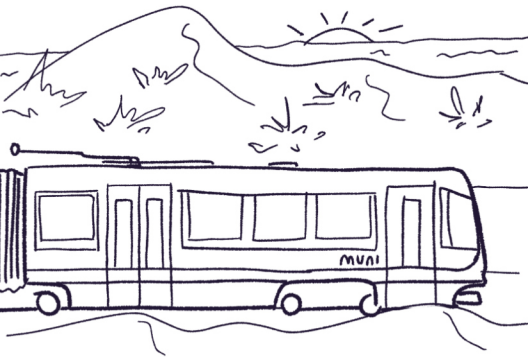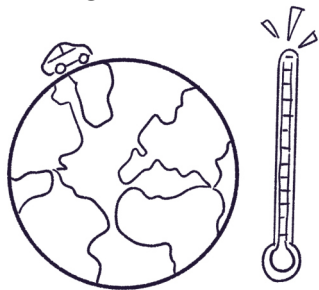# Public Transit
- vs -
Pollution

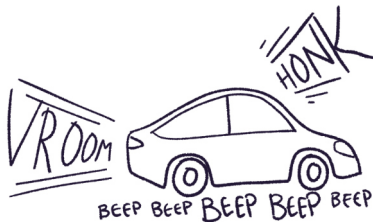Six kinds of pollution and how public transit helps reduce them

CO₂

Starting with the obvious: compared to individual cars, transit is incredibly efficient per passenger.

Electrification is the only way to stop using fossil fuels. Overhead power lines are easy to convert and avoid power loss due to battery charge losses.
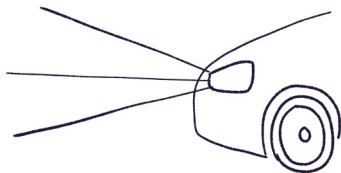
Noise

Speeding cars, loud vehicles, honking traffic, and sirens trying to alert distracted drivers make a racket.

Transit runs at consistent speeds, times, and without the need for horns.

Light

Thousands of headlights and overhead lights interrupt the darkness of night, even in sparsely populated areas.
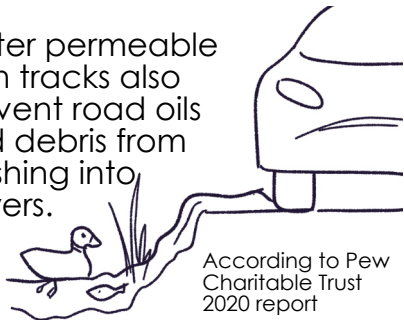
Transit needs far less lighting per passenger due to fewer total vehicles and lanes.

Water

In 2016, 78% of the microplastic mass entering the oceans was from tire dust.

Trams and trains use metal wheels, which are replaced infrequently, can be recycled, and don't produce wear particles.
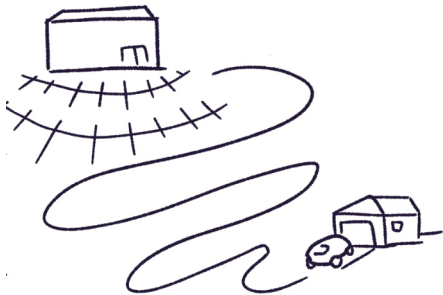
Water permeable train tracks also prevent road oils and debris from washing into sewers.

According to Pew Charitable Trust 2020 report

Space

Parking space for cars takes up valuable land from more homes and shops, and spreads our communities out over greater distances.

Transit uses much less physical space and can often be put underground. People who use transit also don't need parking spaces.

Safety

Cars killed 39 thousand people in the US in 2024, and police spend most of their time on traffic control.

68 % of police time in LA is spent pulling people over for traffic violations

Transit accidents are very rare due to better signaling, professional drivers, and infrastructure like platform screen doors.

According to the ACLU of SoCal

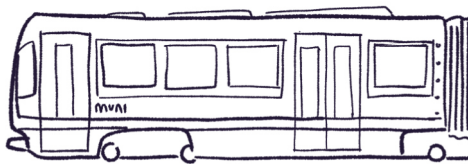Wanna learn more about human-centered urban design? Check out:
@notjustbikes
@citynerd
@rmtransit
@citybeautiful

Protect SF transit from budget cuts! muniforever.org

Thought this zine was cool? Photocopy it and send it to your friends!