

POWER OF THE HIGHWAY



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From There to Here

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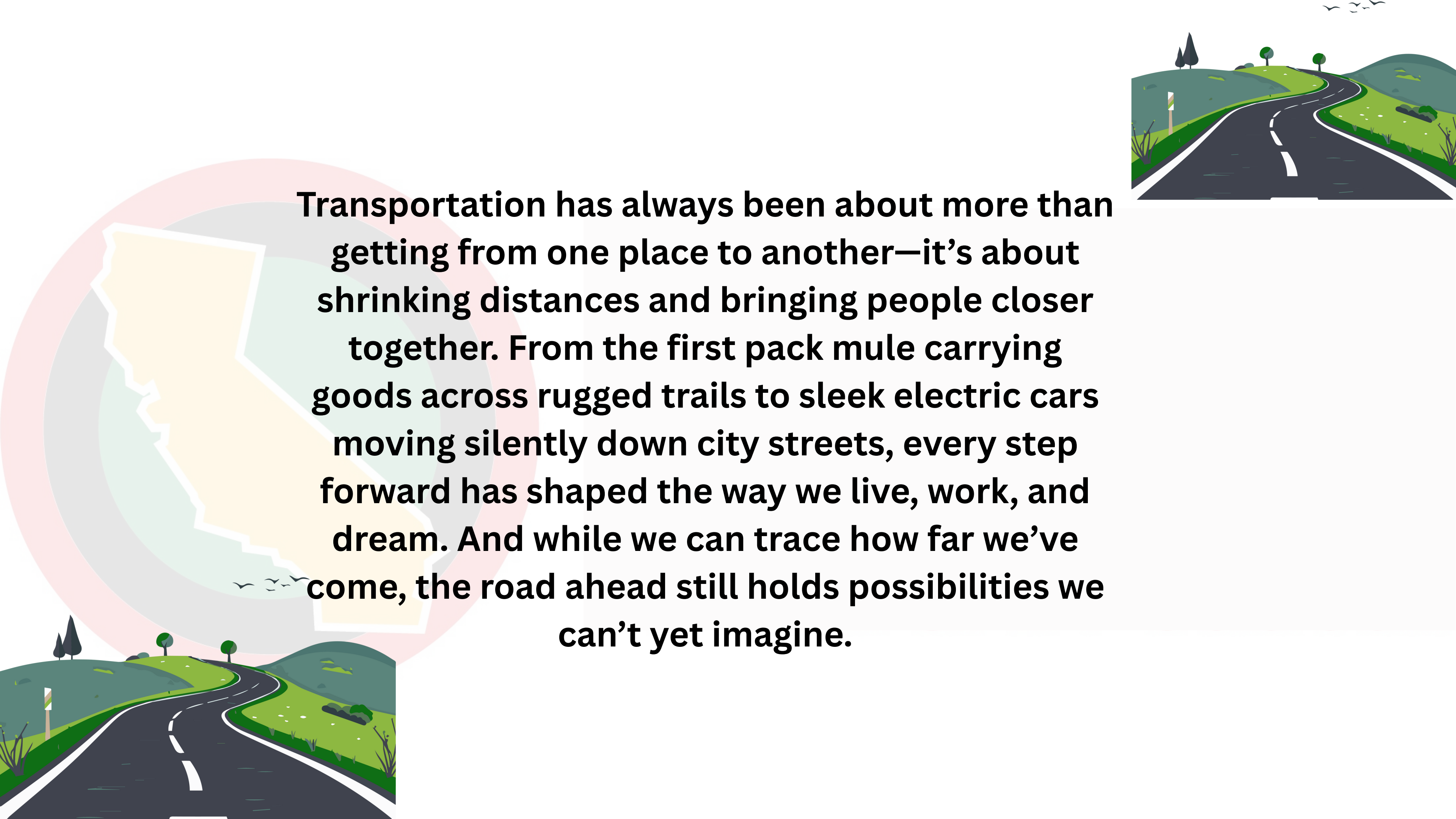
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Transportation has always been about more than getting from one place to another—it's about shrinking distances and bringing people closer together. From the first pack mule carrying goods across rugged trails to sleek electric cars moving silently down city streets, every step forward has shaped the way we live, work, and dream. And while we can trace how far we've come, the road ahead still holds possibilities we can't yet imagine.



Infrastructure projects have too often displaced vulnerable communities, leaving lasting scars. Cities must learn from these mistakes and embed equity from the start—engaging residents early, protecting affordable housing, and ensuring investment strengthens rather than uproots neighborhoods. Done responsibly, infrastructure can become a tool for repair and empowerment instead of disruption.



Economic Growth

Transit investments do more than move people—they fuel local and regional economies. Every dollar spent on transit creates jobs, both in construction and long-term operations, while also expanding access to employment opportunities for residents.



On a larger scale, regional growth depends on a dependable transit network that connects workers to employers, lowers transportation costs, and makes communities more attractive to new businesses and talent. Strong transit systems are the backbone of competitive, resilient economies.



Housing and Affordability

Public transportation directly lowers the cost of living by reducing the need for car ownership, gas, and maintenance—freeing up household income for other essentials. When families can rely on safe, efficient, and affordable transit, they are less burdened by rising transportation costs.

Building housing alongside transit not only makes communities more affordable but also strengthens resilience. Transit-oriented housing supports walkable neighborhoods, fosters economic activity, and reduces traffic congestion and emissions—ensuring that growth is both sustainable and equitable.





Environmental and Climate Goals

Public transit is one of the most effective tools cities have to cut greenhouse gas emissions and reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles. Every trip taken on a bus, train, or light rail system replaces car travel, lowering congestion, fuel consumption, and air pollution. Cleaner air improves public health and lowers healthcare costs, especially in communities historically burdened by poor air quality.



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Environmental and Climate Goals

By aligning transit expansion with broader sustainability strategies—such as electrifying fleets, integrating renewable energy, and designing walkable, transit-oriented communities—cities can directly contribute to their climate action commitments. These investments also strengthen resilience against climate risks by reducing urban heat, limiting sprawl, and conserving open space.

Regional planning plays a key role in ensuring that transit growth is not just efficient but also environmentally responsible. Coordinated land use and a green infrastructure allow transit to serve as the backbone of a sustainable, climate-ready region.



State Legislators

State leaders play a critical role in shaping how communities grow and thrive. By directing funding to projects that integrate transit, housing, and equity, legislators can ensure that new investments serve both mobility and affordability goals. We need to help and hold them accountable when it comes to passing policies that prevent displacement and protect vulnerable communities helps keep long-term residents in place while welcoming new growth.





Transportation influences where we live, where we shop, and even which communities we feel a part of. It's more than just roads, tracks, or runways—it's the everyday system that connects us to opportunity, convenience, and each other.

Combined with responsible growth we can ensure that every idea and dollar spent supports cleaner air, and more resilient communities for the future.

