The automobile is a rural technology that has been misapplied to cities.
How much space would be required if all the people who took the subway into the CBD chose to drive?

Black areas south of 57th Street indicate space needed for additional parking.

Black areas north of 57th Street and in the East River indicate space that would be needed for additional roads and bridges.
Automobiles are a spatially inappropriate technology for a dense city

space required to transport 60 people

car  bus  bicycle
The shift to the automobile has destroyed transportation capacity.

### Figure 5 - ERB's Total Daily Crossings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bridge</th>
<th>Full Transportation Opening</th>
<th>Peak Year</th>
<th>1989</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brooklyn Bridge 1883</strong></td>
<td>341,000 (1902)</td>
<td>426,000 (1907)</td>
<td>178,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Manhattan Bridge 1909</strong></td>
<td>229,000 (1917)</td>
<td>703,000 (1939)</td>
<td>360,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Williamsburg Bridge 1903</strong></td>
<td>227,000 (1910)</td>
<td>505,000 (1924)</td>
<td>240,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Queensboro Bridge 1909</strong></td>
<td>44,000 (1910)</td>
<td>326,000 (1940)</td>
<td>248,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>841,000</td>
<td>1,960,000</td>
<td>1,026,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Today, 370,000 fewer people enter the CBD each day than in 1948.

But 450,000 more cars enter the CBD each working day than in 1948.
Traffic damages the human living environment.
The plague of traffic has destroyed street life.
We have made our world a nasty mechanized place.
Our Society has mistakenly chosen traffic over life.
100 years of auto oriented planning have led to dysfunctional, unbalanced streets.

Queens Boulevard; 1973
The Fundamental Incompatibility of people and cars.
"You can have a city that is friendly to cars or friendly to people, you cannot have both."

- Enrique Penalosa
Traffic cripples the living environment for our children.

Where the Sidewalk Ends
The automobile has made life difficult for parents.
Many senior citizens have difficulty navigating their own world.
Sidewalks have been narrowed all across the city.
Traffic Harms Human Relationships.
The automobile as a transportation technology in NYC is a mistake for two classes of reasons:

1) **Traffic undermines** the livability of the city.

2) The **automobile** does a poor job moving people in a dense urban environment.
But people are afraid of change.

It won't work out.
Myth 1: Traffic is Inevitable
Myth 2: Driving is Necessary to Support the Economy

Figure 7. Per capita GDP and VMT for US States (2008)
Myth 3: Pedestrianization is bad for business
Bike mode share

Groningen: 57%
Amsterdam: 40%
Copenhagen: 37%
Osaka: 25%
Tokyo: 20%

Berlin: 1973: 2%, 2010: 13%
Portland: 1997: 3%, 2009: 7%

Paris: up 150% from 2001 to 2007
Barcelona: up 135% from 2005 to 2007

New York: up 125% in the last 5 years
Myth 5: Livable Streets improvements and good car access are incompatible
Traffic can shrink

NYC Commute Mode Share: 2000 vs. 2009

Source: U.S. Census
So what do we do?
Rethink how New York's streets function.
Protect Neighborhoods from Traffic.
Concentrate traffic onto main streets to get huge livability gains with only a small loss of road capacity.
verkeerscirculatieplan

figuur 61

voorstel circulatie autoverkeer binnenstad

- circulatie autoverkeer
- afslagmogelijkheid
- openbaarvervoer
- autovrij gebied (excl. bevoorradingsverkeer)
Experiment.
Temporary street closings: block parties, summer streets, play streets
Smart Transportation Policies.
Parking Reform
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time of day</th>
<th>Tax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00:00 – 06:29</td>
<td>0 SEK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06:30 – 06:59</td>
<td>10 SEK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07:00 – 07:29</td>
<td>15 SEK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07:30 – 08:29</td>
<td>20 SEK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:30 – 08:59</td>
<td>15 SEK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:00 – 15:29</td>
<td>10 SEK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:30 – 15:59</td>
<td>15 SEK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:00 – 17:29</td>
<td>20 SEK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:30 – 17:59</td>
<td>15 SEK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:00 – 18:29</td>
<td>10 SEK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:30 – 23:59</td>
<td>0 SEK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Car Sharing / Ride Sharing
Comprehensive Bicycle Network
And Many More.
We can have huge livability benefits and a better transportation system.
Great Plazas.
Great public spaces everywhere (big and small)
Stickball commonplace - kids can play in the street
Comprehensive pedestrian network
Faster Commutes
Very good vehicle access to all streets
New York can be a better city than ever before!