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# ASIA CLEAN BLUE SKIES PROGRAM | KNOWLEDGE SHARING EVENT

## STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF LOW EMISSION ZONES IN ASIA

MAY 8 - 9, 2024 | 9:30 - 16:00 (GMT +7)  
BANGKOK, THAILAND

Join via Zoom: [https://bit.ly/KSE\\_LEZinAsia](https://bit.ly/KSE_LEZinAsia)



# Traffic-related air pollution (TRAP) and solutions (LEZ)

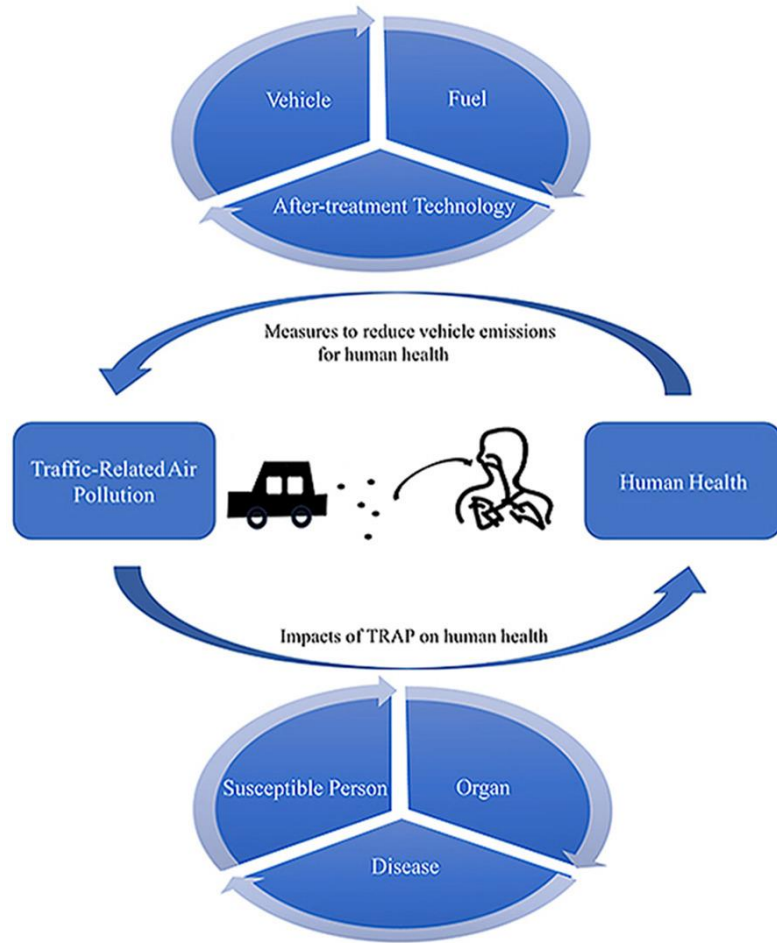
**Raymund Paolo Abad, Ph.D.**

Sustainable Transport Lead, *Clean Air Asia*

[raymund.abad@cleanairasia.org](mailto:raymund.abad@cleanairasia.org)



# Traffic-related air pollution in Asia



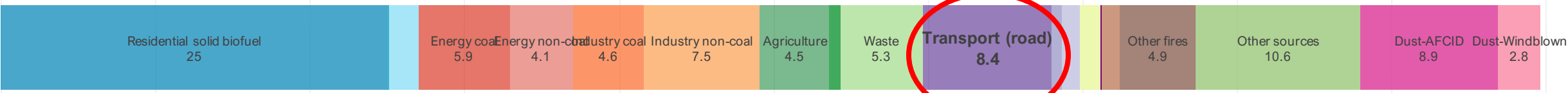
- Traffic-related air pollution refers to air pollution from **motorized vehicles** (on-road mobile sources) and **emit pollutants**. These pollutants can come from **tailpipe emissions or non-exhaust mechanisms** (non-tailpipe emissions)
  - black carbon (BC), carbon monoxide (CO), hydrocarbons (HC), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, and ultrafine particles (UFP)

Khreis, H., Nieuwenhuijsen, M., Zietsman, J., & Ramani, T. (Eds.). (2020). Traffic-related air pollution. In Traffic-Related Air Pollution (pp. 1-21). Publisher. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-818122-5.00001-6>

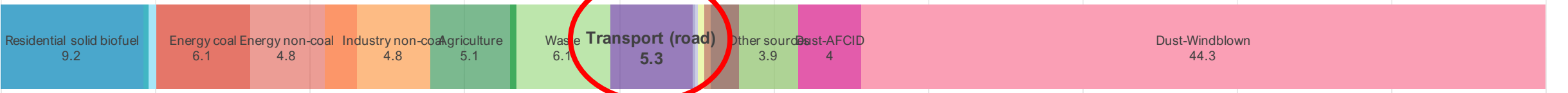
Bai, X., Chen, H., & Oliver, B. G. (2021). The health effects of traffic-related air pollution: A review focused on the health effects of going green. *Chemosphere*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2021.133082>

# Source sector contribution to ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub> in Asia

## Southeast Asia



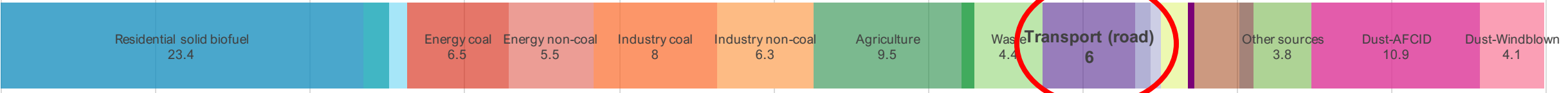
## Central Asia



## East Asia



## South Asia



\*AFCID means anthropogenic fugitive, combustion, and industrial dust

McDuffie E. et al. (2021). Fine Particulate Matter and Global Health: Fuel and Sector Contributions to Ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub> and its Disease Burden Across Multiple Scales. Nature Communications, 2021 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-23853-y>.

# Traffic-related air pollution in Asia

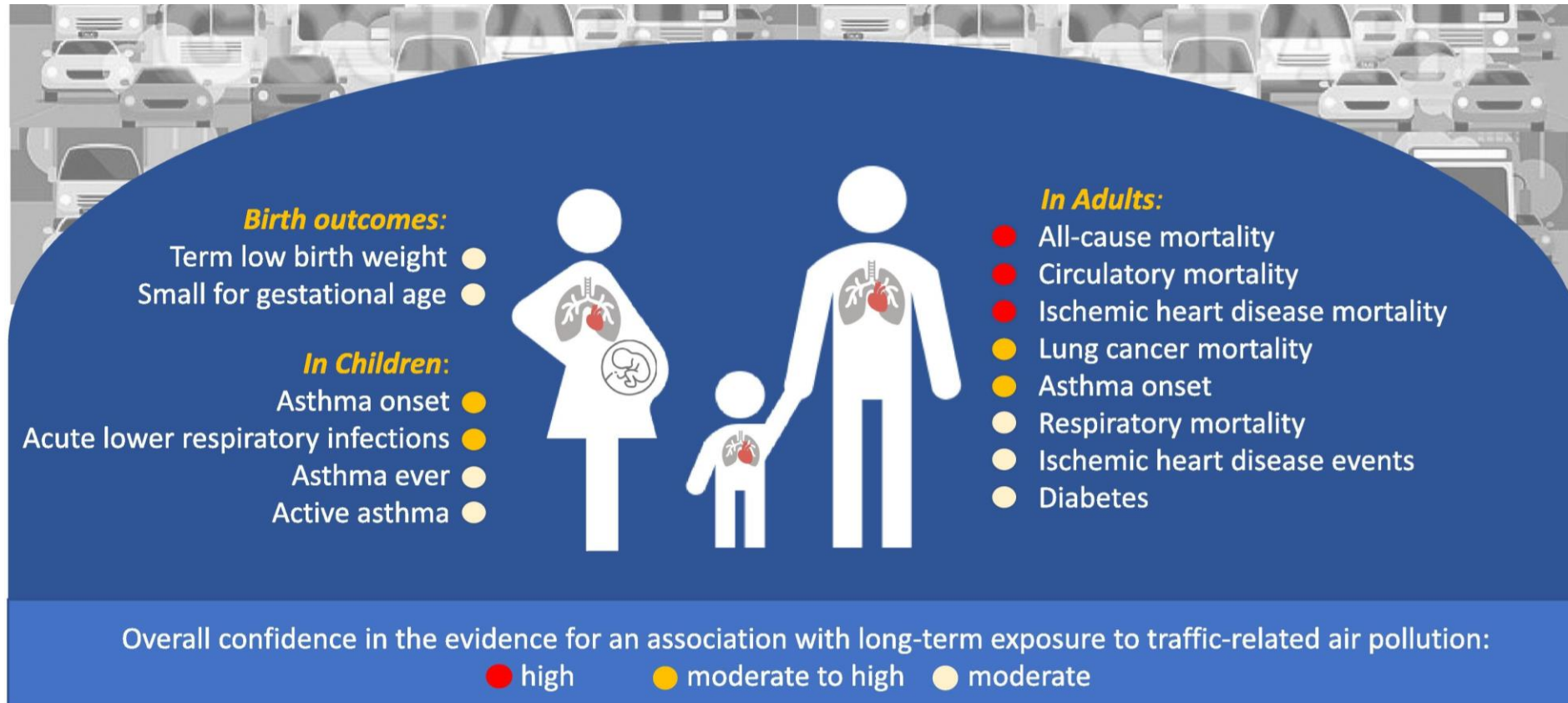
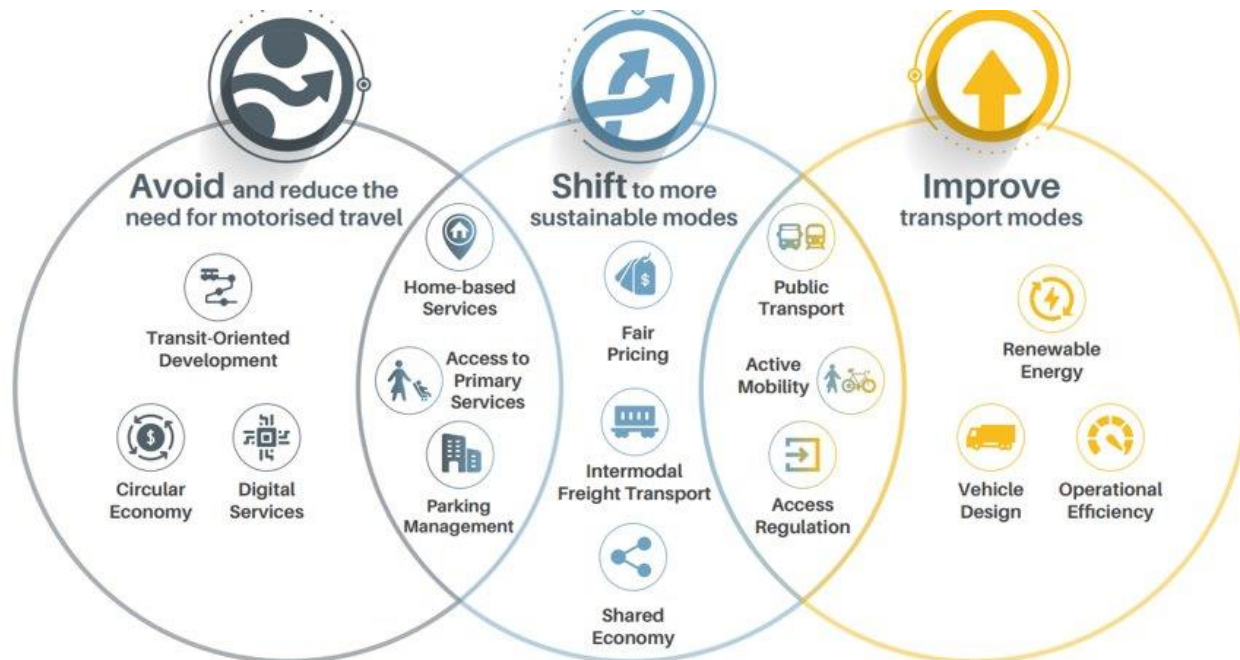


Image from Boogaard, H. et al (2022). Long-term exposure to traffic-related air pollution and selected health outcomes: A systematic review and meta-analysis.

# Avoid-Shift-Improve Framework



\* The A-S-I diagram presents a non-exhaustive list of measures for illustrative purposes only.

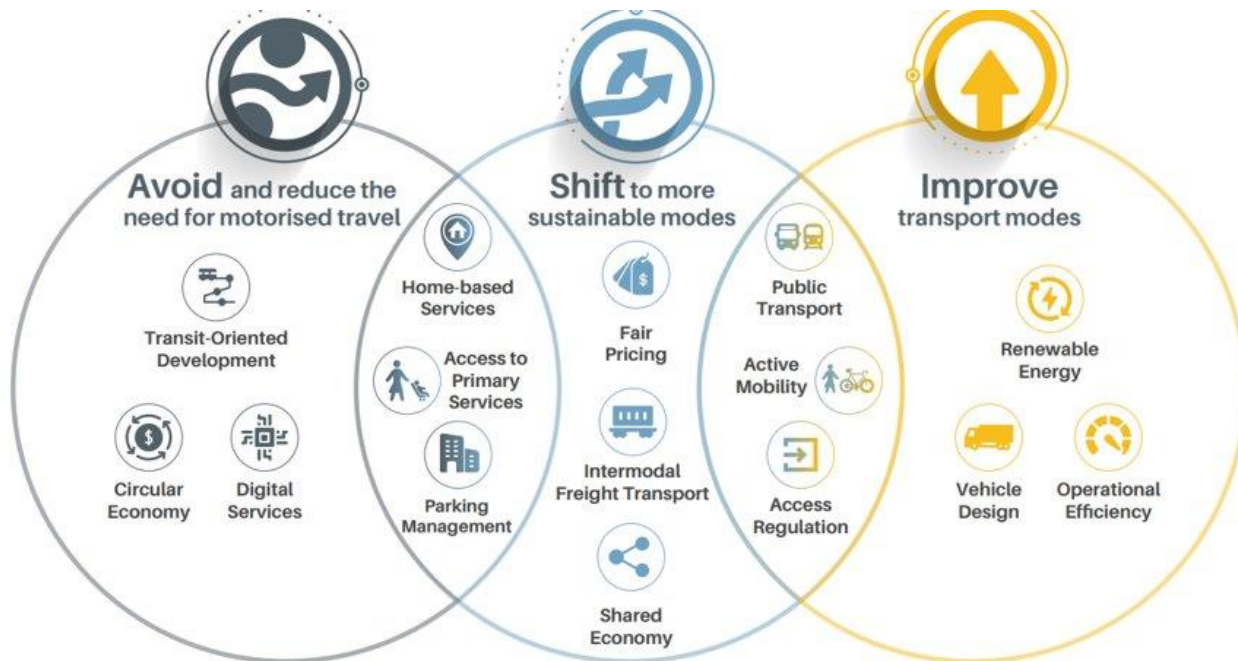
... aims to reduce energy consumption, transport emissions, and road congestion

SLOCAT (2021), Tracking Trends in a Time of Change: The Need for Radical Action Towards Sustainable Transport Decarbonisation, Transport and Climate Change Global Status Report – 2nd edition, <https://tcc-gsr.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/1.1-Global-Transport-and-Climate-Change.pdf>

Bongardt, D., Stiller, L., Swart, A., & Wagner, A. (2019). Sustainable Urban Transport: Avoid-Shift-Improve (A-S-I) Integrated. Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative. [https://www.transformative-mobility.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ASI\\_TUMI\\_SUTP\\_iNUA\\_No-9\\_April-2019-Mykme0.pdf](https://www.transformative-mobility.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ASI_TUMI_SUTP_iNUA_No-9_April-2019-Mykme0.pdf)

# Avoid-Shift-Improve Framework

Low Emission Zones



\*The A-S-I diagramme presents a non-exhaustive list of measures for illustrative purposes only.

What should you do when your tummy starts **getting bigger?**

**BUY BIGGER CLOTHES**

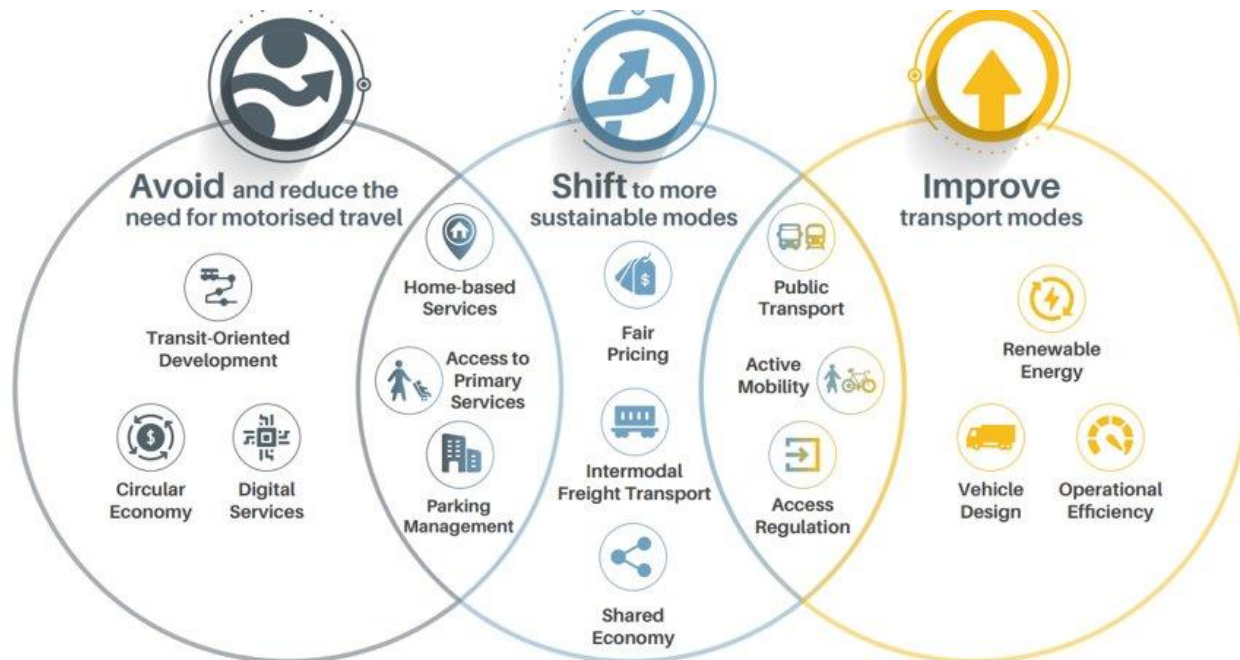
**AVOID UNNECESSARY EATING**

**SHIFT TO EATING HEALTHIER FOODS**

**IMPROVE LIFESTYLE**

# Avoid-Shift-Improve Framework

Low Emission Zones



\* The A-S-I diagramme presents a non-exhaustive list of measures for illustrative purposes only.

What should you do when your tummy starts **getting bigger?**

**AVOID UNNECESSARY EATING**

**AVOID/REDUCE TRAVEL (MOTORIZED AND DISTANCE)**

**SHIFT TO EATING HEALTHIER FOODS**

**SHIFT TO ENERGY-EFFICIENT TRANSPORT MODES**

**IMPROVE LIFESTYLE**

**IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF OPERATIONS, VEHICLES, AND FUELS**



# Urban policy interventions to reduce traffic emissions

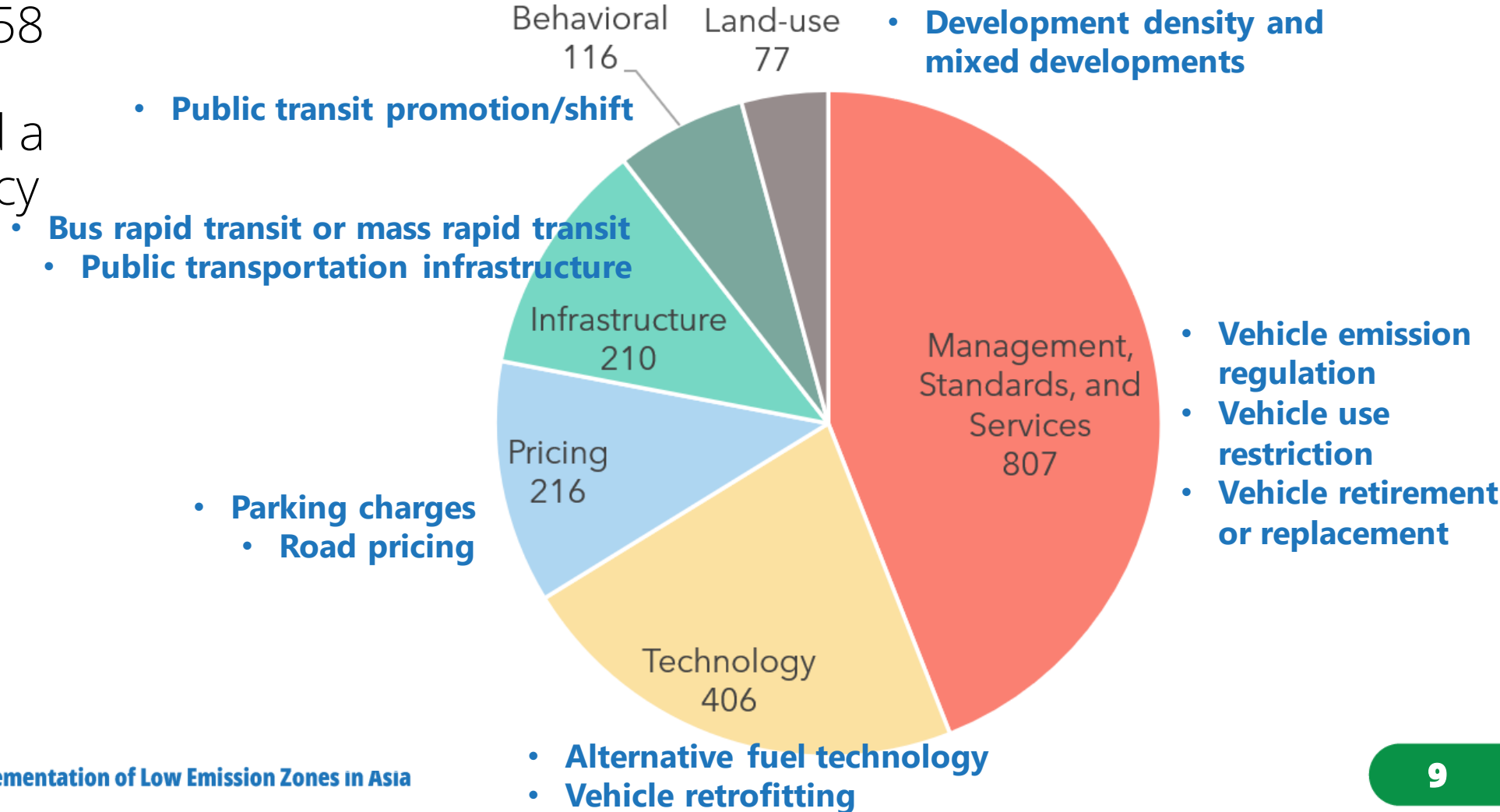
## AP

Low Emission Zones

to reduce traffic-related emissions and air pollution: A systematic evidence map (Khreis, et al. 2023)

### Frequency of studies on Transport Policy categories

- 376 papers, with 58 unique policy interventions, and a 1,139 unique policy scenarios
- Most studied interventions:
  - Alternative fuel technology
  - Vehicle emission regulation



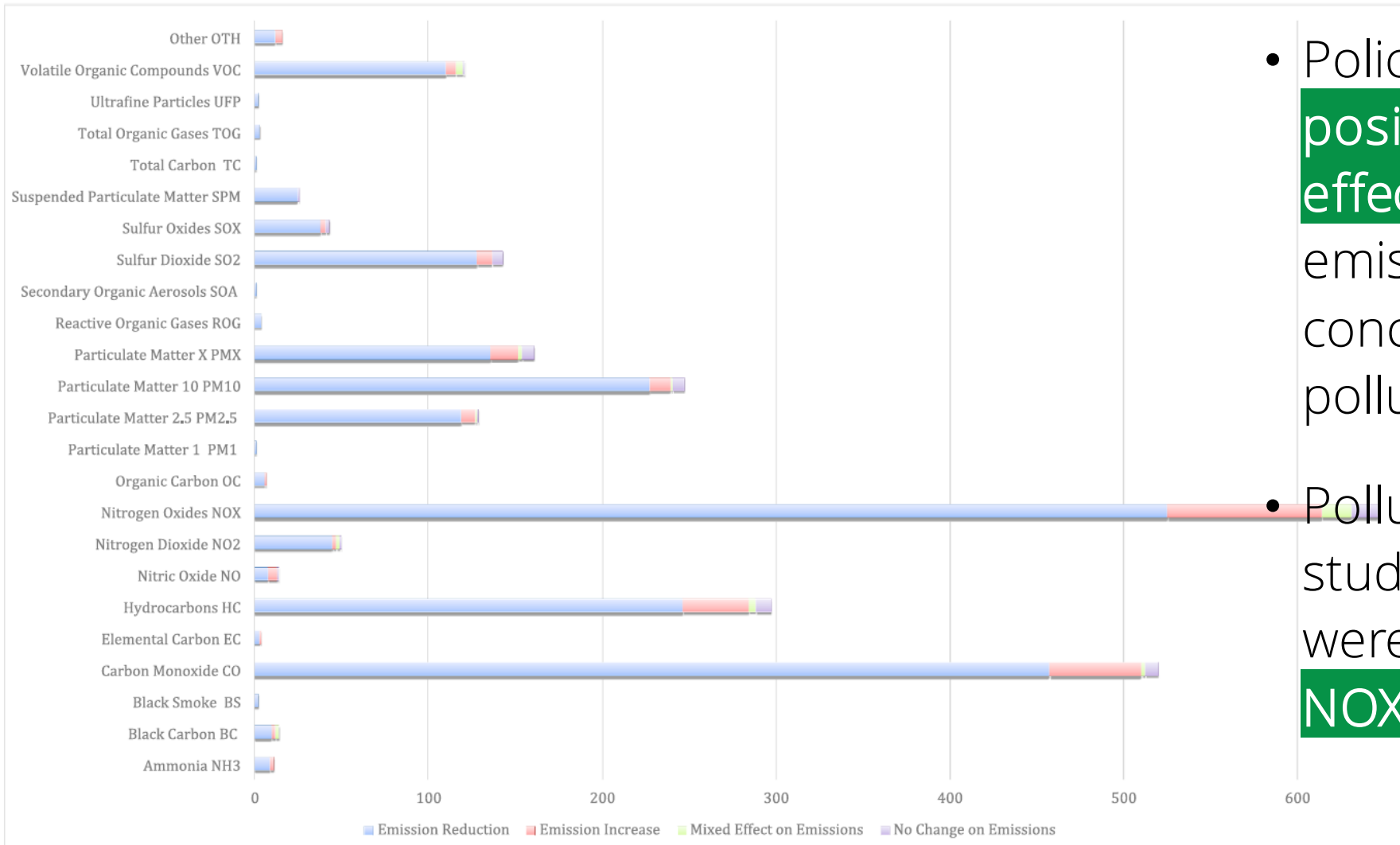
# Urban policy interventions to reduce traffic emissions

AP

Low Emission Zones

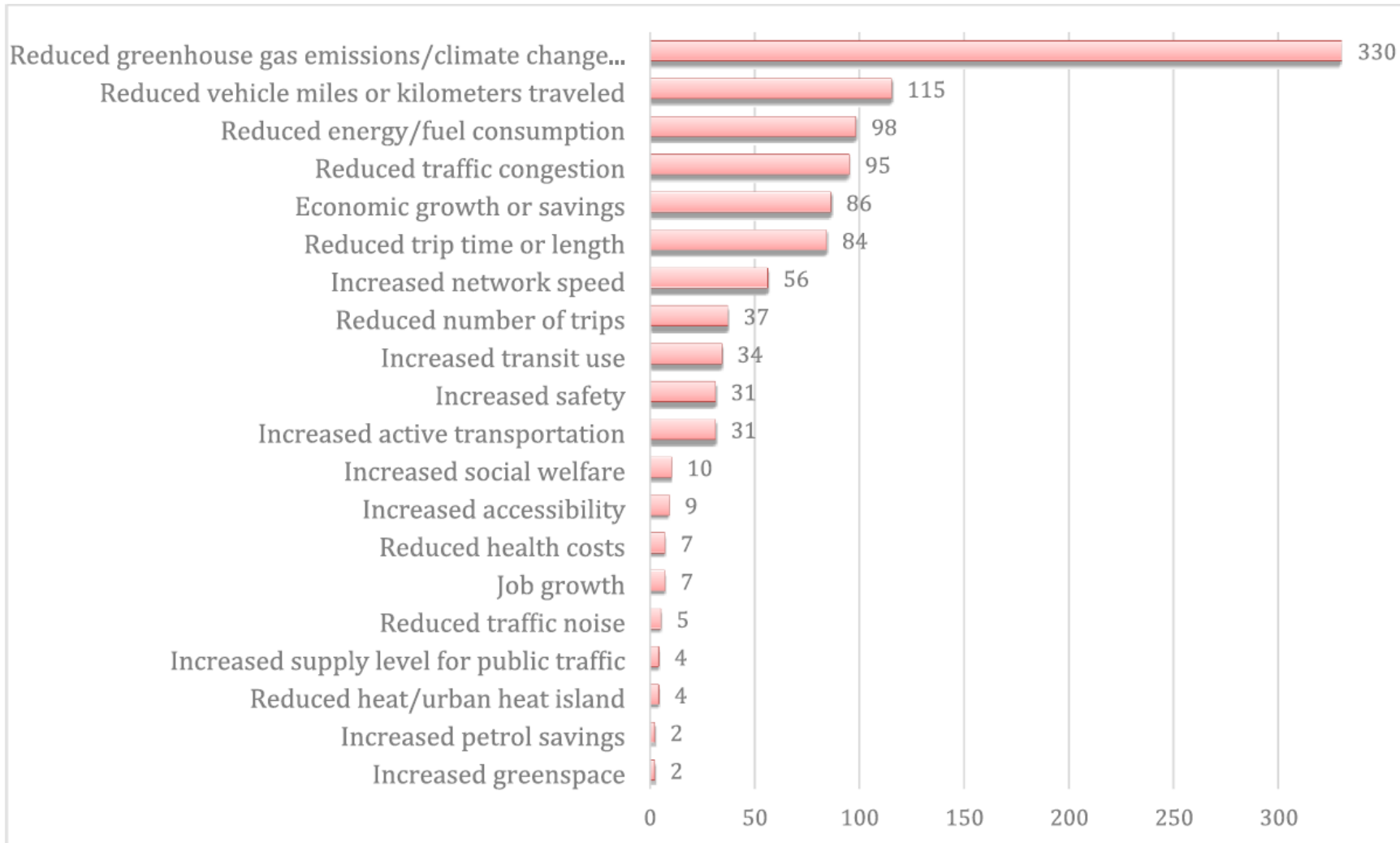
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
<b>European Union<sup>a</sup></b>	Euro 2					Euro 3			Euro 4			Euro 5					Euro 6					Euro 7					A								
Australia	Euro 2/3							Euro 4										Euro 5										Euro 6					A		
Bangladesh (metros) <sup>d</sup>	Euro 2													Euro 3 <sup>d</sup>										Euro 4d											
Bangladesh (nationwide)	Euro 2													Euro 3																					
Bangladesh (gasoline) <sup>a</sup>	Euro 2													Euro 3					Euro 4																
Bangladesh (diesel) <sup>b</sup>	Euro 1													Euro 2					Euro 3																
Brunei Darussalam	Euro 1					Euro 4																													
Bhutan	Euro 1					Euro 2					Euro 6																								
Cambodia	Euro 1													Euro 3					Euro 4					Euro 5 <sup>c</sup>											
China (metros) <sup>e</sup>	China 1					China 2			China 3			China 4			China 5 <sup>ab</sup>					China 6															
China (nationwide)	China 1					China 2			China 3			China 4			China 4 <sup>b</sup>		China 5 <sup>h</sup>		China 5			China 6													
Fiji	Euro 4													Euro 5																					
Hong Kong, China	Euro 1	Euro 2		Euro 3			Euro 4			Euro 5					Euro 6																				
<b>India (metros)<sup>f</sup></b>	Bharat 1				Bharat 2			Bharat 3			Bharat 4					Bharat 6																			
<b>India (nationwide)<sup>1</sup></b>	Bharat 1				Bharat 2			Bharat 3					Bharat 4					Bharat 6																	
Indonesia	Euro 2					Euro 4 <sup>a</sup>										Euro 4 <sup>b</sup>																			
Iran	Euro 1					Euro 2					Euro 4																								
Laos	Euro 2a							Euro 6a & Euro 4b																											
Malaysia (gasoline) <sup>a</sup>	Euro 2													Euro 4 <sup>c</sup>					Euro 5																
Malaysia (diesel) <sup>b</sup>	Euro 1					Euro 2					Euro 4					Euro 5																			
Myanmar (diesel) <sup>b</sup>	AFAGIT Protocol 4													Euro 4 <sup>c</sup>																					
Myanmar (gasoline) <sup>a</sup>	Euro 4 <sup>c</sup>																																		
Nepal	Euro 1					Euro 3					Euro 4 <sup>c</sup>																								
Pakistan	Euro 2 <sup>a</sup>							Euro 2b					Euro 5																						
Philippines	Euro 1					Euro 2					Euro 4																								
Singapore <sup>a</sup>	Euro 1					Euro 2					Euro 4					Euro 6																			
Singapore <sup>b</sup>	Euro 1		Euro 2			Euro 4j					Euro 5					Euro 6																			
Sri Lanka	Euro 1					Euro 2					Euro 4																								
South Korea	Euro 4					Euro 5 <sup>b</sup>					Standards 1-4 <sup>l</sup>																								
Taipei, China	Euro 2					Euro 3			Euro 4			Euro 5					Euro 6																		
Thailand	Euro 3					Euro 4					Euro 5																								
Vietnam	Euro 2					Euro 4					Euro 5																								

# Emission effects per pollutant



- Policies may have positive/mixed effects, no effects, or even increase emissions and concentrations of different pollutants
- Pollutants most frequently studied for TRAP effects were PM10, NO2, PM2.5, NOX, and CO

# Co-benefits of policies





## WHAT IS A LOW EMISSION ZONE?



A defined zone that restricts the use of polluting vehicles  
Car-free zones are low emission zones

Can contribute to:

Street redesigns

Service improvements

Incentives

Land use reform

Stricter sub-zones

### ✓ LOW EMISSION ZONES CAN APPLY TO



**Passenger vehicles**  
(cars, taxis, motorcycles)

**Public vehicles**  
(buses, municipal vehicles)

**Vans and small trucks**

**Heavy-duty freight vehicles**

### A LOW EMISSION ZONE CAN BE



**Priced**  
vehicles pay to enter, price varies based on emissions level



**Not priced**  
vehicles below a minimum emission standard are banned, non-compliant vehicles that enter pay a fine

### ✗ A LOW EMISSION ZONE IS NOT



A single corridor



A street or area that does not explicitly restrict vehicles

## Barcelona, Spain

95 km<sup>2</sup> low-emission zone (2020) using number plate recognition to monitor compliance. Polluting vehicles are not allowed on exits. Over 100 license plate-reading cameras detect non-compliant vehicles and penalize from **200 to 260 Euro**.

## Brussels, Belgium

Implemented a low-emission zone which required online registration for cars, including foreign ones. Unregistered or non-compliant cars face fines of **150 Euro** daily. Brussels encourages drivers to switch to cleaner vehicles or alternative transport methods.

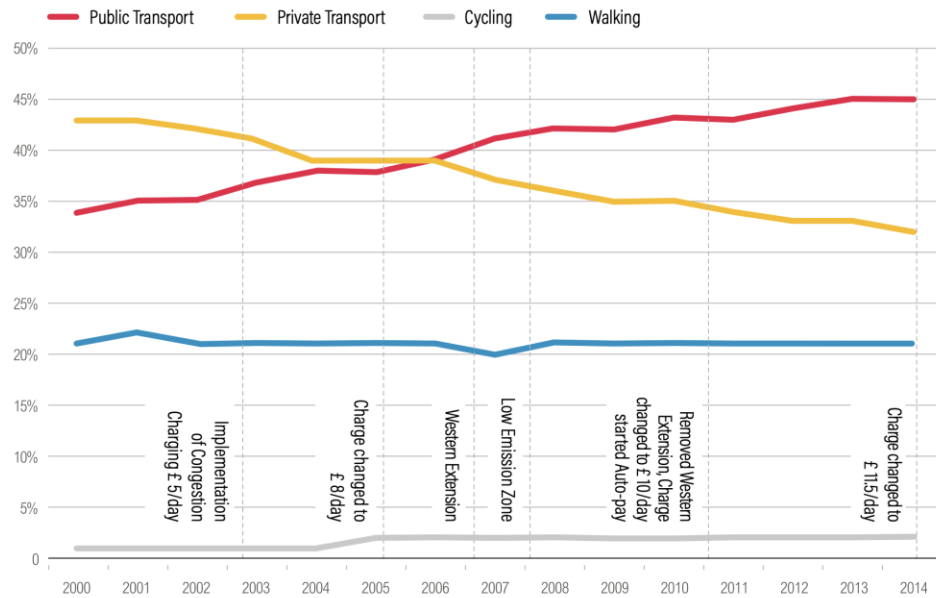
## Milan, Italy

Milan several areas: Area B (75% of the city), bans the most polluting vehicles. The standard for vehicles will increase until 2030, with diesel vehicles banned. Non-compliant vehicles pay a fine of **80 Euro**. Area C requires a daily fee of **7.50 Euro**. Milan is investing in alternatives, increasing bus services, and establishing a fund for cleaner vehicles. Area B is expected to halve PM10 and NOx3 pollution by 2026.

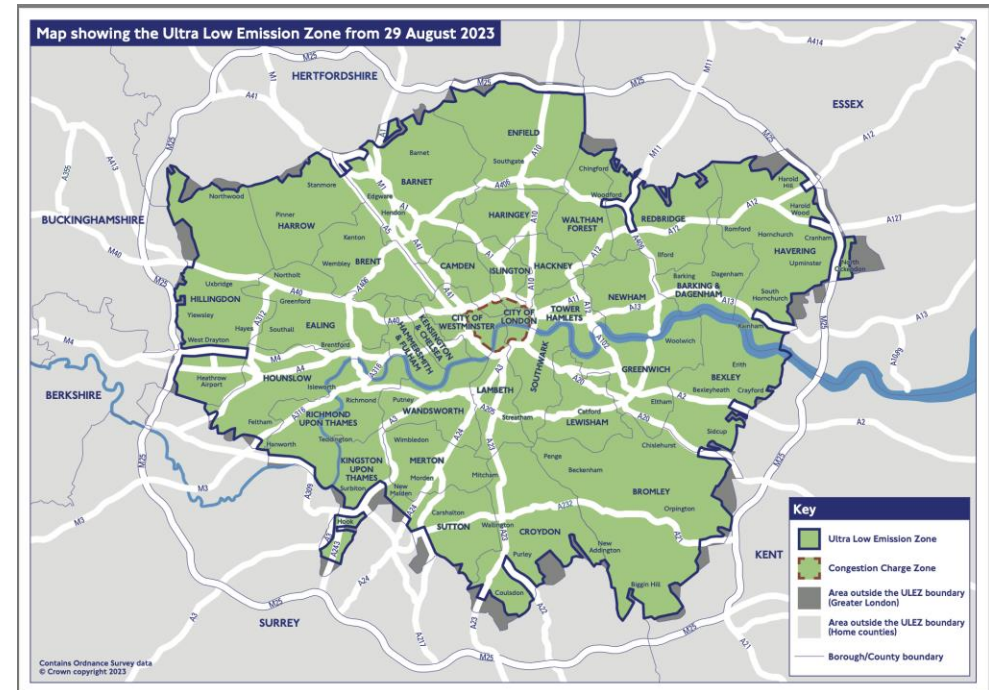
World Resources Institute. (n.d.). Study on International Practices for Low Emission Zone and Congestion Charging. Retrieved from [https://files.wri.org/d8/s3fs-public/Study\\_on\\_International\\_Practices\\_for\\_Low\\_Emission\\_Zone\\_and\\_Congestion\\_Charging.pdf](https://files.wri.org/d8/s3fs-public/Study_on_International_Practices_for_Low_Emission_Zone_and_Congestion_Charging.pdf)

## London, United Kingdom

The LEZ aims to combat air pollution by limiting the entry of highly polluting vehicles and encourage the upgrade to cleaner vehicles. Non-compliant vehicles that enter the zone are charged between **100 to 200 GBP** and illegally entering vehicles are penalized between **250 – 1000 GBP / day**



Source: TfL, 2015



# Case Studies: Asia

Transformative Mobility. (n.d.). Low Emission Zones. Retrieved from <https://transformative-mobility.org/low-emission-zones/>

## Seoul, South Korea

Seoul's low-emission zone covers the entire metropolitan area, with fines of **US\$212** per day. The city's "Green Transport Zone" has **reduced PM 2.5 by 16%**. Targets Grade 5 vehicles (small- to mid-size diesel car released before July 2002 or a gas-powered vehicle made before 1987). The ban is extended to the entire city when PM 2.5 levels 50 micrograms per cubic meter.

## Shenzhen, PR China

The establishment of LEZs are part of the air quality improvement strategy in Shenzhen, China. In 2019, there are "green logistics zones" or zero-emissions freight zones. The strategy led to the adoption of battery electric commercial vehicles and other zero-emissions freight vehicles in the zero-emissions zones.

The land coverages of Shenzhen's green logistic zones

	Futian Center	Luohu Renmin	Nanshan Tech Park	Yantian Center	Baoan Haikou
Area (square kilometer)	4.18	0.59	5.29	0.37	1.87
	Longgang Longcheng	Shenzhen North Station	Pingshan Sports Center	Guangming Square	Dapeng Kuiyong
Area (square kilometer)	5.4	0.89	0.5	2.0	1.24



Source: Shenzhen Environment Bureau

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO). (2021). Building Healthy Cities: Implementing Low-Emission Zones in Urban Freight [PDF]. Retrieved from [https://nacto.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/BuildingHealthyCities\\_UrbanFreight\\_LEZs.pdf](https://nacto.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/BuildingHealthyCities_UrbanFreight_LEZs.pdf)



# Importance of Public Acceptability

- Despite more people understanding the importance of air quality and its relation to a better well-being and environment, the implementation of LEZs still gain mixed reactions from road users. As such, the policies should be well-designed for the public to support the introduction of the LEZ.
- Factors:
  - Policy-specific beliefs: beliefs about the effectiveness of LEZs influence public acceptability.
  - Trust in government: higher levels of trust in the government's ability to implement LEZs effectively impacts acceptability
  - Problem awareness: awareness of impacts of air pollutants and air quality issues on one's health impacts acceptability
  - Infrastructure improvements for public transport, subsidizing fares, and investing in green infrastructures can improve one's perceptions of LEZs. These complementary measures exist in London and Stockholm.

## Other lessons learned from Clean Air Asia's work with governments in the development and implementation of transport policies

- The **main determinant is leadership/ political will/ governance/ legislation** as this also influences the financing (which also supports technology needs)
  - **Capacity building** is crucial for leaders and involved personnel to ensure sustainability of the process
- **Partnerships of governments with private, academic, NGO sectors** can provide opportunities to address barriers
  - Academic and NGO sector can provide **technical** and **technological** support
  - Private sector can support/complement **financial** aspect
- There is a **need for co-learning avenues to discuss best practices** from first-hand experiences especially from neighboring countries
  - This increases **higher chances of applicability** in the local (or sub-regional context) and confidence that it can work

# Thank you!

For questions, please email: [raymund.abad@cleanairasia.org](mailto:raymund.abad@cleanairasia.org)