

Myth: *If we build new roads, they will only fill up with traffic.*

Fact: More roads will increase our mobility, and give us more travel options. Isn't that what roads are built for in the first place?

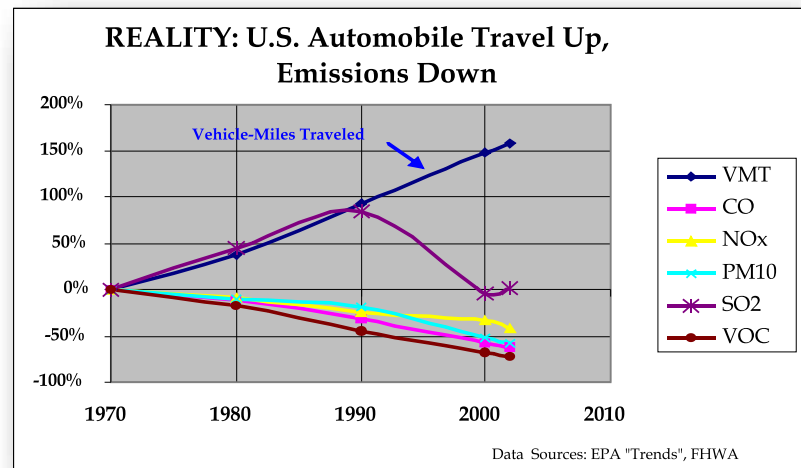
A common belief is that building new roads will simply attract a large volume of traffic resulting in increased travel without relief for existing routes. This begs the question of why we have roads. The weakness of the argument becomes clear if it is applied to facilities such as schools (they only fill up with students) or

hospitals (they only fill up with patients). Roads carry more than cars: they are essential for bus transit and freight and their right of way often provides for sidewalks or adjacent trails for walkers and cyclists. As population grows, demand for roads will also grow - just the same as with any other public facility. The real question is: what is the most effective and cost efficient way to achieve a reduction in traffic congestion?

Myth: *Automobiles are causing our air quality problems.*

Fact: Nationally, motor vehicles account for less than half of air pollutants, except for carbon monoxide.

Cars and trucks have become much cleaner than they were 40 years ago through better engine technology and emission controls. Not only is their share of the nation's pollution lower, the actual quantity of emissions is now 63% less than it was in 1970, even though there are more than twice as many vehicles on the road. Cars employing the best technology now approach zero emissions. Due to ever-cleaner new vehicles and efforts to reduce other sources of pollutants, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency projects that air quality will improve in the region over the next 25 years.



Myth: *Transit is more energy efficient than cars.*

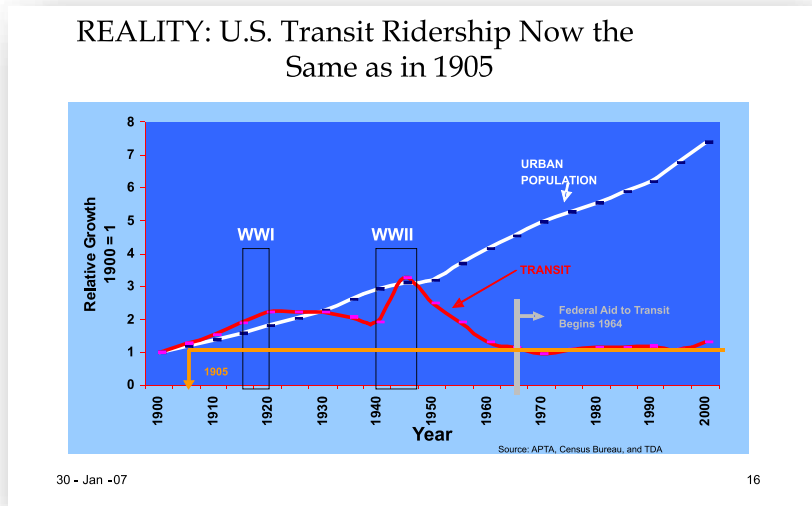
Fact: Transit is sometimes, but not always, more energy efficient than autos in the Puget Sound region.

In the densest areas, such as Seattle, where ridership is fairly high, bus transit is about 18% more energy efficient per passenger mile than cars. However, in less built up areas, such as Pierce and Snohomish Counties, cars are 6% more energy efficient than transit. Although the popularity of SUV's and light trucks has increased automotive energy use, today's most efficient cars use about half the energy per passenger mile of transit.

Myth: *Puget Sound Transit ridership is growing.*

Fact: Transit's share of daily travel has been steadily on the decline since the early 1960's.

PSRC continues to project that transit ridership will grow (blue line) but in fact, it has been declining (the red line). The projected increase in transit's market share is possible, but is contrary to past trends.



There is a better way! Go to truthabouttraffic.org to see an alternative plan - one that actually reduces congestion at far less cost!