

# The “Developing” World?

## Urban Passenger Mobility

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1.201

## Objective and Content

- Provide a brief, somewhat anecdotal, “survey” of developing country urban mobility reality
- 1. Trends and Forces
- 2. A Developing World?
- 3. Developing Country Challenges and Opportunities: 5 Key Areas
  - Motorization, motorized 2-wheelers, public transportation, land management, institutions

## “Developing” World Urban Transportation: Trends in Perspective

By 2030

~2 billion new residents

X

~3,000 vkm/person/year

=

~6 trillion additional vehicle kms/yr

=

~600 billion additional liters of gasoline/yr

or **~1.9 billion tonnes of GHG yearly**

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## Some Relevant Forces

- Income growth...
- Accessibility is a “superior good”
- Urban decentralization (i.e., suburbanization)
- Increasing labor force participation
- Declining household size

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## In other words...

*Urbanization*  
(Urban population growth)

+

*Decentralization*  
(Urban outgrowth, "sprawl")

+

*Income Growth*

=

**More** people making **more** trips over **greater** distances

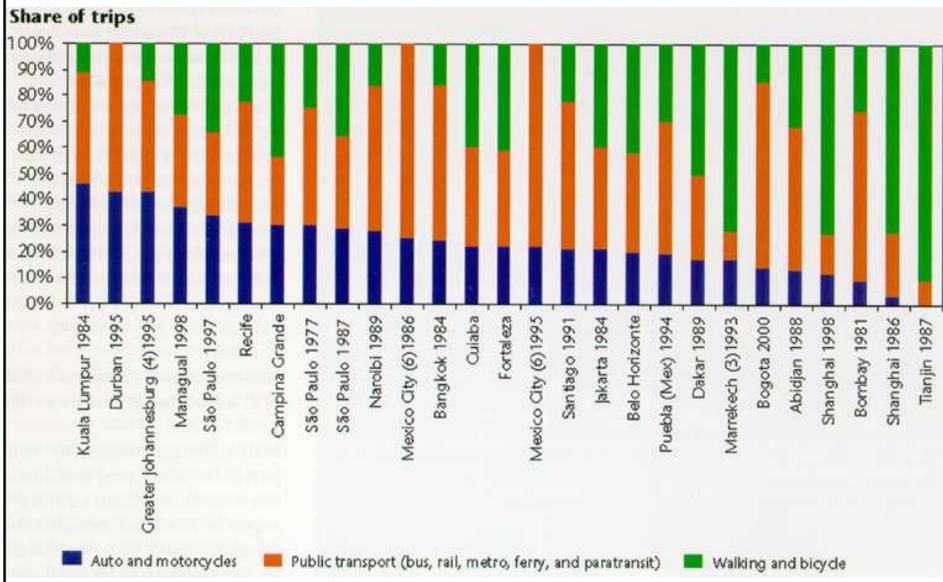
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## What do we mean by "developing" world?

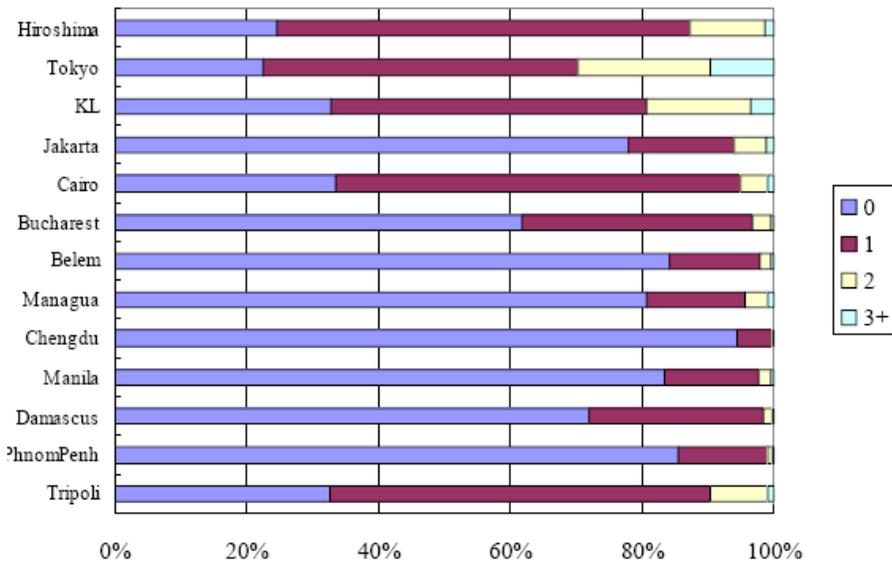
- Can (should) we generalize?
- What is different?
- What is the same?
- Sources of variation?

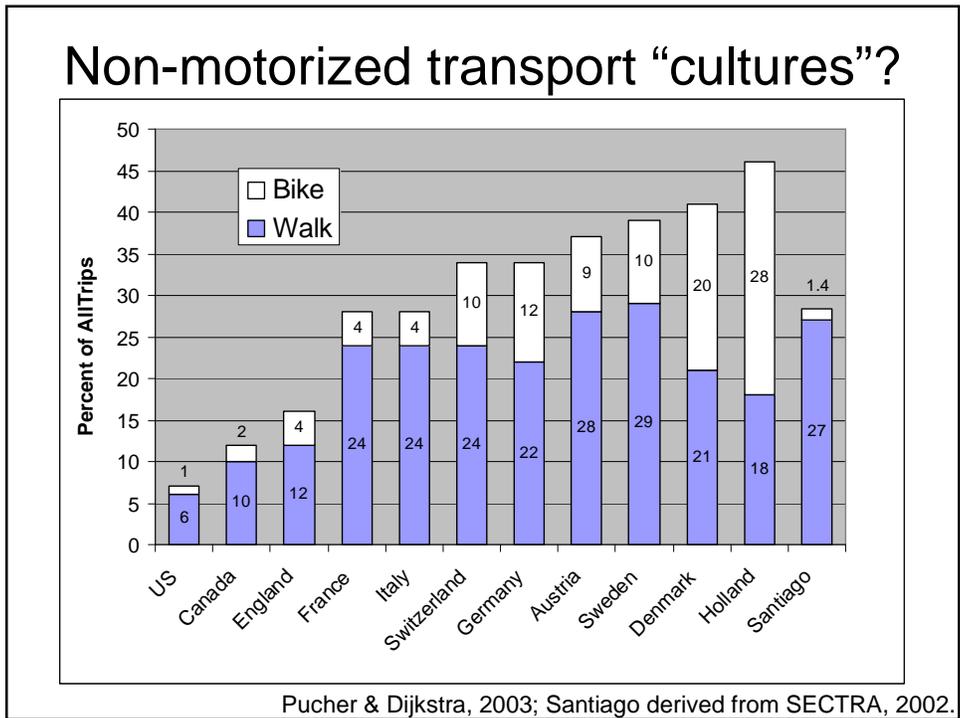
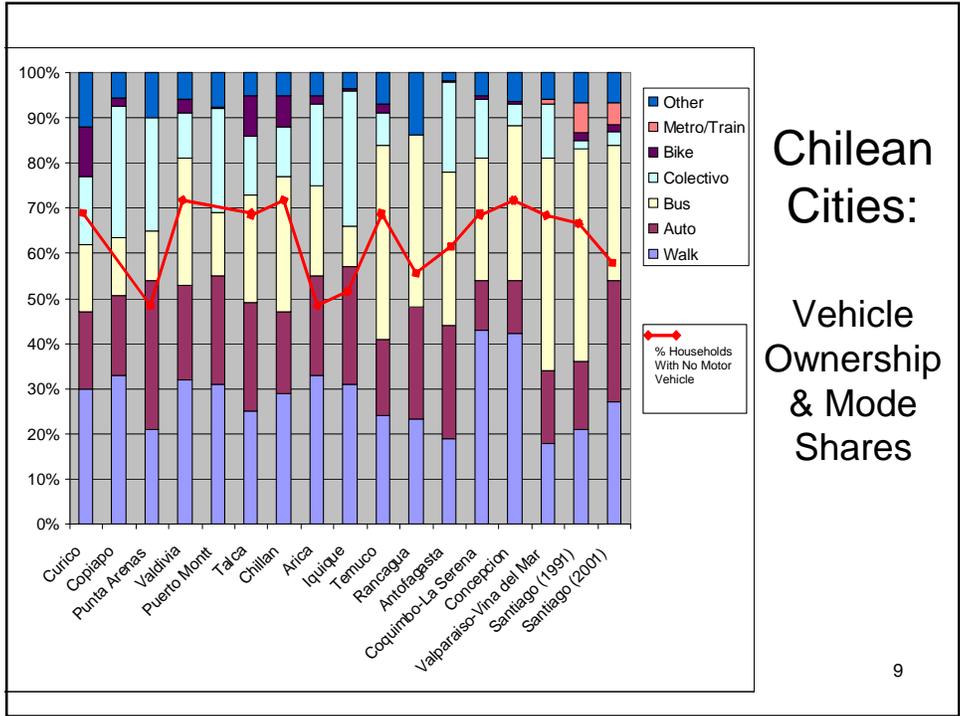
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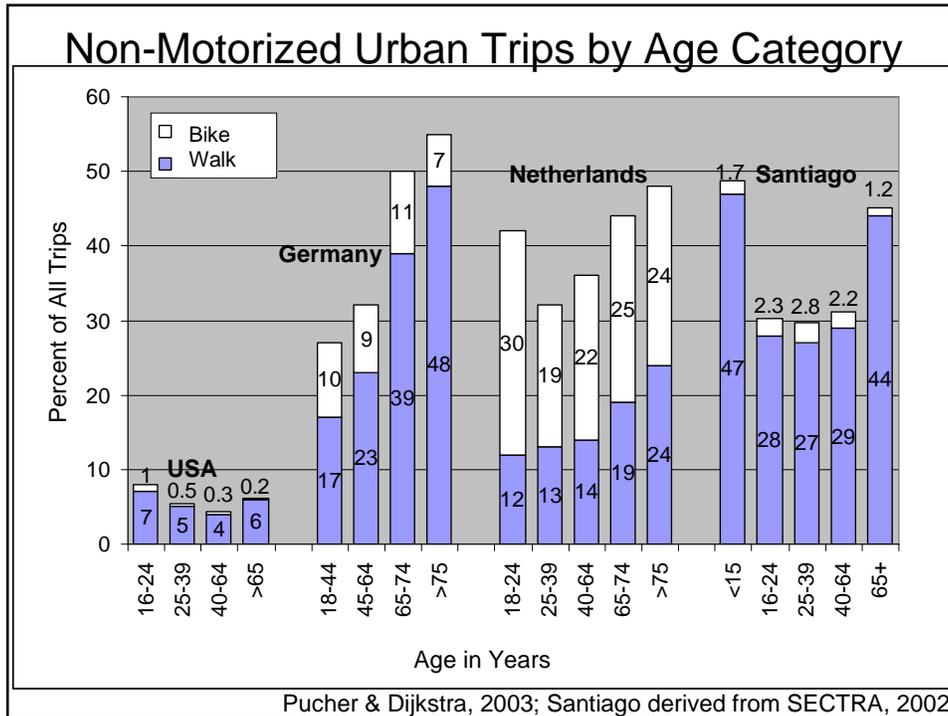
# Range of “Developing World” Cities



# Household Car Ownership







## Gender

- Again, significant variation by culture...
- Generally, women have less access to private vehicles (*all else equal*)
- Women's travel habits – more often than men's related to household maintenance – not conducive to convenient public transport itineraries.
  - Further suffer possible dangers on public transport.
- In developing countries, female trip generation rate tends to be higher than males in most cities
  - Exceptions in places like Cairo and Kuala Lumpur
  - Likely religious and cultural influence (e.g. Hyodo et al, 2005).

## A few accurate generalizations

### Poverty

- By definition, developing world is poorer
  - Accessibility poor
  - Time poor
  - Safety poor
  - Energy poor
- Distribution of income: tends to be worse
  - Gini coefficients
- Interacting effects: poor on periphery, isolated, poor transport, long trips

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## Accurate generalizations

### Dynamism

- E.g., land market changes in China and Vietnam
- Political and institutional decentralization
- Rates of population growth
- Demographic
  - Women in work force participation

### Densities

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## Can we “buy (and/or learn) away” some of the effects?

- Kuznets curve
- But, will this come in time?
- E.g.: traffic accident rates in India will not start declining until 2042... (Kopitz and Cropper, 2003)
- Paths of development will depend, in part, on time, speed, sequence of technological adaptation
- Impacts and implications will vary across contexts

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## Developing country challenges and opportunities: Five key areas

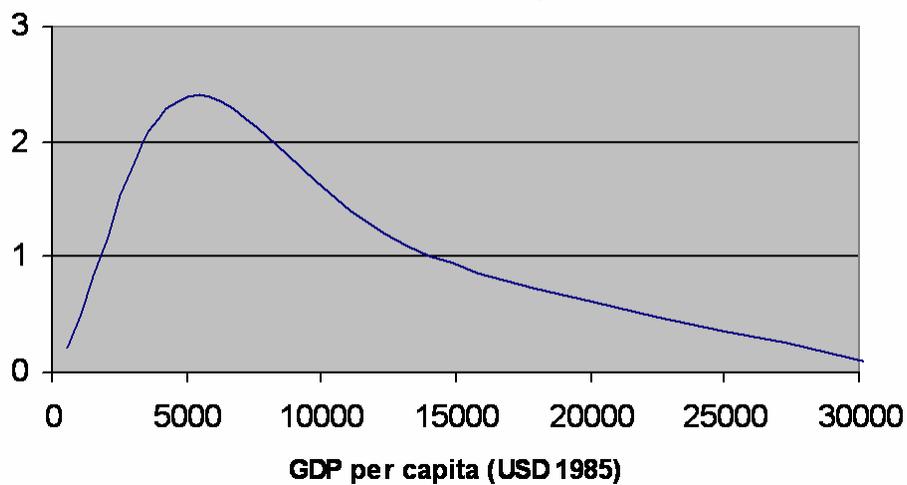
- Motorization – does a foreseeable ceiling exist?
- Motorized two-wheelers – friend or foe?
- Public transportation – what future?
- Land development – any possibility for management for mobility?
- Institutions – capable of responding?

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# Motorization

In theory, a saturation point exists...  
**ALL** of developing world is well-below  
saturation  
The “vicious cycle...”

## Motorization (cars/capita) Income Elasticity



Dargay, J. and D. Gately (1999); Income's effect on car and vehicle ownership, worldwide: 1960-2015; *Transportation Research A*, Vol. 33, No. 2.

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## Motorization: Influencing Factors

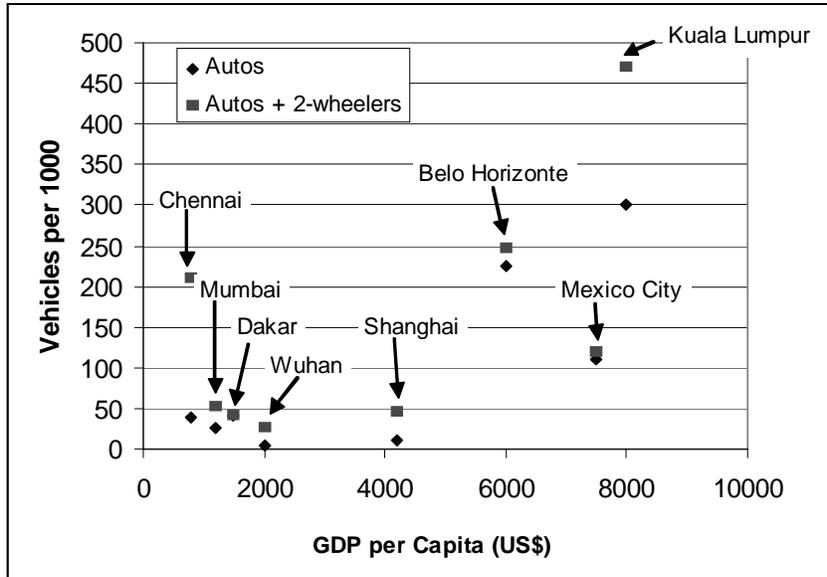
- Income distribution
- Local industry and trade policy
  - Brazil, Malaysia, China
  - Trade liberalization and used vehicles
    - Peru, Senegal
  - Local tax policies: Shanghai until recently
- Other policies, with potentially perverse effects
  - “Hoy no circula”
- Will any country take a Singaporean approach to long-term management of S-curve?

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## Motorization and Motorized Two-Wheelers

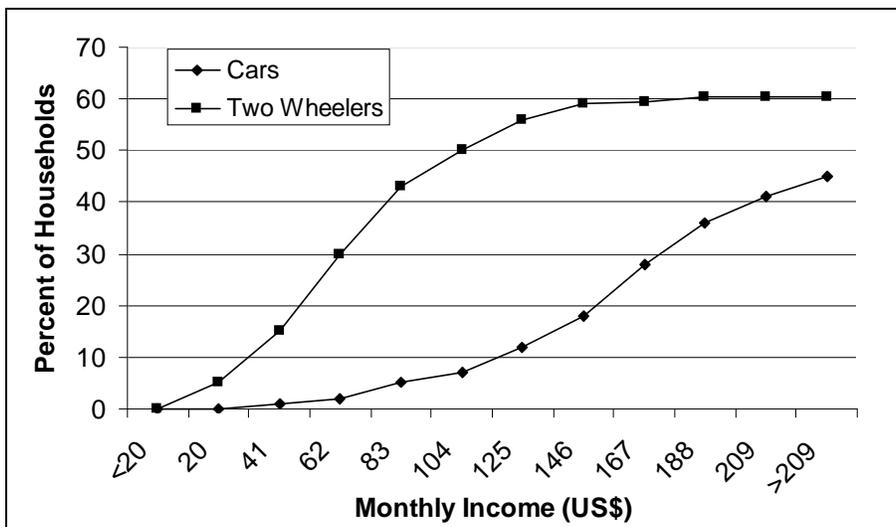
The “ladder of mobility”?  
Where does the 2-wheeler culture  
come from?

## Motorization and 2-wheelers



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## Chennai, 1993



Rites, 1995.

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## 2-wheelers

- The “worst of both worlds”? (Barter, 2004)?
  - Traffic saturation and undercutting public transport
- High levels of air and noise pollution
- Dangerous driving habits
- Difficult traffic management conditions
- Likely the “most challenging” transport problem that Asia will face in the next decade (Gwilliam, 2003)

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## Public Transportation

Developing cities mobility  
backbone

## Public Transportation

- ✓ Ubiquitous service
- ✓ Entrepreneurial spirit
- ✓ Large potential demand...
- ✗ Severe financial conditions
- ✗ Inadequate capacity
- ✗ Little network integration
- ✗ Slow speeds
- ✗ Deteriorating capital

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## Public Transportation: Obstacles

- Poverty
  - Allport and Thomson (1990): with 1 dollar fare, Metros in LDCs “break even” (operationally)
- “Guerra del centavo”
- Potentially “counter-productive” competition

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## Public Transportation: Competition

- *Car rapides* (Dakar)
- *Matutus* (Nairobi)
- Two-wheelers (Chennai)
- *Colectivos* (Mexico City)
- Auto industry... (KL, Brazil, Mexico, etc.)

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## The Power of “Informality”

### The *Matutu* minibus in Nairobi

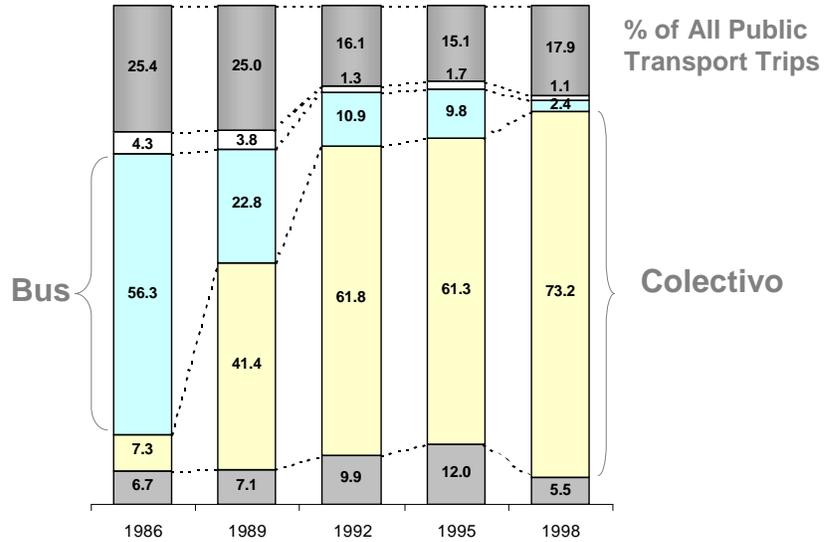
	Bus	Matutu	Matutu Advantage
Average wait time (min)	24	14	44%
Average trip time (min)	65	38	42%
Average travel time (min)	90	52	42%
Average fare (\$/km)	0.03	0.02	28%
Average trip speed (km/hr)	13	18	42%
Average travel speed (km/hr)	9	13	41%

Source: Koster and Hop (2000).

Note: Overall average based on AM/PM Peak and Off Peak.

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## Rise of the Informal Sector: Mexico City



## Mexico City's Colectivos

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## Public Transportation: Institutional Challenges

### **Managing private industry in the public interest**

- Private operators: strong political leverage
- Fare: conspicuous component of cost of living
- Ambivalence about “informality”
- Inter-jurisdictional coordination
  - E.g., Mexico City
- Innovation in isolation
  - Metrobus, KL’s rail, TransMilenio

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## Public Transportation: A Range of Outcomes

- Mexico City Metro
  - US\$400 mn/year of operating subsidies
- Kuala Lumpur
  - massive rail investment; bankrupts “companies”, little mode share effect
- BRT “Revolution”?
  - Curitiba, *Transmilenio*, MetroBus, *Transantiago*, etc.

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# Land Management

What hope for managing  
outcomes?

## Urban Decentralization

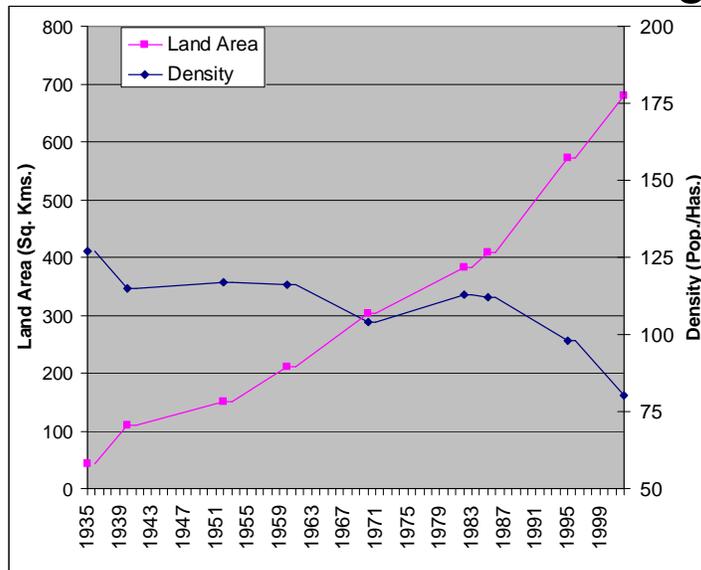
	pop/sq km (1960)	pop/sq km (1990)	% chg. (1960-1990)
Tokyo	8,565	7,097	-17%
New York	2,878	2,086	-28%
Paris	6,860	4,614	-33%
London	6,539	4,232	-35%
Detroit	1,970	1,275	-35%
San Francisco-Oakland	1,640	1,602	-2%
Washington	2,046	1,373	-33%
Melbourne	2,028	1,491	-26%
Hamburg	6,827	3,982	-42%
Vienna	9,141	6,830	-25%
Brisbane	2,095	978	-53%
Copenhagen	4,952	3,467	-30%
Amsterdam	9,973	5,591	-44%
Zurich	5,998	4,708	-22%
Frankfurt	8,722	4,661	-47%

Will the developing world follow suit?

Source: Demographia, 2001

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## Decentralization in Santiago

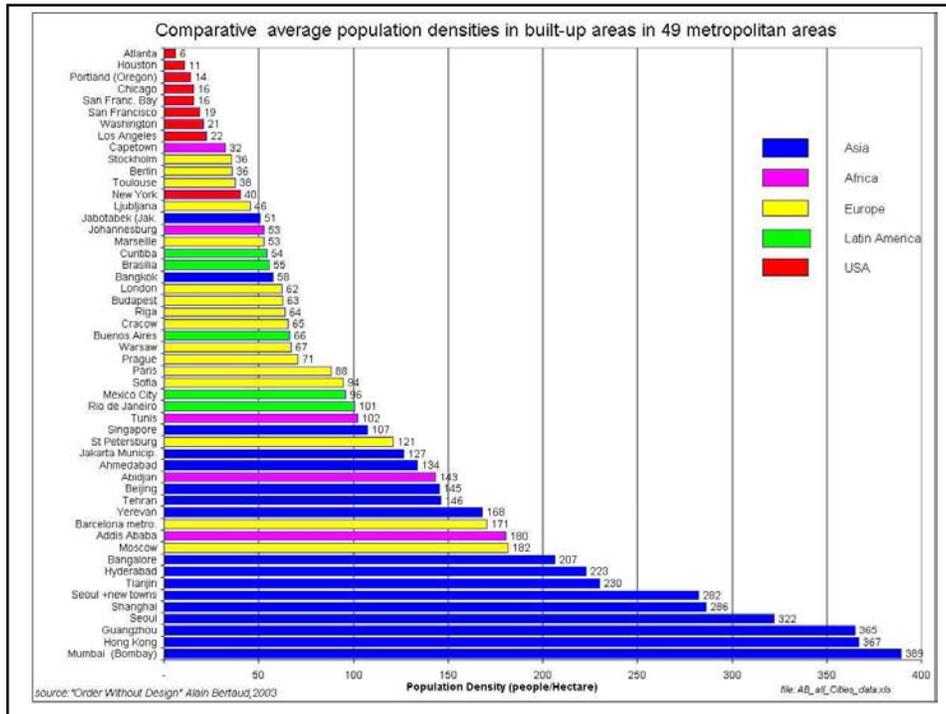


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## Land Patterns: Generalizations

- Developing world still *much* denser than industrialized
- Wuhan: 160 (persons/ha)
- Mumbai: 120 (persons/ha)
- Belo Horizonte: 63 (persons/ha)
- Santiago: 60-70 (persons/ha)
- Shanghai at NY Metro Area density would be 16 x current size...

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## Land Development: Changes

- Massive Mega-Developments
  - Nave Mumbai (Mumbai)
  - Pudong (Shanghai)
  - Sante Fe (Mexico City)
  - Chacabuco (Santiago)
  - Kuala Lumpur City Centre Project
  - Etc.
  - Represent influence the “modernizing” forces (globalization, motorization, infrastructure expansion, etc.)

## Land Development: Challenges

Poverty, informality, spatial segregation

- Mexico City
  - 49% of residents live in “irregular” settlements
- Navi Mumbai
  - 39% in “informal” settlements
- China
  - Land reform and government land conversion incentives...
- Forces: continuous in-migration, low purchasing power, segregation, etc.

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## Socio-Economic Spatial Segregation

**Santiago**

**Mexico City**

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## Urban Decentralization: The Rich & Poor

### “Irregular” Settlements in Mexico City

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### Upper Income “Sprawl” in Santiago de Chile

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## Institutions

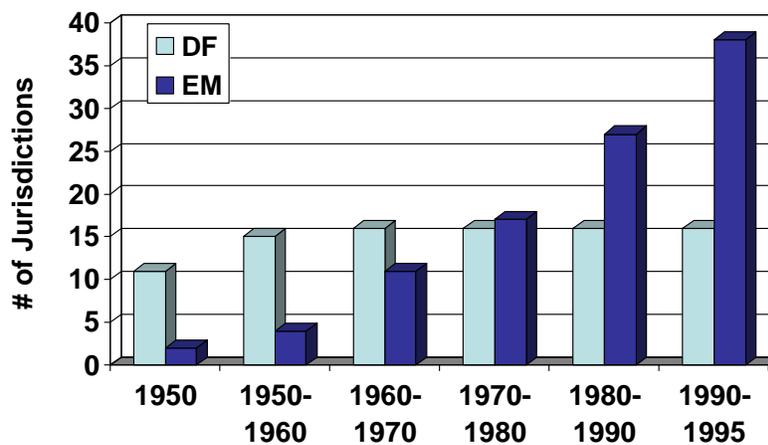
The ultimate challenge?

## Institutions

- Dynamism of change
  - Decentralization, democratization
  - Income growth, motorization, etc.
- Outstrips
  - Data relevance
  - Institutional capability (jurisdictional, technical, etc.)

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## Mexico City Metro Area: Number of Local Jurisdictions



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## Institutions

- Developing country context makes things worse
  - Conditions for bureaucracy, civil service
  - Information is scarcer, thus “more valuable”
  - Greater asymmetries between public and private sector
- Yet, interesting examples exist
  - In part, perhaps, due to institutional ambiguities

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## Institutions, Politics and Planning...

- The allure of “Ribbon cutting” (e.g., highways, Metros) transcends parties
  - Politics trumps planning (almost always?)
- Motorization and the vested interests
  - Not just motor vehicle manufacturers...
- Urban expansion, speculators, real estate developers and the invasion of ‘big box’
- Citizens Organizations can be co-opted
  - But increasing in technical and political sophistication

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## Politics, Planning and Ribbon-cutting: Costanera Norte Highway in Santiago

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## Politics, Planning and Ribbon-cutting: “Los Segundos Pisos” in Mexico City

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## Politics, Planning and Ribbons: “Los Segundos Pisos” en Mexico City

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## Institutions, Politics and Planning: Theory vs. Reality... Development of Project Alternatives

### Theory

- Concept and Scope well-defined
- Clearly respond to a need
- Consider *all reasonable* options
- Provide a *range* of options, illustrating trade-offs
- All alternatives should be *competitive* as possible
- Process should be open, well-documented, etc.
- Include “do nothing”

### Practice

(“the Genetics” of a Project)

- Personal Relationships
- Financial Sources
- Public Opinion
- Technical Analysis

(Juan Tapia G., 2005)

Source: Meyer & Miller, 2001

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## Conclusions

- Urban developing world is mobility poor
- Still in early stages of motorization
  - Unclear where saturation might lie
- Two-wheelers are a mobility “equalizer” and possibly motorization “enhancer”
- Public transport faces street capacity constraints, low management power/capability, low purchasing power
  - Continued focus on high profile, costly “solutions”
  - Unclear whether BRT-as-panacea will be productive
- Urban physical growth may be largest long-term opportunity and challenge
- All of this (and more) poses massive challenge to under-capacitated institutions

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