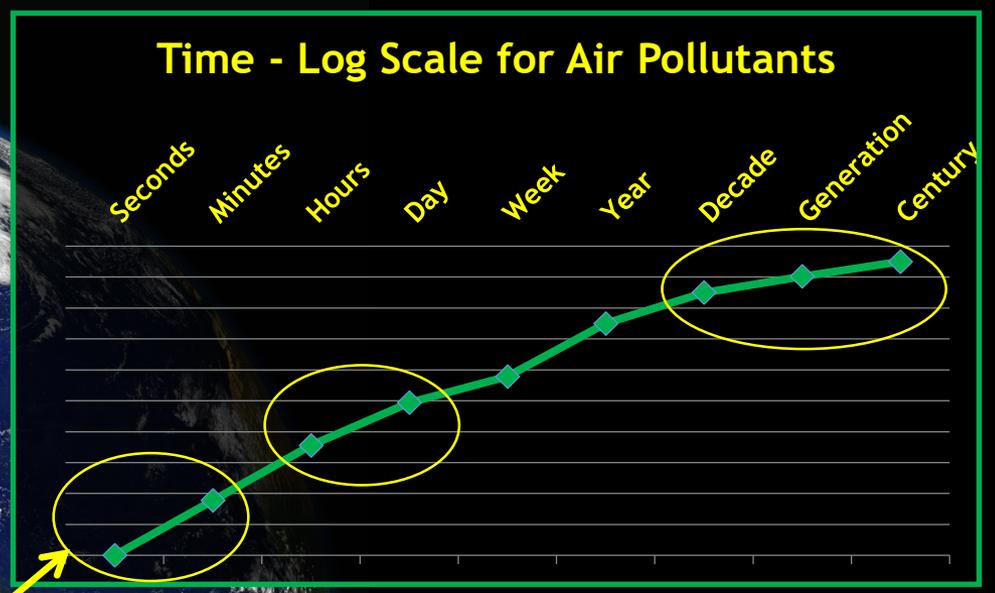
**Smallest particles have deepest penetration and high deposition rates in all areas, especially alveolar and nasal/pharyngeal.**

**EPA PM NAAQS applied to smaller particles over time**

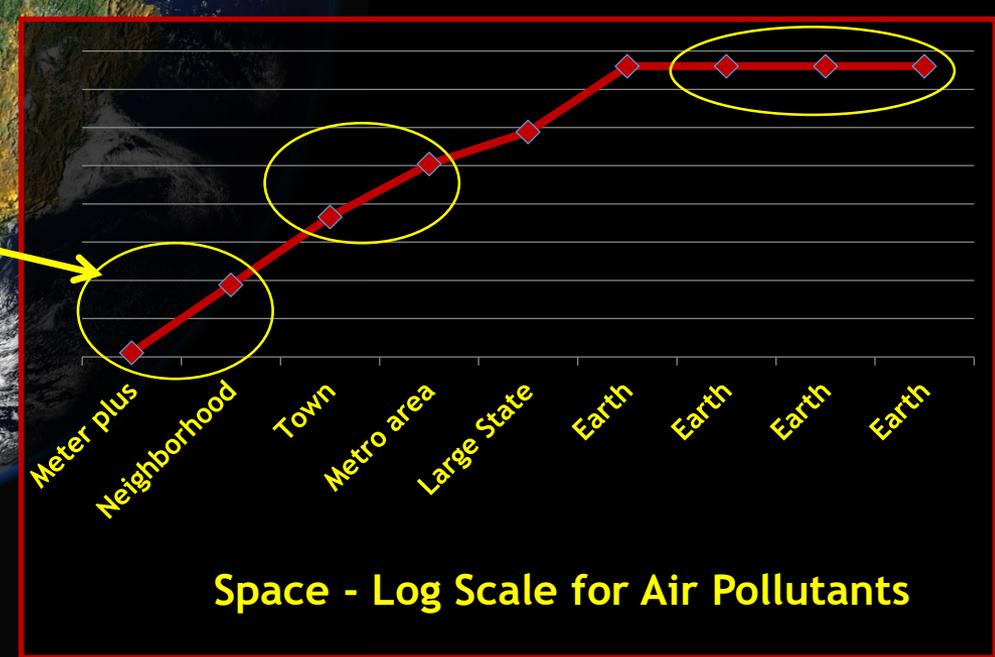


**Over time smaller particles = bigger concerns**

# Scale of Time and Space on Earth



Near Highway      EPA Regional      Climate GHGs



No environmental protection for near highway scale

**Local air pollution gradients matter the most:**

No matter what city in the US you live in, residence within 100 meters of a major roadway, port, airport, diesel rail line or truck facility has higher health risks than PM2.5 differences between regions of the US.

Two great health cohorts have shaped EPA's fine particulate (PM 2.5) air quality standards - the Harvard Six Cities (1993) and American Cancer Society (1995). The 3rd great cohort in air pollution epidemiology is the California Children's Health Study. Original hypothesis was that regional Ozone and PM2.5 drive childhood asthma. Their work affected US EPA Ozone and PM2.5 national standards but ... they Found near roadway exposures to fresh mobile pollution has more health impact.

# Changes in Residential Proximity to Road Traffic and the Risk of Death From Coronary Heart Disease

Wen Qi Gan,<sup>a</sup> Lillian Tamburic,<sup>b</sup> Hugh W. Davies,<sup>a</sup> Paul A. Demers,<sup>a,c</sup> Mieke Koehoorn,<sup>a,c</sup> and Michael Brauer<sup>a</sup>

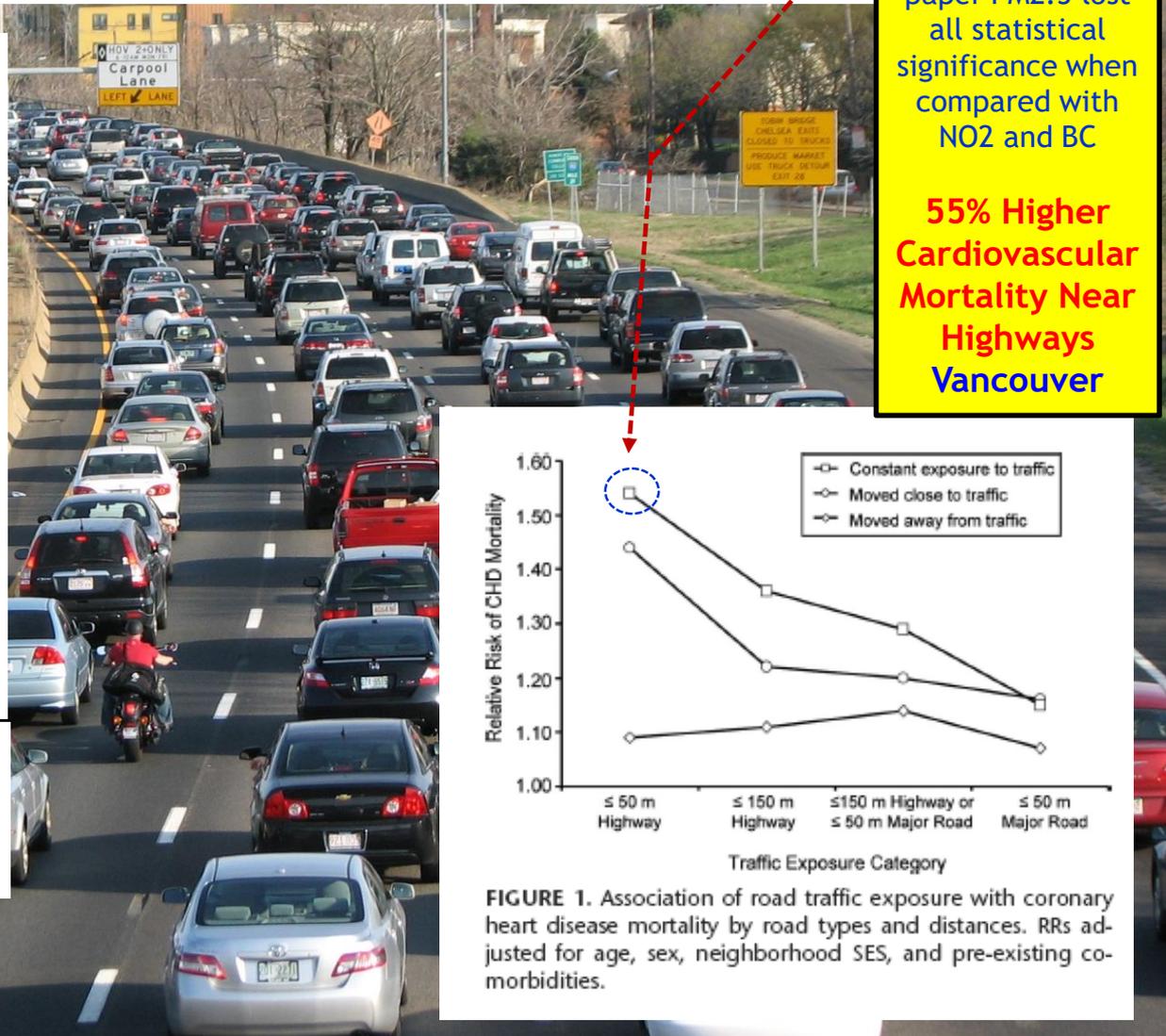
**Background:** Residential proximity to road traffic is associated with increased coronary heart disease (CHD) morbidity and mortality. It is unknown, however, whether changes in residential proximity to traffic could alter the risk of CHD mortality.

**Methods:** We used a population-based cohort study with a 5-year exposure period and a 4-year follow-up period to explore the association between changes in residential proximity to road traffic and the risk of CHD mortality. The cohort comprised all residents aged 45–85 years who resided in metropolitan Vancouver during the exposure period and without known CHD at baseline ( $n = 450,283$ ). Residential proximity to traffic was estimated using a geographic information system. CHD deaths during the follow-up period were identified using provincial death registration database. The data were analyzed using logistic regression.

**Results:** Compared with the subjects consistently living away from road traffic ( $>150$  m from a highway or  $>50$  m from a major road) during the 9-year study period, those consistently living close to traffic ( $\leq 150$  m from a highway or  $\leq 50$  m from a major road) had the greatest risk of CHD mortality (relative risk [RR] = 1.29 [95% confidence interval = 1.18–1.41]). By comparison, those who moved closer to traffic during the exposure period had less increased risk than those who were consistently exposed (1.20 [1.00–1.43]), and those who moved away from traffic had even less increase in the risk (1.14 [0.95–1.37]). All analyses were adjusted for baseline age, sex, pre-existing comorbidities (diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hypertensive heart disease), and neighborhood socioeconomic status.

**Conclusions:** Living close to major roadways was associated with increased risk of coronary mortality, whereas moving away from major roadways was associated with decreased risk.

(*Epidemiology* 2010;21: 000–000)



Nyberg Stockholm 2000 – All statistical significance is in highest NO<sub>2</sub> decile when viewing association of lung cancer with long term residential exposures Nafstad's Oslo NO<sub>x</sub> lung cancer study had higher concentration response

**60% Higher Lung Cancer Mortality in those exposed to Traffic Stockholm**

TABLE 4. Relative Risk of Lung Cancer (and 95% Confidence Interval) Associated with 10-Year Averages of Two Exposure Indicators for Air Pollution (NO<sub>2</sub> for Traffic-Related Air Pollution and SO<sub>2</sub> for Air Pollution from Heating) Lagged 20 Years

Variable	Cases	Controls	One Pollutant*		Both Pollutants†	
			RR‡	95% CI‡	RR‡	95% CI‡
NO <sub>2</sub> from road traffic						
Continuous variable (per 10 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )			1.10	0.97–1.23	1.15	0.97–1.35
Quartiles and 90th percentile						
<12.78 µg/m <sup>3</sup> §	243	608	1		1	
≥12.78 to <17.35 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	264	588	1.15	0.91–1.46	1.19	0.91–1.56
≥17.35 to <23.17 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	250	601	1.01	0.79–1.29	1.11	0.83–1.48
≥23.17 to <29.26 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	165	346	1.07	0.81–1.42	1.19	0.86–1.66
≥29.26 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	120	221	1.44	1.05–1.99	1.60	1.07–2.39
SO <sub>2</sub> from heating						
Continuous variable (per 10 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )			1.01	0.98–1.03	0.99	0.95–1.02
Quartiles and 90th percentile						
<66.20 µg/m <sup>3</sup> §	239	612	1		1	
≥66.20 to <87.60 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	270	581	1.16	0.91–1.47	1.07	0.83–1.40
≥87.60 to <110.30 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	259	593	1.00	0.79–1.27	0.90	0.67–1.19
≥110.30 to <129.10 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	151	360	0.92	0.70–1.21	0.80	0.58–1.12
≥129.10 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	123	218	1.21	0.89–1.66	0.95	0.64–1.39

Estimated time weighted average air pollution exposure 21–30 years before end of follow-up.

\* Estimate obtained when only one pollutant was entered into the regression model.

† Estimate obtained when the corresponding variable for the other pollutant (SO<sub>2</sub> or NO<sub>2</sub>) was entered separately into the same regression model as a confounder. For example, point estimates 1.15 (NO<sub>2</sub>) and 0.99 (SO<sub>2</sub>) for the continuous air pollution variables are obtained from the same model, and similarly for the categorical variable results.

‡ Adjusted for age, selection year, smoking, radon, socioeconomic grouping, occupational exposure to diesel exhaust, other combustion products and asbestos and employment in risk occupations.

§ Referent category.

# Childhood Asthma and Exposure to Traffic and Nitrogen Dioxide

W. James Gauderman,\* Edward Avol,\* Fred Lurmann,† Nino Kuenzli,\* Frank Gilliland,\* John Peters,\* and Rob McConnell\*

California Children's Health Study  
**Childhood Asthma 100% Higher for homes near intense traffic**

**Background:** Evidence for a causal relationship between traffic-related air pollution and asthma has not been consistent across studies, and comparisons among studies have been difficult because of the use of different indicators of exposure.

**Methods:** We examined the association between traffic-related pollution and childhood asthma in 208 children from 10 southern California communities using multiple indicators of exposure. Study subjects were randomly selected from participants in the Children's Health Study. Outdoor nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) was measured in summer and winter outside the home of each child. We also determined residential distance to the nearest freeway, traffic volumes on roadways within 150 meters, and model-based estimates of pollution from nearby roadways.

**Results:** Lifetime history of doctor-diagnosed asthma was associated with outdoor NO<sub>2</sub>; the odds ratio (OR) was 1.83 (95% confidence interval = 1.04–3.22) per increase of 1 interquartile range (IQR = 5.7 ppb) in exposure. We also observed increased asthma associated with closer residential distance to a freeway (2.22 per IQR; 1.36–3.63) and with model-based estimates of outdoor pollution from a freeway (1.89 per IQR; 1.19–3.02). These 2 indicators of freeway exposure and measured NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were also associated with wheezing and use of asthma medication. Asthma was not associated with traffic volumes on roadways within 150 meters of homes or with model-based estimates of pollution from nonfreeway roads.

**TABLE 3.** Associations Between Exposure to Traffic at Home and Asthma History

Exposure Metric	Odds Ratio per IQR OR* (95% CI)
Distance to freeway	1.89 (1.19–3.02)
Traffic volume within 150 meters	1.45 (0.73–2.91)
Model-based pollution from:	
Freeways	2.22 (1.36–3.63)
Other roads	1.00 (0.75–1.33)
Freeways and other roads	1.40 (0.86–2.27)

\*Odds ratio per change of 1 IQR. For distance to freeway, OR for the 25th percentile compared with the 75th percentile (ie, living closer compared with farther from the freeway). For remaining traffic variables, OR for the 75th percentile compared with the 25th percentile. All models were adjusted for sex, race, Hispanic ethnicity, cohort, and community.

# Traffic-Related Air Pollution, Particulate Matter, and Autism ←

Rapidly Emerging Issue

Heather E. Volk, PhD, MPH; Fred Lurmann; Bryan Penfold; Irva Hertz-Picciotto, PhD; Rob McConnell, MD

**Risk of Autism 200% Higher For children with high traffic exposures in 1st year of life Southern California**

**Results:** Children with autism were more likely to live at residences that had the highest quartile of exposure to traffic-related air pollution, during gestation (AOR, 1.98 [95% CI, 1.20-3.31]) and during the first year of life (AOR, 3.10 [95% CI, 1.76-5.57]), compared with control children. Regional exposure measures of nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter less than 2.5 and 10  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter ( $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  and  $\text{PM}_{10}$ ) were also associated with autism during gestation (exposure to nitrogen dioxide: AOR, 1.81 [95% CI, 1.37-3.09]; exposure to  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ : AOR, 2.08 [95% CI, 1.49-3.16] and during the first year of life (exposure to nitrogen dioxide: AOR, 2.06 [95% CI, 1.37-3.09]; exposure to  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ : AOR, 2.12 [95% CI, 1.45-3.10]; exposure to  $\text{PM}_{10}$ : AOR, 2.14 [95% CI, 1.46-3.12]). All regional pollutant estimates were scaled to twice the standard deviation of the distribution for all pregnancy estimates.

**Conclusions:** Exposure to traffic-related air pollution, nitrogen dioxide,  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ , and  $\text{PM}_{10}$  during pregnancy and during the first year of life was associated with autism. Further epidemiological and toxicological examinations of likely biological pathways will help determine whether these associations are causal.

Arch Gen Psychiatry.  
Published online November 26, 2012.  
doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2013.266



**Table 2. Risk of Autism for 524 Children, by Quartile<sup>a</sup> of Modeled Traffic-Related Air Pollution Exposure From All Road Types**

Time Period	Odds Ratio (95% CI)		
	4th Quartile	3rd Quartile	2nd Quartile
<b>First year of life</b>			
Crude	2.97 (1.71-5.27)	1.00 (0.63-1.60)	0.88 (0.55-1.42)
Adjusted <sup>d</sup>	3.10 (1.76-5.57)	1.00 (0.62-1.62)	0.91 (0.56-1.47)
<b>All pregnancy</b>			
Crude	1.99 (1.22-3.28)	1.10 (0.67-1.78)	1.20 (0.74-1.95)
Adjusted <sup>d</sup>	1.98 (1.20-3.31)	1.09 (0.67-1.79)	1.26 (0.77-2.06)
<b>First trimester</b>			
Crude	1.91 (1.67-3.14)	1.28 (0.80-2.06)	1.28 (0.77-2.14)
Adjusted <sup>d</sup>	1.85 (1.11-3.08)	1.28 (0.79-2.08)	1.28 (0.77-2.15)
<b>Second trimester</b>			
Crude	1.69 (1.04-2.78)	1.15 (0.71-1.87)	0.89 (0.54-1.47)
Adjusted <sup>d</sup>	1.65 (1.00-2.74)	1.13 (0.69-1.84)	0.90 (0.54-1.49)
<b>Third trimester</b>			
Crude	2.04 (1.25-3.38)	0.92 (0.57-1.48)	1.12 (0.68-1.84)
Adjusted <sup>d</sup>	2.10 (1.27-3.51)	0.91 (0.56-1.46)	1.17 (0.71-1.93)

**Table S1.** Adjusted associations<sup>a</sup> of total and cause-specific mortality with cycling among 52,061 participants in Diet, Cancer and Health cohort, by intensity of cycling and different levels of NO<sub>2</sub>.

A Study of the Combined Effects of Physical Activity and Air Pollution on Mortality in Elderly Urban Residents: The Danish Diet, Cancer, and Health Cohort

Zorana Jovanovic Andersen, Audrey de Nazelle, Michelle Ann Mendez, Judith Garcia-Aymerich, Ole Hertel, Anne Tjønneland, Kim Overvad, Ole Raaschou-Nielsen, and Mark J. Nieuwenhuijsen

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Those who live in the cleanest 50% of Aarhus & Copenhagen & cycled over 4 hours per week, had lower total & cardiovascular mortality.

Danish Cyclists who live in 10% most polluted parts of Copenhagen compared with least traffic polluted 50%:

~50% Higher Total Mortality

~100% Higher Cardiovascular Mortality

Physical Activity	Low NO <sub>2</sub> ( $< 15.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) HR (95% CI)	Moderate NO <sub>2</sub> ( $15.1\text{-}23.9 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) HR (95% CI)	Very high NO <sub>2</sub> ( $\geq 23.9 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) HR (95% CI)	<i>p</i> -value <sup>b</sup>
<b>Total mortality (n = 5,534)</b>				
Does not cycle	1.00	1.26 (1.15, 1.39)	1.39 (1.22, 1.58)	
Cycles 0.5-4 h/week	0.87 (0.79, 0.95)	1.00 (0.91, 1.10)	1.10 (0.96, 1.26)	
Cycles >4 h/week	0.82 (0.72, 0.93)	1.02 (0.92, 1.14)	1.19 (1.01, 1.40)	0.52
<b>Cancer mortality (n = 2,864)</b>				
Does not cycle	1.00	1.22 (1.07, 1.39)	1.36 (1.13, 1.64)	
Cycles 0.5-4 h/week	0.97 (0.86, 1.10)	1.09 (0.96, 1.23)	1.19 (0.98, 1.45)	
Cycles >4 h/week	0.91 (0.76, 1.08)	1.14 (0.99, 1.33)	1.16 (0.92, 1.47)	0.71
<b>Cardiovascular mortality (n = 1,285)</b>				
Does not cycle	1.00	1.36 (1.13, 1.64)	1.78 (1.39, 2.29)	
Cycles 0.5-4 h/week	0.83 (0.68, 1.01)	1.09 (0.90, 1.31)	1.21 (0.91, 1.61)	
Cycles >4 h/week	0.73 (0.55, 0.96)	0.98 (0.78, 1.23)	1.38 (1.00, 1.91)	0.78
<b>Respiratory mortality (n = 354)</b>				
Does not cycle	1.00	1.02 (0.74, 1.40)	0.73 (0.45, 1.18)	
Cycles 0.5-2 h/week	0.56 (0.39, 0.81)	0.72 (0.51, 1.02)	0.48 (0.26, 0.89)	
Cycles >4 h/week	0.49 (0.28, 0.85)	0.57 (0.37, 0.88)	0.57 (0.29, 1.12)	0.78
<b>Diabetes mortality (n = 122)</b>				
Does not cycle	1.00	1.36 (0.79, 2.37)	1.20 (0.56, 2.53)	
Cycles 0.5-2 h/week	0.69 (0.35, 1.34)	0.86 (0.46, 1.61)	0.69 (0.25, 1.84)	
Cycles >4 h/week	0.55 (0.21, 1.47)	0.75 (0.36, 1.56)	0.56 (0.16, 1.91)	0.98

HR hazard ratio; CI confidence interval.

<sup>a</sup>Adjusted for NO<sub>2</sub>, gender, calendar year, and mutually for other three physical activities, occupational physical activity, smoking status, smoking intensity, smoking duration, alcohol intake, environmental tobacco smoke, education, fruit and vegetable intake, fat intake, risk occupation, mean income in municipality, and stratified by marital status. <sup>b</sup>*p*-value for interaction.

# Exposure to Traffic and the Onset of Myocardial Infarction

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Heart attacks elevated  
(2.9 to 3.9) after  
exposure to traffic

## BACKGROUND

An association between exposure to vehicular traffic in urban areas and the exacerbation of cardiovascular disease has been suggested in previous studies. This study was designed to assess whether exposure to traffic can trigger myocardial infarction.

## METHODS

We conducted a case–crossover study in which cases of myocardial infarction were identified with the use of data from the Cooperative Health Research in the Region of Augsburg Myocardial Infarction Registry in Augsburg, in southern Germany, for the period from February 1999 to July 2001. There were 691 subjects for whom the date and time of the myocardial infarction were known who had survived for at least 24 hours after the event, completed the registry’s standardized interview, and provided information on factors that may have triggered the myocardial infarction. Data on subjects’ activities during the four days preceding the onset of symptoms were collected with the use of patient diaries.

## RESULTS

An association was found between exposure to traffic and the onset of a myocardial infarction within one hour afterward (odds ratio, 2.92; 95 percent confidence interval, 2.22 to 3.83;  $P < 0.001$ ). The time the subjects spent in cars, on public transportation, or on motorcycles or bicycles was consistently linked with an increase in the risk of myocardial infarction. Adjusting for the level of exercise on a bicycle or for getting up in the morning changed the estimated effect of exposure to traffic only slightly (odds ratio for myocardial infarction, 2.73; 95 percent confidence interval, 2.06 to 3.61;  $P < 0.001$ ). The subject’s use of a car was the most common source of exposure to traffic; nevertheless, there was also an association between time spent on public transportation and the onset of a myocardial infarction one hour later.

## CONCLUSIONS

Transient exposure to traffic may increase the risk of myocardial infarction in susceptible persons.

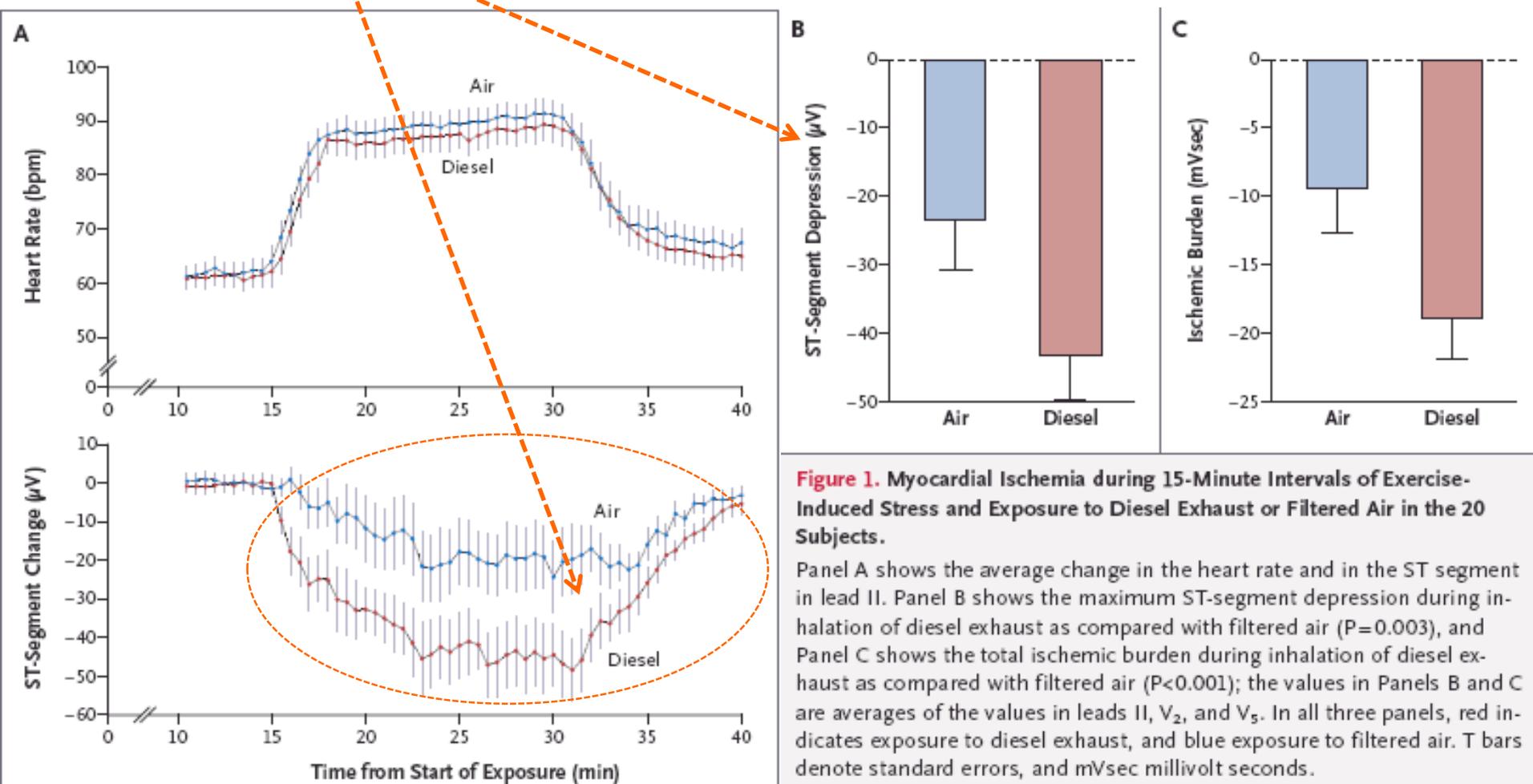
**Table 2. Odds Ratios for the Onset of Myocardial Infarction (MI) after Time Spent in Traffic, According to the Means of Transportation.\***

Type of Transportation and Hours before MI	No. of Subjects	Frequency of Exposure in Case Period on Day of MI (%)	Odds Ratio (95% CI)	P Value
<b>Any means of transportation†</b>				
Concurrent	585	8.0	1.50 (1.07–2.09)	0.02
1 hr	625	12.1	★ 2.92 (2.22–3.83)	<0.001
2 hr	634	8.9	2.01 (1.49–2.72)	<0.001
3 hr	635	5.5	1.15 (0.79–1.66)	0.47
4 hr	638	5.6	1.27 (0.89–1.83)	0.19
5 hr	639	6.8	1.64 (1.17–2.30)	0.004
6 hr	640	6.1	1.34 (0.93–1.92)	0.11
<b>Cars</b>				
Concurrent	585	5.6	1.33 (0.90–1.99)	0.15
1 hr	625	8.3	★ 2.60 (1.89–3.57)	<0.001
2 hr	634	6.5	1.94 (1.37–2.76)	<0.001
3 hr	635	4.2	1.16 (0.76–1.78)	0.49
4 hr	638	4.0	1.21 (0.79–1.86)	0.38
5 hr	639	5.3	1.73 (1.19–2.54)	0.005
6 hr	640	5.0	1.55 (1.04–2.30)	0.03
<b>Bicycles</b>				
Concurrent	585	1.8	2.59 (1.27–5.29)	0.009
1 hr	625	2.4	★ 3.94 (2.14–7.24)	<0.001
2 hr	634	1.6	2.70 (1.37–5.33)	0.004
3 hr	635	1.0	1.66 (0.74–3.74)	0.22
4 hr	638	0.7	1.16 (0.45–2.96)	0.76
5 hr	639	0.9	1.49 (0.63–3.54)	0.37
6 hr	640	0.7	1.02 (0.36–2.87)	0.97
<b>Public transportation</b>				
Concurrent	585	0.5	1.08 (0.33–3.55)	0.90
1 hr	625	1.2	★ 3.09 (1.41–6.75)	0.005
2 hr	634	0.9	2.13 (0.91–5.23)	0.08
3 hr	635	0.3	0.69 (0.17–2.88)	0.62
4 hr	638	0.9	2.27 (0.95–5.41)	0.06
5 hr	639	0.6	1.54 (0.55–4.37)	0.41
6 hr	640	0.3	0.73 (0.17–3.06)	0.67

**Doubling of heart muscle stress when exercising with diesel pollution present**

# Ischemic and Thrombotic Effects of Dilute Diesel-Exhaust Inhalation in Men with Coronary Heart Disease

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**Figure 1. Myocardial Ischemia during 15-Minute Intervals of Exercise-Induced Stress and Exposure to Diesel Exhaust or Filtered Air in the 20 Subjects.**

Panel A shows the average change in the heart rate and in the ST segment in lead II. Panel B shows the maximum ST-segment depression during inhalation of diesel exhaust as compared with filtered air ( $P=0.003$ ), and Panel C shows the total ischemic burden during inhalation of diesel exhaust as compared with filtered air ( $P<0.001$ ); the values in Panels B and C are averages of the values in leads II, V<sub>2</sub>, and V<sub>5</sub>. In all three panels, red indicates exposure to diesel exhaust, and blue exposure to filtered air. T bars denote standard errors, and mVsec millivolt seconds.

**Relative risks in best spatial epidemiology studies on high mobile pollution exposures at residence:**

Cardiovascular deaths - **50% + higher (solid)**

Lung cancer deaths - **50% + higher (solid)**

Childhood asthma - **50% + higher (solid)**

Childhood autism - **100% + higher (emerging)**

**Direct traffic exposures (small acute studies):**

Heart attacks - **3X higher** - but cyclists - **4X higher**

Cyclist dose - **4X to 6X higher** due to ventilation

EKG ST segment depression - **2X higher** - oxygen crisis in heart

Rapid cardiovascular signaling due to **diesel emissions particulates DEP**

**Air toxics and garden vegetables:**

Aerial plant to root PAH ratio - **4X to 6X higher**

**I93 on berm**

**R38 at grade**



**PM2.5** Particles <= 2.5 micrometers diameter  
**UFP** Particles <= 100 nanometers diameter  
**PAH** Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons  
**Questions?** [wqzamore@gmail.com](mailto:wqzamore@gmail.com)

Cardiovascular Disease and Lung Cancer relative risks appear to be similar for truck industry workers, diesel rail engineers and near highway residents - these elevated risks are not driven by PM2.5 mass, but may be driven by UFP

**Individual Exposure is determined by:**  
**How big is the source - e.g., vehicles per day**  
**Meteorology - sun, wind, temperature, etc.**  
**Built or geographic ... protection or traps**  
**How close are you, how many hours per day**  
**Activity based ventilation and metabolic rates**



Work remains to refine these engineering / design elements that can be used for charrette focus

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All of the following are engineering tactics:

- Residential and school HEPA filtration and other protective building systems
  - 90 to 95% reductions possible, maybe 80% after human behavior included
- Air intake locations could be chosen more carefully
  - Good idea but little good quantification in literature
- Sound proofing through extra window glazing, insulation and other features
  - Large reductions possible as seen in FAA noise proofing

+++++

All of the following are design tactics with potentially strong co-benefits:

- Land use buffers ala California ARB Handbook – distance between sources and receptors
  - 50% or greater exposure reductions from 500 foot buffers for sensitive uses
- Vegetation or built wall barriers to absorb or block pollution
  - 10 to 25% reductions possible, especially with height, but geometric trade-offs are complex
- Street trees, hedges and pleasant vegetation
  - -25 to +25% increases / reductions but also heat island and green space co-benefits
- Decking over of highways to link urban areas and block pollution
  - 20 to 50% reductions (rough est.) of long term urban design as in Back Bay, Freeway Park, etc.
- Urban design such as healthy placement of buildings and open space
  - 10 to 25% reductions (est.) but not much literature, site planning used by San Francisco
- Garden locations, including healthy vegetables
  - Small but strong literature, including from mainland China, about near highway air toxins
- Park locations for active recreation and for susceptible people
  - Important due to human ventilation, susceptible populations – children, seniors, co-benefits
- Active travel locations, including bicycling and walking paths (reductions of 50% possible)
  - Important because of human ventilation rates which yield high effective biological doses

**NO  
MOTOR  
VEHICLES**

**Somerville Community Path  
near Davis Square  
THANK YOU**

