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University of Natural  
Resources and Life  
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# **Bicycles vs. Cars Financial Effects a Comparison**

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**(A) Definitions**

**(B) The Viennese Study 2010**

**(C) Update 2021 (Climate, Health etc.)**

**(D) Conclusions & Actions needed**



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◀ Sources: David Gerstein „Monument for the XXe Century“, (Annecy, 2008-05-26) & bikes <http://www.marcusgloger.de/>

# Internal and external costs in transport

- **Costs-by-cause principle:** Who uses/damages something, pays for it (environmentally: “**Polluter pays principle**”)
- **Internal costs**  
paid by the respective user of this mode of transport
- **External costs**  
not paid by the individual transport user,  
ultimately paid by the general public (tax-payer)

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## Economic effects (CBA), comparison of bicycle- and car-traffic, calculated for Vienna (2009)

**Gregor Trunk (2011):** *Overall economic comparison of bicycle- and car-traffic. A contribution to the sustainability debate.* Master thesis, Institute for Transport Studies, University of renewable resources and life sciences (BOKU), Vienna

# Costs for the overall economy [Vienna 2009, €-ct per km]

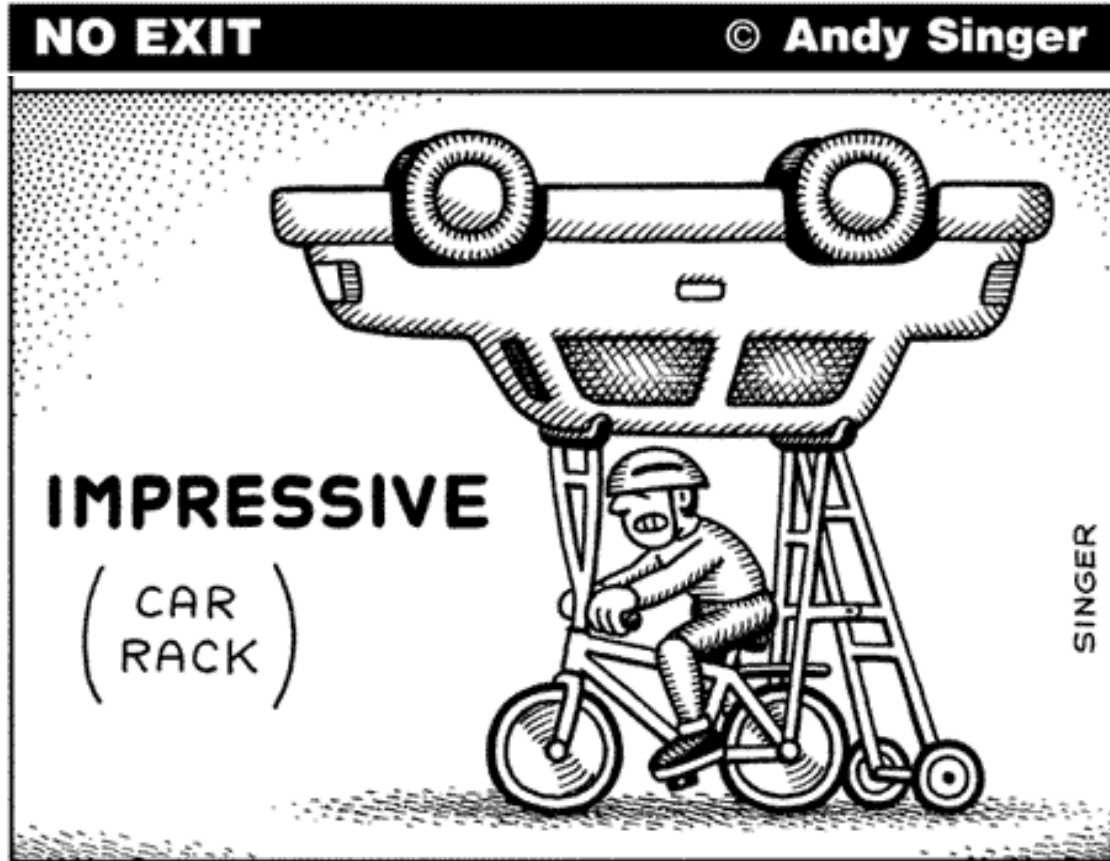
Indicator [€-ct/km]	Internal		External		Total	
	Bicycle	Car	Bicycle	Car	Bicycle	Car
Health	-	-	89.89	-	89.89	-
Noise	-	-	-	-1.02	-	-1.02
Accidents	-6.29	-1.44	-8.42	-1.85	-14.71	-3.29
Running costs	-10.20	-38.30	-	-	-10.20	-38.30
Travel time	-66.53	-54.29	-	-	-66.53	-54.29
Pollutants	-	-	-	-0.63	-	-0.63
Climate - CO <sub>2</sub>	-	-	-	-0.85	-	-0.85
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-83.02</b>	<b>-94.03</b>	<b>81.47</b>	<b>-4.35</b>	<b>-1.55</b>	<b>-98.38</b>
<b>DIFFERENCE bicycle-car</b>	<b>11.01</b>		<b>85.82</b>		<b>96.83</b>	

# Bicycle vs. car, costs in Mio. € per year (Vienna 2009)

Indicator [Million € per year]	Internal		External		Total	
	Bicycle	Car	Bicycle	Car	Bicycle	Car
Health	-	-	247.7	-	247.7	-
Noise	-	-	-	-44.3	-	-44.3
Accidents	-17.3	-62.6	-23.2	-80.4	-40.5	-143.0
Running costs	-28.1	-1,665.2	-	-	-28.1	-1,665.2
Travel time	-183.3	-2,360.5	-	-	-183.3	-2,360.5
Pollutants	-	-	-	-27.4	-	-27.4
Climate-CO <sub>2</sub>	-	-	-	-37.0	-	-37.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-228.8</b>	<b>-4,088.3</b>	<b>224.5</b>	<b>-189.1</b>	<b>-4.3</b>	<b>-4,277.4</b>
<b>DIFFERENCE bicycle-car</b>	<b>-4,317.1</b>		<b>35.4</b>		<b>-4,281.7</b>	

Trunk, G. (2010). Gesamtwirtschaftlicher Vergleich von Pkw- und Radverkehr: Ein Beitrag zur Nachhaltigkeitsdiskussion. Universität für Bodenkultur, Wien.

# Actually, it's the other way round – car traffic heavily subsidized



Source: Andy Singer, <http://andysinger.com/>

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# Updating 2009 external costs ...

Pollutant	VOH	NO <sub>x</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	Pollutants total	2009, costs per	CO <sub>2</sub> <sup>*)</sup>
External costs [ct/km]	0.02	0.30	0.31	0.63 [ct/km]	vehicle kilometre	<b>0.85</b> [ct/km]

\*) for 2009 we used: **€ 50 /t CO<sub>2</sub>** (average CO<sub>2</sub> emission: 170 g/km)

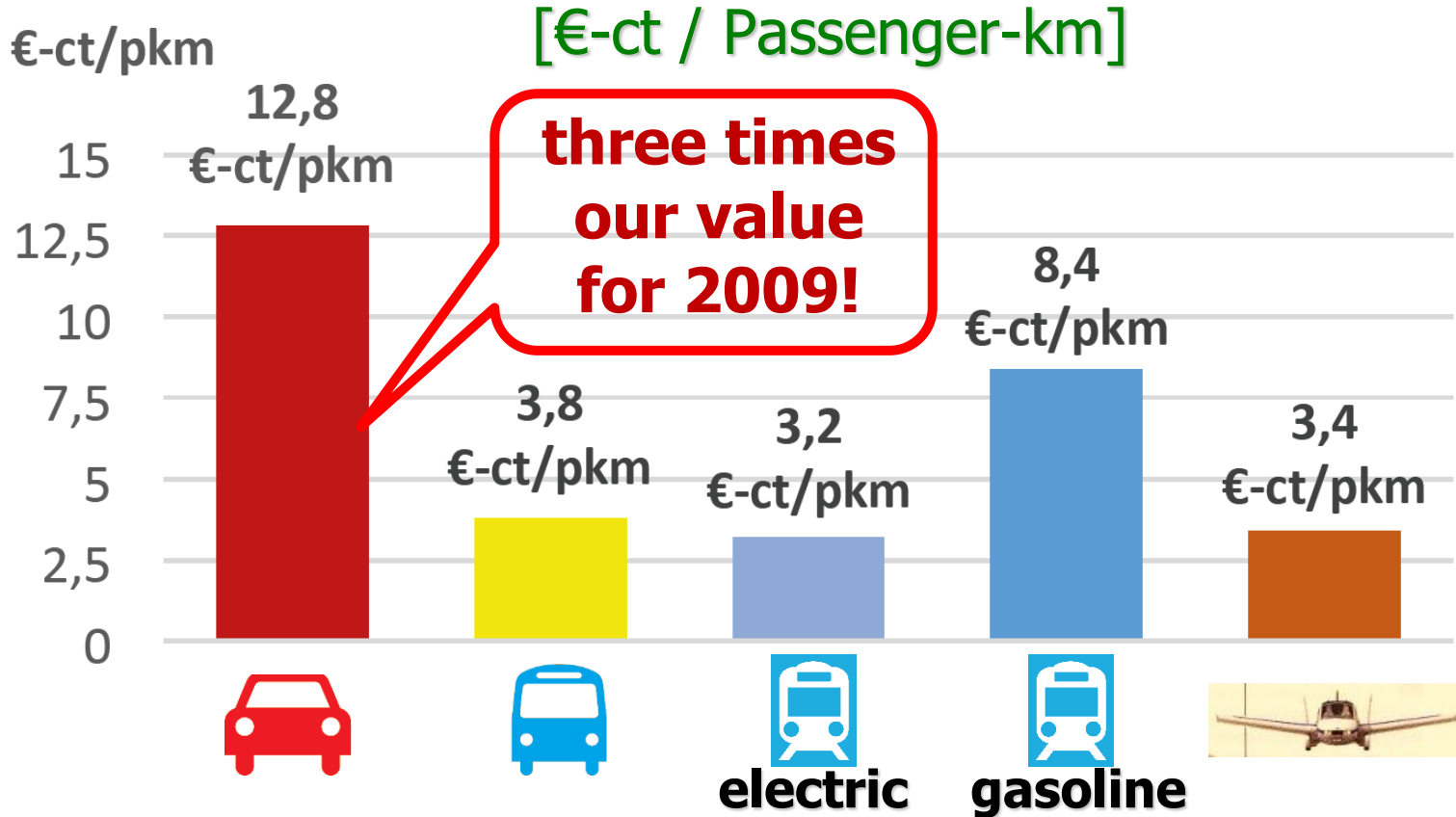
Recent studies use higher **“Social Costs of Carbon” (SCC)**, the approach is made either via **“damage costs”** or **“avoidance costs”**.

- **\$ 20–100** /t CO<sub>2</sub> (UK's 68% reduction by 2030)
- **€ 195** and **€ 680** /t CO<sub>2</sub> (Germany's 2020 guidance)
- **€ 100**/t CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (EC: "short-&-medium-run costs up to 2030")  
**€ 269**/t CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (EC: "for the long run costs up to 2060").

Van Essen, H., van Wijngaarden, L., Schrotten, A., Sutter, D., Bieler, C., Maffii, S., Brambilla, M., Fiorello, D., Fermi, F., & Parolin, R. (2020). Handbook on the external costs of transport, version 2019.1. <https://doi.org/https://op.europa.eu/s/pLqH> <http://doi.org/10.2832/27212>



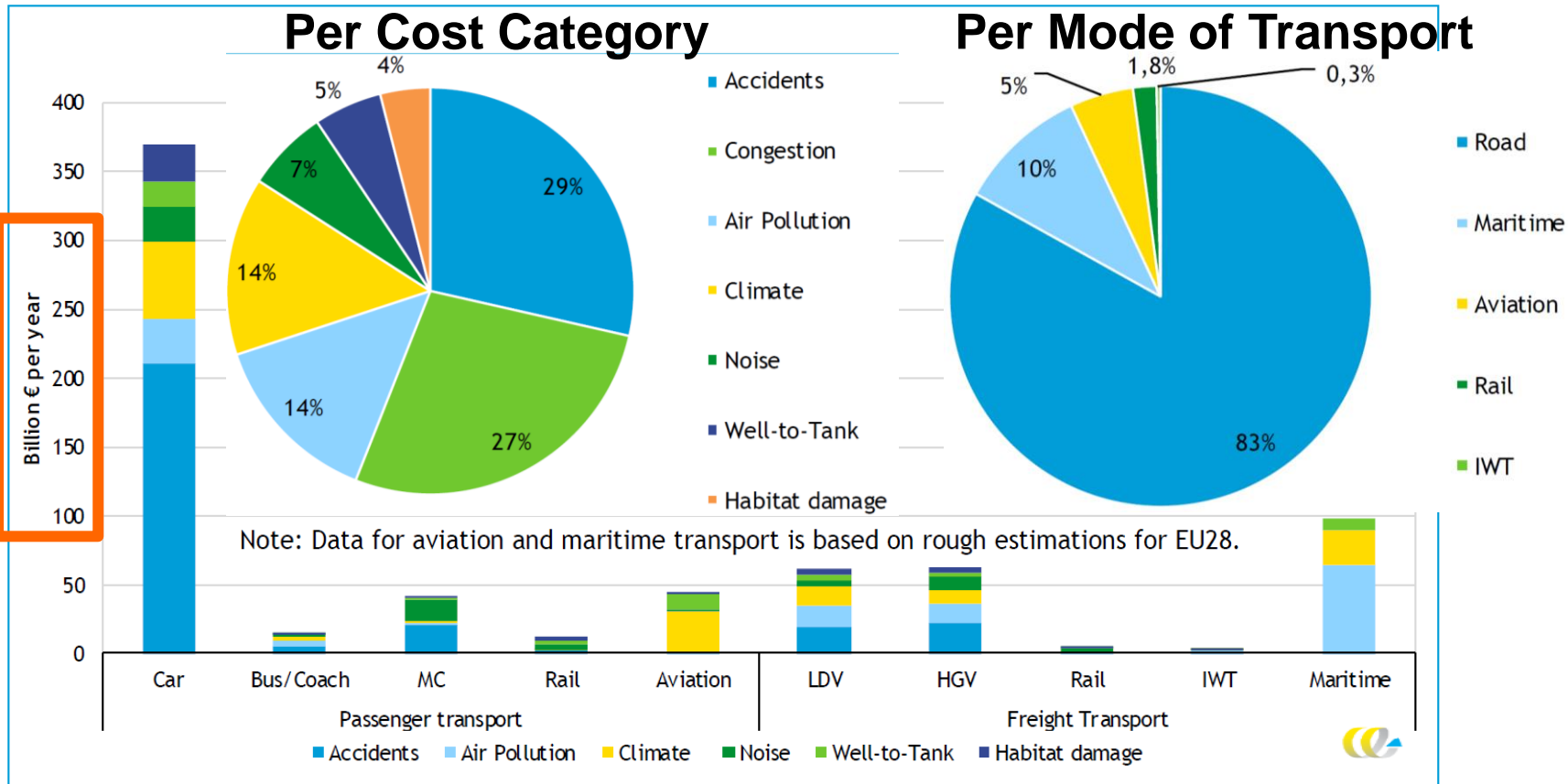
# Handbook of the External Costs in the EC 2019



Van Essen, H., van Wijngaarden, L., Schrotten, A., Sutter, D., Bieler, C., Maffii, S., Brambilla, M., Fiorello, D., Fermi, F., & Parolin, R. (2020). [Handbook on the external costs of transport](https://doi.org/http://doi.org/10.2832/27212). version 2019.1. <https://doi.org/http://doi.org/10.2832/27212>

FSV. (2021). Ökologische Steuerreform als Schlüsselmaßnahme für den Verkehrssektor. In FSV (Ed.), *Berichte aus der Österreichischen Monitoring-Gruppe Klimaabereinkommen und Verkehr*. Wien: Österreichische Forschungsgesellschaft Straße - Schiene - Verkehr (FSV).

# Total External Costs 2016 for EU28 (Billion €/year)



Van Essen, H., van Wijngaarden, L., Schrotten, A., Sutter, D., Bieler, C., Maffii, S., Brambilla, M., Fiorello, D., Ferri, F., & Parolin, R. (2020). Handbook on the external costs of transport, version 2019.1. <https://doi.org/http://doi.org/10.2832/27212>, p.48

# EC – Handbook, Externalities covered

Table 12 - Externalities covered in this study

Externality	Road	Rail	IWT	Maritime	Aviation
Accidents	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Air pollution	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Climate change	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Noise	✓	✓			✓
Congestion	✓				
Well-to-tank emissions <sup>a</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Habitat damage	✓	✓	✓		✓

<sup>a</sup> Emissions of energy production.

**Land consumption  
still missing!**

In addition to the external costs mentioned in Table 12, other externalities caused by transport can be identified, including soil and water pollution, up- and downstream emissions (e.g. emissions from the production, maintenance and disposal of vehicles), separation impacts in urban areas, etc. These externalities are briefly discussed in the Handbook, but are not considered in this report.

# The main objective of a transport system is?



***To transport people (or goods) ... **not cars** ...  
in the most sustainable and efficient way,  
in order to achieve good access  
to necessary destinations***

***with a minimum of:***

- ***costs, efforts, space requirement,***
- ***damage (environment, accidents, casualties).***

# Space required to transport 60 People:

**Car - traffic requires per person transported  
10-times more space than all other modes!**  
(same goes for parking)



**Car**

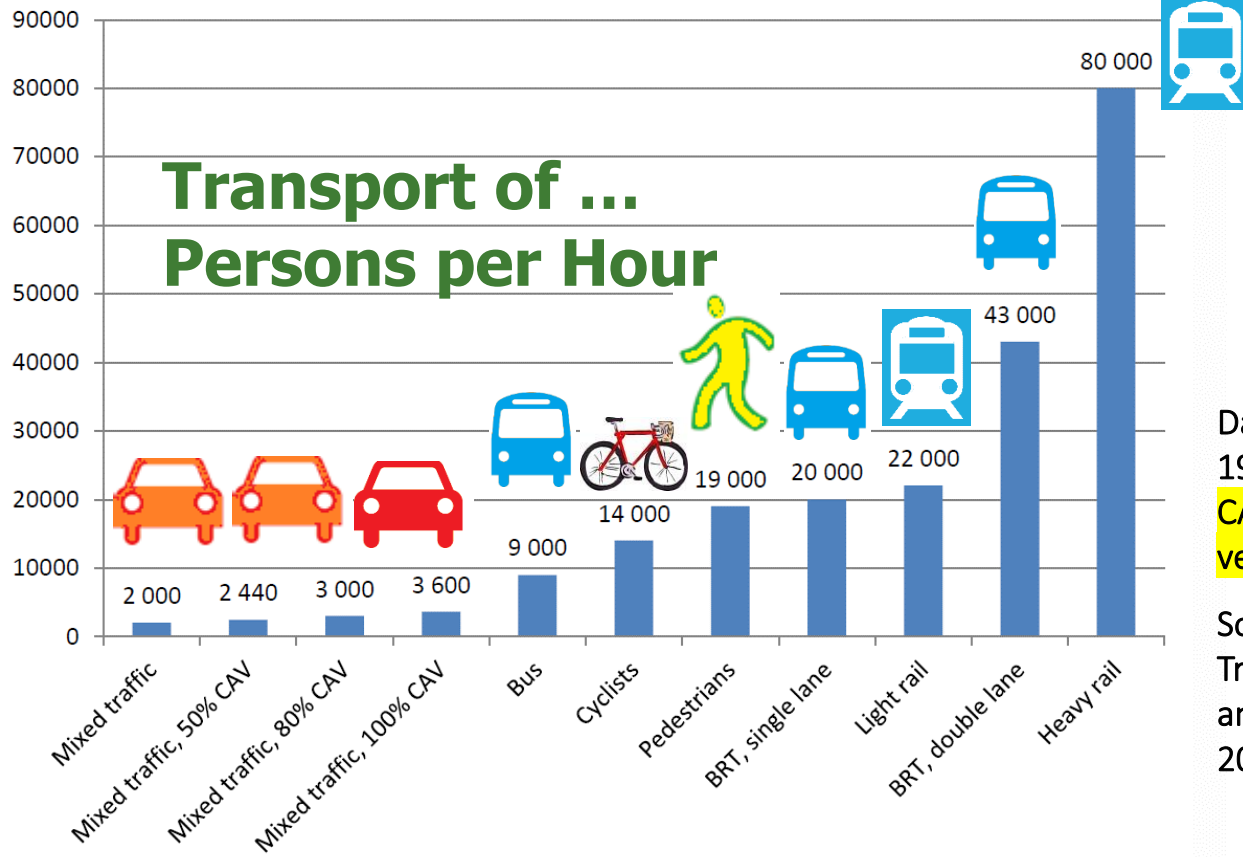


**Bus**



**Bicycle**

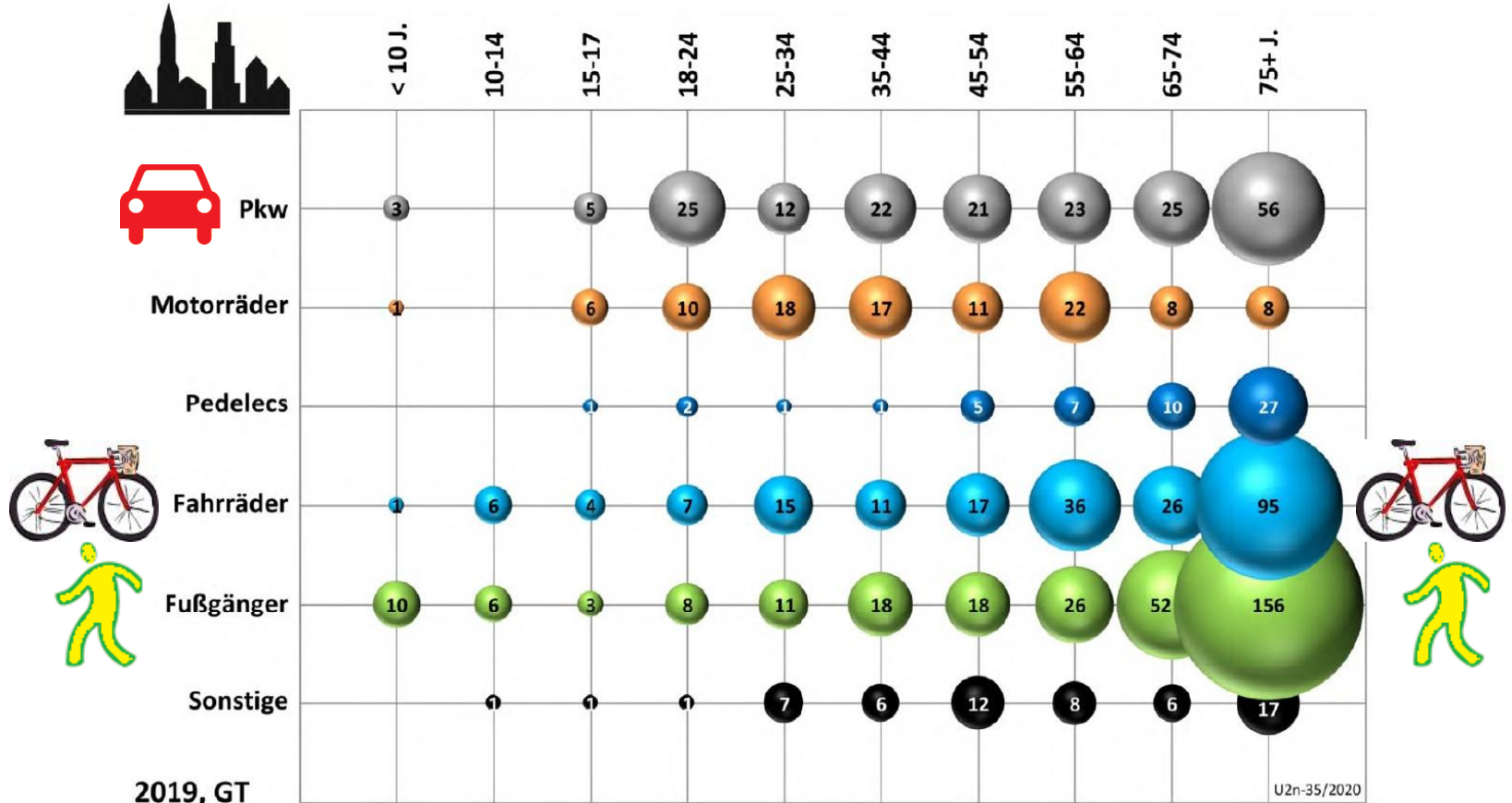
# Capacity of a 3.5m wide Lane per Mode



Data from Botma and Papandrecht 1991 and GIZ calculations 2009; CAV = connected and automated vehicles.

Source: Synergine for Auckland Transport 2015, adapted from ADB and GIZ 2011; Shladover, Su and Lu 2012.

# Casualties in built-up areas per transport mode (Germany, 2019)



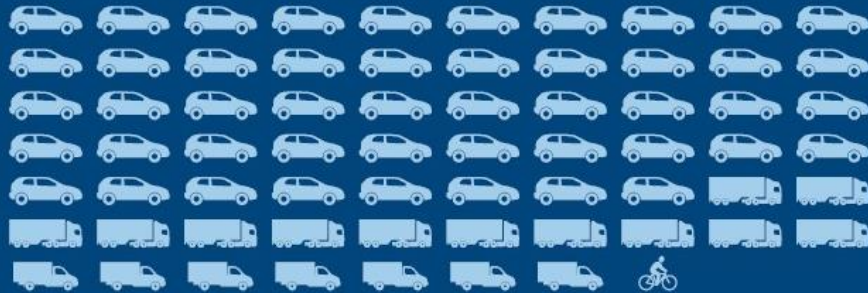
2019, GT

U2n-35/2020

Koßmann, I., & Schreck-von Below, B. (2021). Sicheres Radfahren in einem gemeinsam genutzten Straßenraum (Vol. Heft A 44), bast Bundesanstalt für Straßenwesen.

# What kills cyclists? (Road deaths in Great Britain 2019)

In every 100 crashes where a cyclist is killed, the other vehicle involved was a



14% involve no other vehicle

6% involve other vehicles not included above

12% involved 3 or more vehicles

- Cars were involved in at least half of the pedal cyclist deaths in 2019
- HGVs were involved in the second highest number of collisions in which a pedal cyclist was killed
- 14% of pedal cyclist deaths involved no other vehicle

Number of deaths in 2019



Source: Road deaths in Great Britain in 2019 (DfT, 2020)



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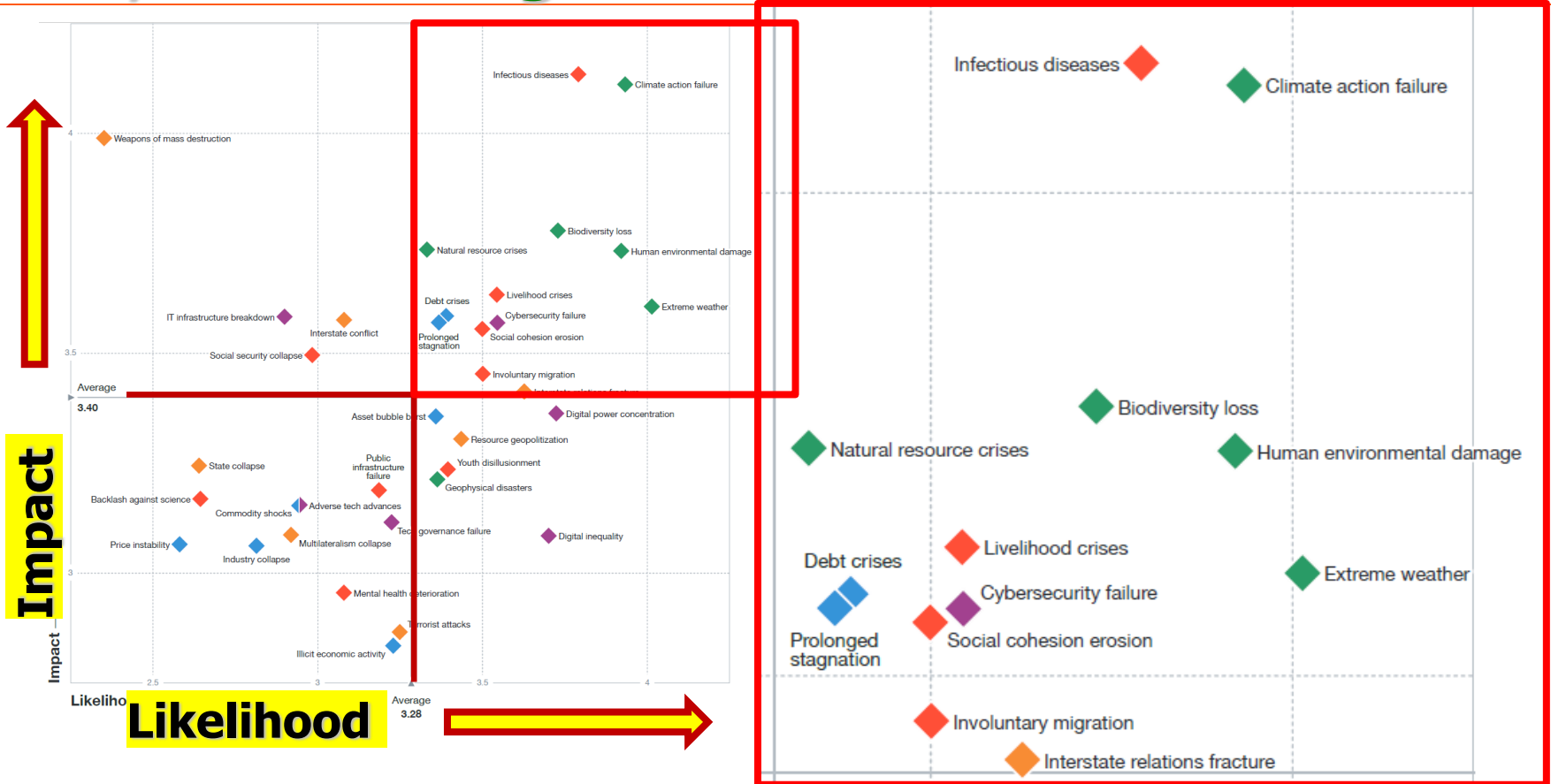
**(D) Conclusions & Actions needed**



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◀ Source: <http://www.marcusgloger.de/>

# Risks, threatening mankind (Global Risks Report, 2021)



# Promoting the Bicycle cuts costs in all “Community Problems”

Problem	Promoting Cycling achieves
<b>Infrastructure</b> , high <b>costs</b> : construction & maintenance poor cost-benefit ratios	Much <b>lower costs</b> – high benefits, high employment effect, <b>excellent cost-benefit ratios</b>
<b>Scarcity of space</b> (lanes, parking spaces etc.)	Less space needed ( <b>1/10</b> ), smaller / cheaper parking spaces
<b>Health problems</b> , lacking fitness, obesity etc., many sick leaves	More physical activity results in <b>improved health</b> , fitness, productivity, etc.
<b>Traffic safety</b>	Reduced accident costs
Poor <b>Quality of life</b> , meagre attractiveness of public space	various, small-scale/detailed structures, good accessibility of POIs
negative <b>Environmental Impacts</b> (noise, PM, NO <sub>x</sub> , <b>Climate</b> , etc.)	<b>Less Environmental Impacts</b> , <b>less CO<sub>2</sub></b>
Dependency on fossil fuels	By and large independent

# Policies needed?

**Motorised modes must pay their external costs;  
Impose a tax on CO<sub>2</sub> (- equivalents = Climate costs).**

**Villages and cities must support active transport modes;  
limiting speed to 30 kph on a general level is a quick start.**

**Car trips must be shifted towards Pedelecs  
& combined with public transport.**

**Technology will not save us this time – we need to change our  
lifestyle towards more active mobility (walking, cycling).**

**Stop kidding – tell the people that we need to do this – NOW!**



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# Space Consumption in Passenger Transport



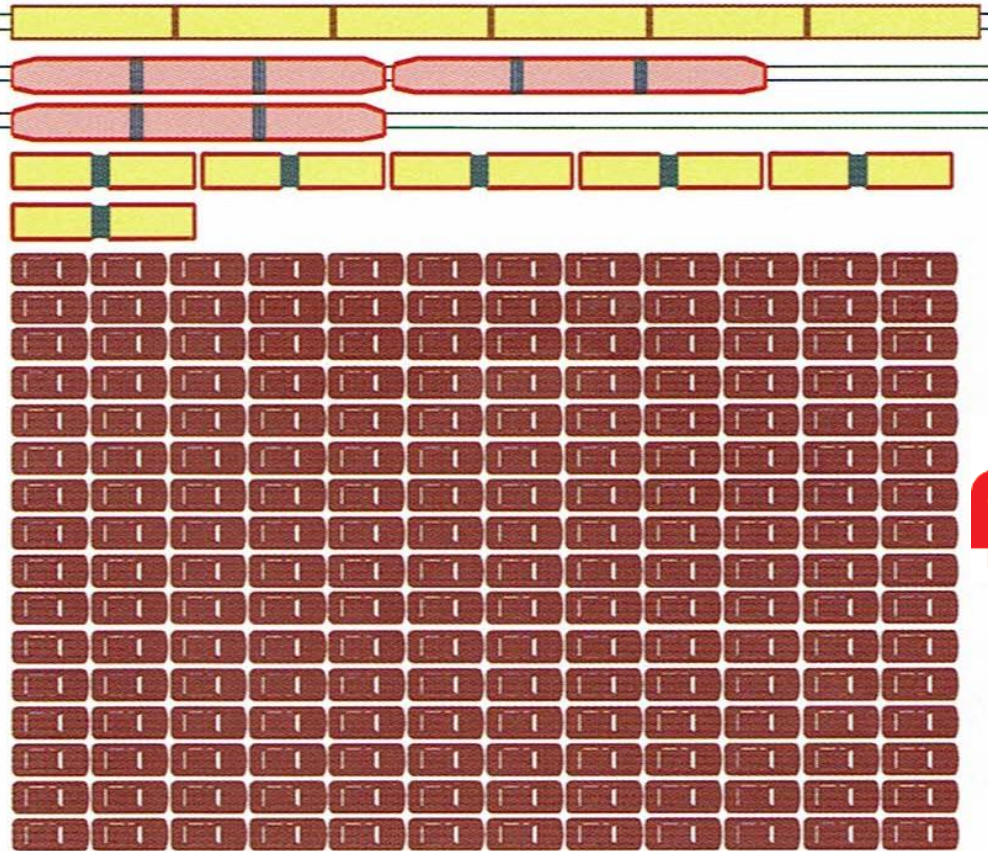
U-Bahn

Straßenbahn



Gelenk-omnibus

Pkw



**Each Mode:  
Same  
number of  
passengers!**

Bild 5: Vergleich der Flächeninanspruchnahme der Verkehrsmittel U-Bahn, Straßenbahn, Omnibus und Pkw bei gleicher Anzahl zu befördernder Personen und attraktiver Auslastung

Wolf, Johannes. (2020). Klimapolitik und Verkehr: Der steinige Weg zur vollständigen Elektrifizierung des öffentlichen Straßenpersonnenverkehrs (ÖSPV) als Beitrag zur Klimaneutralität. Verkehr und Technik, 73(06, 2020), 223.