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Lecture by distinguished scholar as a part of Golden Jubilee

on

Mobility in the Megacity: The Evolution of Transportation in Modern Mexico City

by

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Abstract

Mexico City was one of the world's first megacities. In 1990, the metro area was home to more than fifteen million people and three million automobiles. It also suffered from severe ozone pollution. From 1990 to 2021, the city overhauled its transportation network. It cleaned up its vehicle fleet, which reduced ozone levels. It also introduced bus rapid transit and aerial trams, two transport modes that are found primarily in Latin America. I evaluate the evolution of the city's transport network, highlighting notable areas of improvement as well as continuing challenges. I argue that reliance on new technologies and transport modes has been a double-edged sword. It eased travel in some areas and helped reduce air pollution, but it has not substantially reduced overcrowding on the city's subway or reduced the time spent commuting for most residents.