

THE PROBLEM :

The Government is Trying to **FORCE YOU OUT** of Your Car!



Across the country, transportation planning has been radicalized. Instead of prioritizing projects that benefit drivers, planners want to make it less convenient and more expensive to travel by personal vehicle to change behavior and get people out of their cars. This is why you see millions of your tax dollars being wasted on ripping up or narrowing perfectly good roads, operating empty buses and trains, and cramming bike lanes and expansive pedestrian paths on major arterials and other “traffic calming” measures. All this to reduce your Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). And if they can’t inconvenience you out of your car, they will tax you out of it.



VMT Taxes Are Easily Weaponized Against Drivers

The reality is VMT taxes are being used as a cudgel to manipulate people’s behavior to drive an ideological agenda. A VMT tax rate can be varied based upon income to “achieve” economic equity, ensuring some people pay nothing while the middle class subsidizes the lion share. VMT taxes can also be exploited for radical climate policies punishing families who drive SUVs and targeting workers and their trucks. Premiums may be tacked on to change when and where you drive with the use of “low emission zones” such as those in London.

VMT Taxes Require the Government to Track You

To implement VMT taxes, governments rely on invasive technology including devices placed in or connected to your vehicle to track how many miles you drive. To ensure you pay, they install traffic cameras that read license plates to automatically issue fines. They use e-gates to track your movement to record where, when, and how many miles you have driven. The truth is VMT taxes cannot be implemented without the government invading your right to privacy.

VMT Taxes Will Cost You

VMT reduction policies increase congestion, which cost Phoenix drivers \$3.7 billion, more than \$1,200 per commuter, in 2019 alone. It also impacts commercial trucks moving goods in the region, increasing the costs of everything we buy. New York City instituted congestion pricing, placing a premium on access to jobs. Washington State adopted VMT reduction targets which will inevitably require capping how many miles you can drive, and then charging you for exceeding your allotment. Individual and commercial drivers already pay in multiple ways to maintain the roads they drive on. A VMT tax will only add to the burden.

The VMT Threat In Arizona

Many cities in Arizona have adopted Climate Action Plans with explicit goals of “reducing our reliance on single-occupancy vehicles” and reducing overall VMT. Scottsdale recently voted to remove two of the four heavily used lanes on 68th street to add protected bike paths with the purported goal of “increasing access” to “alternative modes” of transportation to reduce car use. The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) has argued that their 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, supported by a twenty year multi-billion-dollar tax, increases investments in transit which, in their words, is key to “taking cars off the street” and “lowering vehicle miles traveled” in cars.

✓ THE SOLUTION: FREEDOM TO MOVE ACT

If placed on the ballot and passed by the voters in 2024, it would protect Arizonans from measures that inhibit our freedom to travel by prohibiting the government from TRACKING, TAXING, OR LIMITING VMT.



WHY WE SHOULD PROTECT OUR FREEDOM TO MOVE:

✓ Autonomy

The personal automobile has been one of if not *the* greatest technological advancements in human history. It is a reflection and extension of many of our personal liberties. It embodies our *autonomy* – the ability to choose where we go, when we go, and who we go with. Personal automobiles require less preplanning, accommodating spontaneous action, and expand our range of options.

✓ Privacy

Private vehicles reflect our right to *privacy* with the ability to commute and travel in our own vehicle, alone or with the company of our choosing. That privacy ensures individuals may listen to what they like and speak with whom they wish without censoring their speech.

✓ Freedom of Association

Cars expand our *freedom of association*. No longer is the decision of where we live tied to where we work. The car has freed us to choose to live where and by whom we want, send our kids to the schools of our choice, and work where and for whom we want – each decision made independently of the other.

✓ Democratization of Transportation

The automobile has been an unparalleled advancement for human flourishing, responsible for the democratization of transportation. It has placed within the reach of *everyone* the ability to travel when and where they want, with little limitation on the distance, at a cost almost all can afford. It has connected more people to more jobs, expanded access to education, healthcare, and childcare options, and many other immeasurable opportunities.

✓ The Vote Has Already Been Talled – People Choose Cars

The truth is that the people have already voted, and they have voted overwhelmingly in favor of their private automobile. In Arizona, more than 99% of people choose to drive – not take transit, ride their bikes, or walk, despite billions in investments the last two decades to ensure people have those options if they want it. Commuters around the world sit in rush hour congestion, and they choose to do it day after day because the net benefit of their vehicle has outweighed any of the costs. We might not appreciate as we conduct our monotonous daily tasks with ease in our private cars – sitting in rush hour traffic, dropping kids off at school, picking up groceries - but our automobiles have vastly expanded our horizons and have been an overwhelmingly net positive for human wellbeing and flourishing. And we must protect them.

SAY NO TO VMT, SUPPORT THE FREEDOM TO MOVE ACT!

Efforts to Track, Tax, or Limit our VMT are an attack on our values and way of life. That's why it's critical to support our Freedom to Move!

JOIN OUR GRASSROOTS!



GET INVOLVED!

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