The ITF Transport Outlook 2021

Reshaping mobility in the wake of Covid-19

Summary of key findings and recommendations
Four facts about the future of transport

1. **Transport demand will more than double**
   Global transport of people and goods will strongly increase to 2050 due to population growth and economic development.

2. **Transport’s CO₂ emissions will grow almost 20% to 2050**
   Any advances in decarbonising transport will be more than offset by increased demand for mobility.

3. **Ambitious policies could cut transport CO₂ emissions by nearly 70%**
   Such a reduction would bring the goal to limit global warming to 1.5°C into reach.

4. **The largest economies are also the highest emitting**
   Developed countries also have the largest capital and greatest technological means to reduce CO₂ emissions.
Six top tasks for policy makers

1. **Increase ambition**
   ...to reverse the trend and reduce transport emissions by 70%. Today’s policies are not sufficient.

2. **Align policies**
   ...to revive the economy, combat climate change and strengthen equity.

3. **Focus on accessibility**
   ...to make trips easier and increase opportunities. More mobility is not better well-being.

4. **Target sectors**
   ...with strategies geared to their emissions-reduction potential. Urban mobility has the highest potential, road freight and aviation are hardest to decarbonise.

5. **Support innovation**
   ...to accelerate technological breakthroughs needed to decarbonise transport.

6. **Break down silos**
   ...and boost collaboration between interdependent sectors like transport, energy, tourism and trade. Transport cannot succeed alone.
Urban Passenger Transport

Key facts

- Urbanisation will increase demand for sustainable transport around the world
- The right policies can cut 80% of urban mobility’s carbon footprint by 2050
- Private vehicles emit three quarters of CO\textsubscript{2} from urban passenger transport
- Increased sustainability can mean greater resilience

Main takeaways

- Two main strategies can help manage demand and deliver sustainable transport services across the world
- Integrate transport policy and land-use planning to improve accessibility for citizens
- Reducing reliance on cars is critical to decarbonise cities
- Developing public transport as the backbone of a multimodal transport system is key
Regional & Intercity Passenger Transport (non-urban)

Key facts

- Demand for regional and intercity travel is set to grow by up to 114%, with strong growth in emerging economies in particular.
- CO₂ emissions from non-urban passenger could rise by nearly one third or fall by more than half to 2050, depending on policies.
- Aviation will recover from the impact of the pandemic and grow strongly by up to 3.1 times 2015 levels by 2050.

Main takeaways

- Technological improvements offer the most promising path to decarbonising non-urban passenger transport.
- To ensure a sustainable transition to low-emission vehicles, increase consumer confidence and pursue a clean energy grid.
- Put a price on carbon that discourages high-emission transport and makes clean alternatives more attractive.
Freight Transport

Key facts

Freight accounts for more than 40% of transport emissions

Road transport is responsible for 65% of freight emissions

Freight CO₂ emissions will rise 22% from 2015 to 2050 with current policies

Main takeaways

Scale up ready-to-adopt freight decarbonisation measures quickly. Many measures rely on existing technology and can be implemented soon.

Align price incentives with freight decarbonisation ambitions. Few carriers will invest in low-carbon vehicles if they have to pay more than for conventional fleets or fuels.

To reach climate targets, freight transport must achieve the transition to low- or zero-carbon energy sources. Covid-19 stimulus packages could play a critical role.