



THE PROBLEM

Transportation accounts for 40% of Connecticut's greenhouse gas emissions, and it disproportionately harms urban, low-income, and minority populations. If we want to meet our carbon reduction goals and fight climate change, it's critical that we find new solutions centered on public transit, electrification, and more.

Connecticut is long overdue for transportation reform. For too long, infrastructure investment has centered only on road improvements and highway widening. Public transit options in our cities have long been neglected, and recent commitments to transition our state fleet and buses to electric vehicles are currently unfunded and in need of support.

EXPANDING PUBLIC TRANSIT

Connecticut's existing public transportation system is in dire need of reform. Too often, lawmakers focus on intercity rail connections. While improving travel times to New York or Boston may be important, these investments cannot come at the expense of intra-city public transit options.

For instance, it may take a resident of North Hartford more than three hours by bus to reach their job at the Westfarms Mall--a trip that would only take fifteen minutes by car. There are long intervals between bus arrivals and a lack of decent routes.

Expansion of public transit must include better and more frequent bus routes. Not only will this keep cars off the road by making public transportation a viable option for workers, it will also provide greater access to employment and education for residents who cannot afford to own a vehicle.

INVESTING IN ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Electric, zero-emission vehicles are necessary to combat climate change and improve public health. Pollution from traditional fossil fuel vehicles has rapidly increased asthma and other respiratory diseases in our children and elderly. Electrifying our vehicles will improve air quality and reduce health impacts.

As part of the 2019 budget, the General Assembly committed to transition 50% of our light-duty fleet and 30% of our public buses to zero-emission vehicles. The General Assembly also implemented a sustainable source of funding for electric vehicle infrastructure.



We applaud this focus on electric vehicle infrastructure, but we must ensure equitable access. The first communities to receive electric buses should be those areas with the worst congestion and air quality, particularly low-income communities and communities of color that rely on public transportation for their daily commutes.

Connecticut must also rapidly expand access to charging infrastructure both within urban communities and rural areas. This will require adequate funding for infrastructure and incentives for residents to buy these vehicles. Unfortunately, in October 2019, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) drastically cut electric vehicles rebates. These cuts must be reversed to allow more state residents to afford electric vehicles.

CT 2030 PLAN

In November 2019, Gov. Ned Lamont issued his transportation plan to upgrade our state infrastructure.

While the CT2030 plan includes \$6B in funding for commuter rail, most of this would benefit residents of wealthier communities traveling to New York or Boston. There is little funding for upgraded public bus transit. Additionally, much of the plan is centered around the expansion of roads and highways, which would put more cars on the road, not remove them.

The CT2030 plan must be revised to include additional funding for public transit, bike paths, and walking trails. Not every resident can afford a personal vehicle, and we must ensure everyone in Connecticut has access to reliable transportation to school, work, and elsewhere.

THE PROBLEM

Connecticut's major urban centers are overrun with traffic congestion, causing some of the worst air quality in the nation. In the rural areas of the state, people are deprived of economic growth due to lack of connectivity with the rest of the state and region.

At the same time, transportation contributes 40% to our greenhouse gas emissions, making it a major factor in our climate crisis.

THE SOLUTION

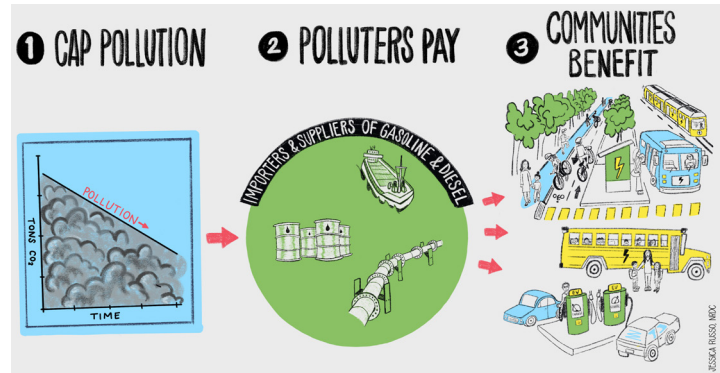
The Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) is a regional, multi-state effort to reduce emissions in the transportation sector. Thirteen states from Maine to Virginia, as well as Washington, DC, have joined this movement.

Through a fee on prime fossil fuel suppliers in the transportation sector, Connecticut will be able to re-invest funds to cross-cutting issues such as housing, health, access to transportation and jobs, climate change, and greenhouse gas reduction.

Any transportation reform in the state must first focus on our under-served and overburdened communities. As such, TCI calls for increased funding on public transportation and transit-oriented development to specifically address the challenges faced by low-income and communities of color.

To ensure TCI addresses the needs of all Connecticut residents, CTLCV and other coalition members conducted a statewide survey of roughly 1,000 residents. These survey responses will be used to inform stakeholders of critical needs and upgrades.

TCI is the fastest, most effective, and most equitable way to transition to a clean energy economy. TCI will position the northeast as an effective leader in the fight for a healthier climate and healthier lives.



FAST FACTS

- TCI jurisdictions include Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, & Washington, DC.
- Connecticut must reduce greenhouse emissions by 45% below 2001 levels by 2030 and 80% below 2001 levels by 2050 to comply with the Connecticut Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) standards.
- According to the Acadia Center, TCI would allow for \$2.7 billion to be re-invested in clean transportation options by 2030.
- Implementing TCI will create over 23,000 jobs in Connecticut, equating to \$2.2 billion in wages and \$7 billion in new business sales

BENEFITS OF TCI

- Reduction in asthma and lung diseases;
- Cleaner air and water for people and wildlife;
- Reduction in rush hour traffic congestion;
- Reduction in climate change-causing fossil fuels

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