



# Alternative Mobility

Replacing emissions-intensive vehicle miles traveled with zero- or low-carbon alternatives can reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This solution considers the role of bike infrastructure, walkable cities, telecommuting, and e-bikes.

## QUICK FACTS

- Cars are the dominant form of transportation in the United States, with 87% of daily trips occurring in personal vehicles.
- Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, adults in the U.S. spent an average of 1 hour driving every day.
- Cars are often used for short trips (under 4 miles). Replacing those with walking, biking, or micro e-mobility solutions can contribute to emissions reductions.
- Telecommuting grew dramatically in 2020 as a result of the pandemic. It is an area to watch in the coming years.

## BEYOND CARBON

- Alternative mobility solutions can improve air and water quality and therefore benefit the environment and public health.
- Additional public health benefits come with increased physical activity.
- Telecommuting can improve productivity because workers spend less time in traffic jams -- estimated to cost about \$87 billion in the United States in 2018. A 2014 paper by Dennis Ong et al. found video conferencing reduces energy use by 93% compared to in-person meetings.
- Issues to watch include rural versus urban adoption rates, gentrification impacts, road infrastructure zoning/cost, and last-mile considerations.

TRANSPORTATION

## GEORGIA'S 2030 MEGATON OPPORTUNITY

We could reduce 1 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub>e in Georgia by eliminating 2.5% of vehicle miles traveled.

# Lead Researchers

Dr. Richard A. Simmons  
Strategic Energy Institute  
Georgia Institute of Technology

Dr. Michael O. Rodgers  
Regents Researcher  
Transportation Systems Engineering  
Georgia Institute of Technology

