

ON THE MOVE

State of Urban Access in Asia

Mel Eden

Data and Policy Analyst
Asian Transport Observatory

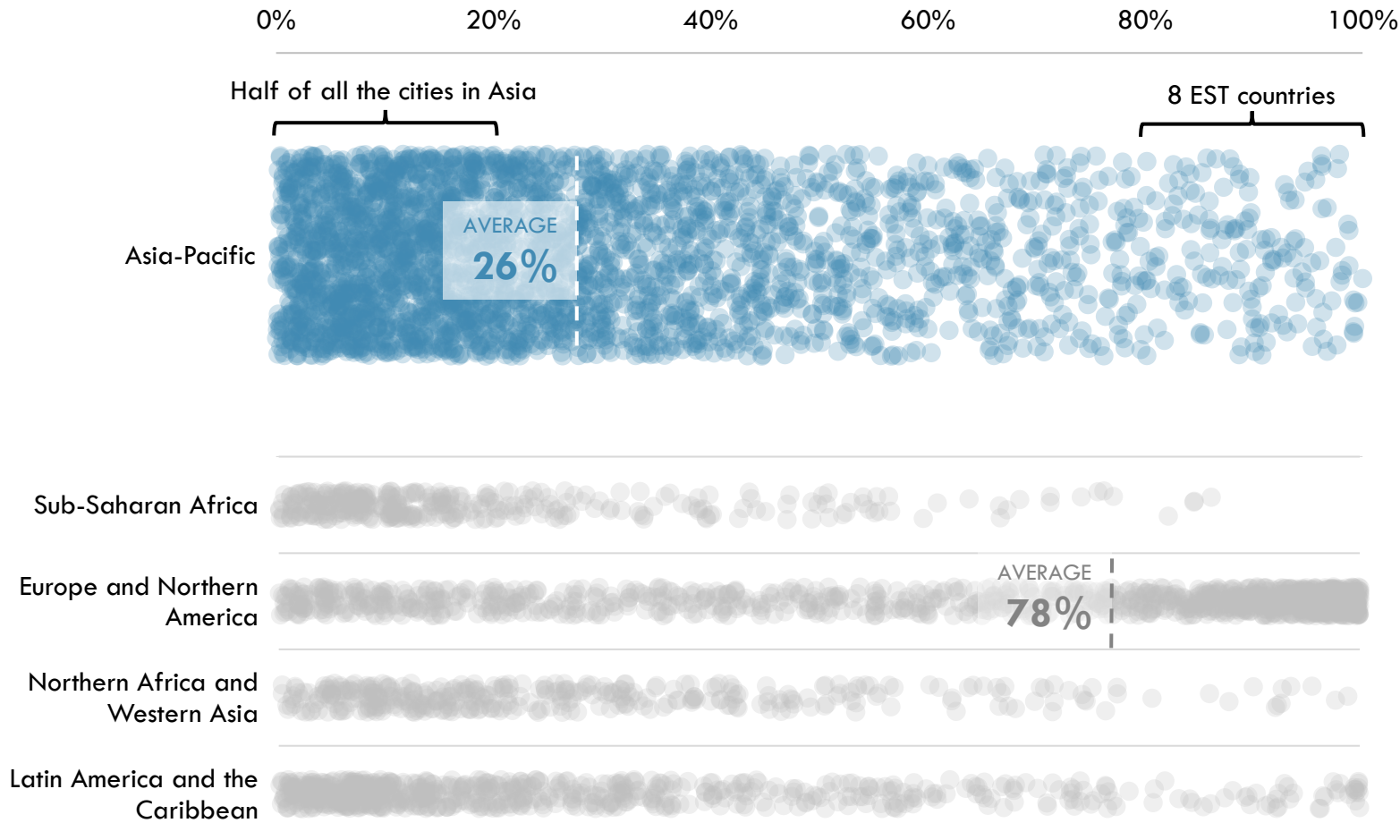
16th High-Level EST Forum
December 11, 2024



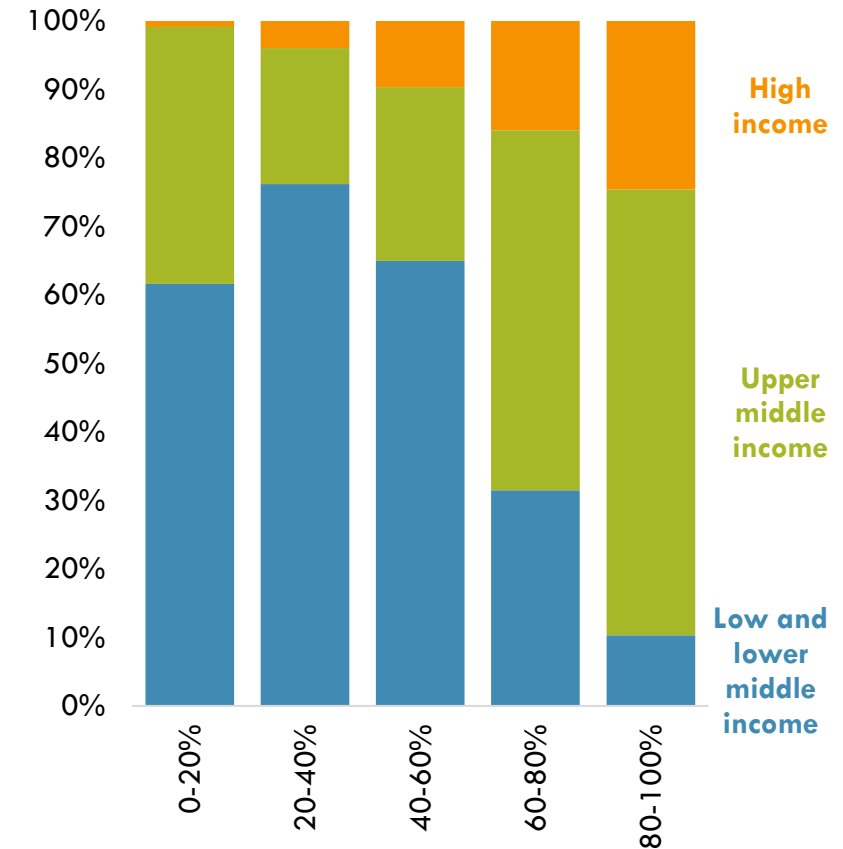
HEADLINE INDICATOR

1,400,000,000 without convenient access to public transport

Share of population in cities with convenient access to public transport

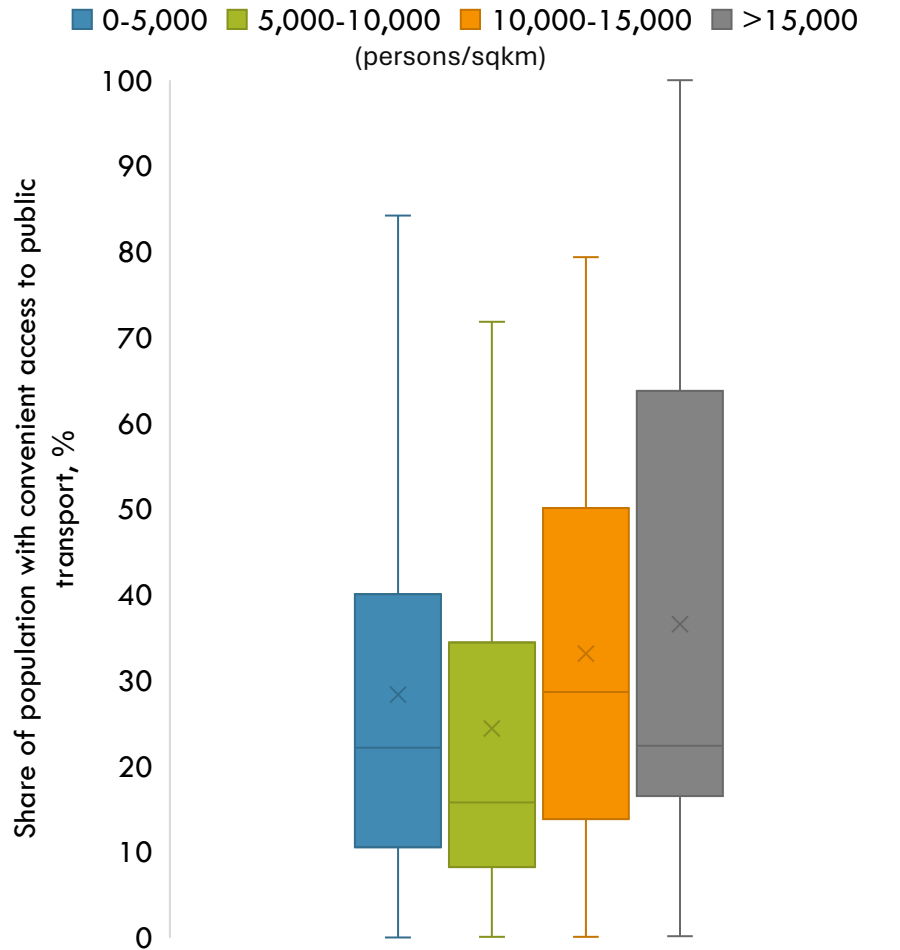


Share of cities in EST participating countries, grouped by level of urban access

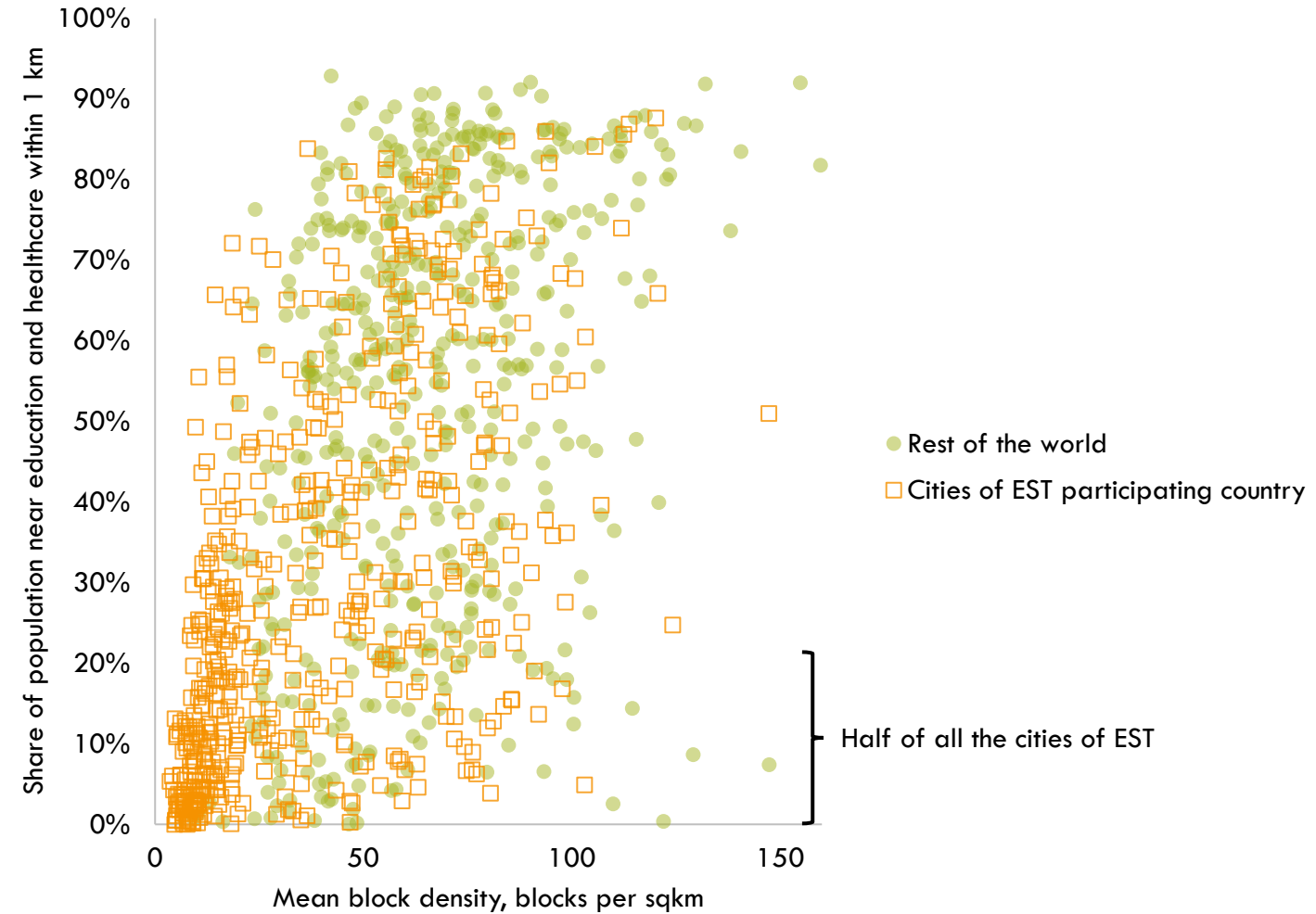


Urban form and access

Population density and urban access

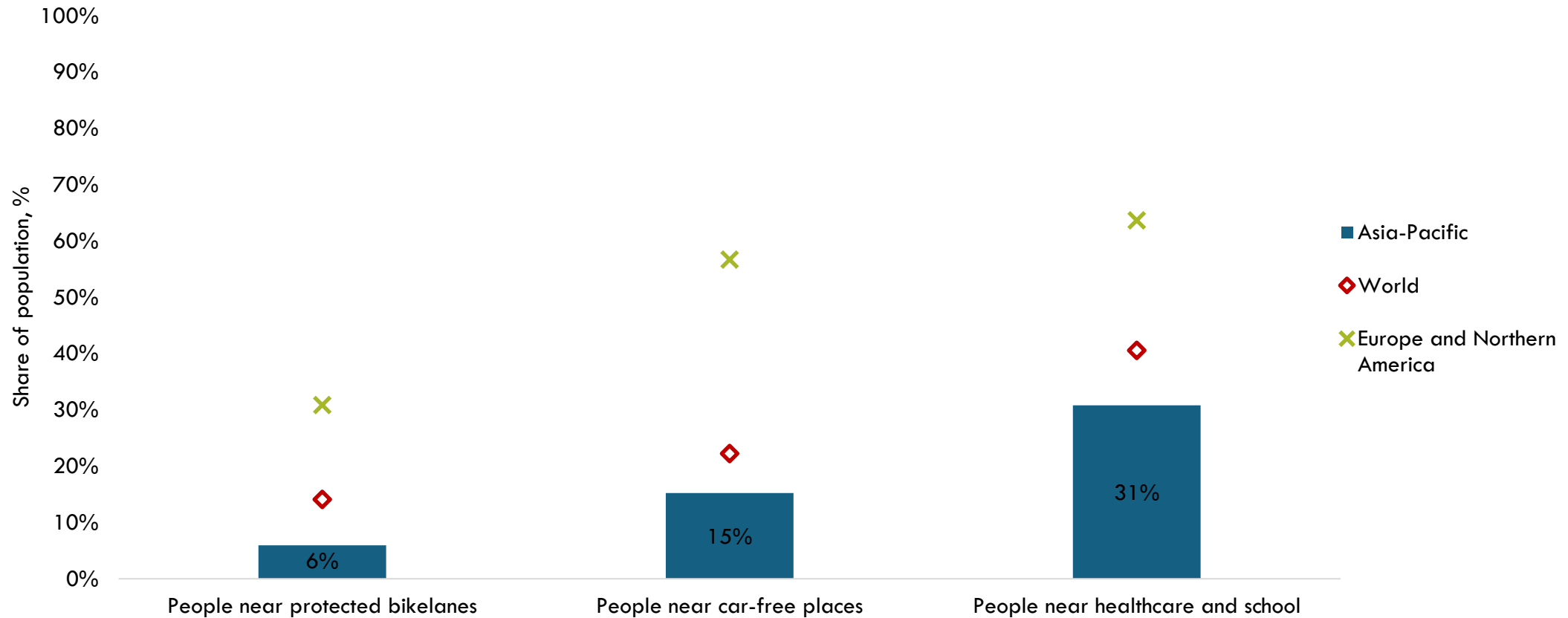


Block density and access to healthcare+schools



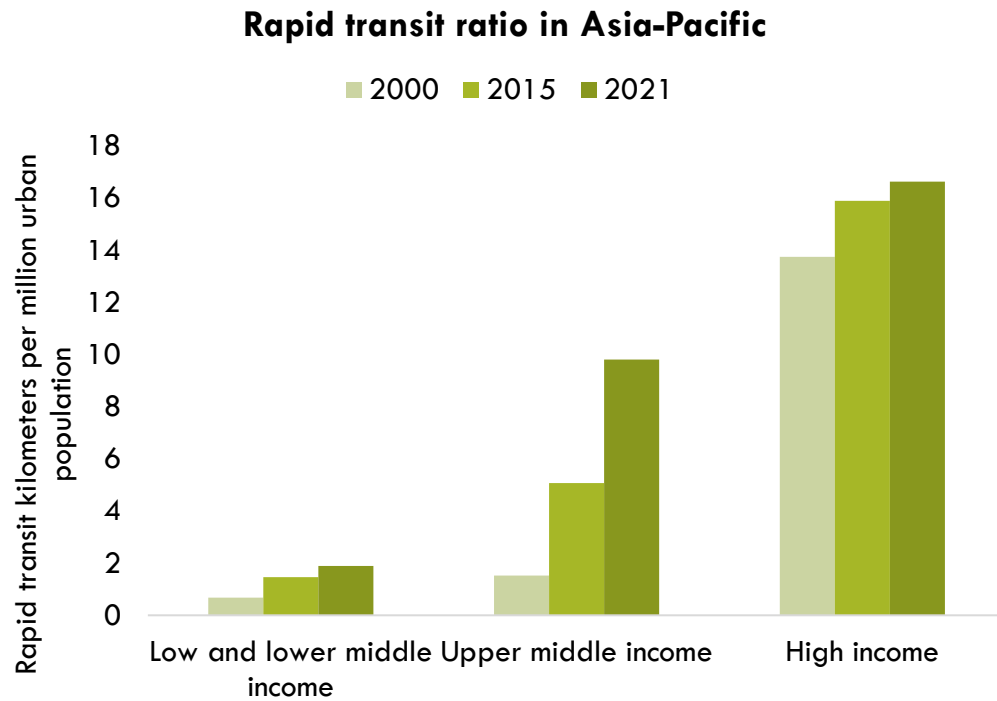
Access to different places

Proportion of population within walking distance of bike lanes, healthcare, schools, and car-free places

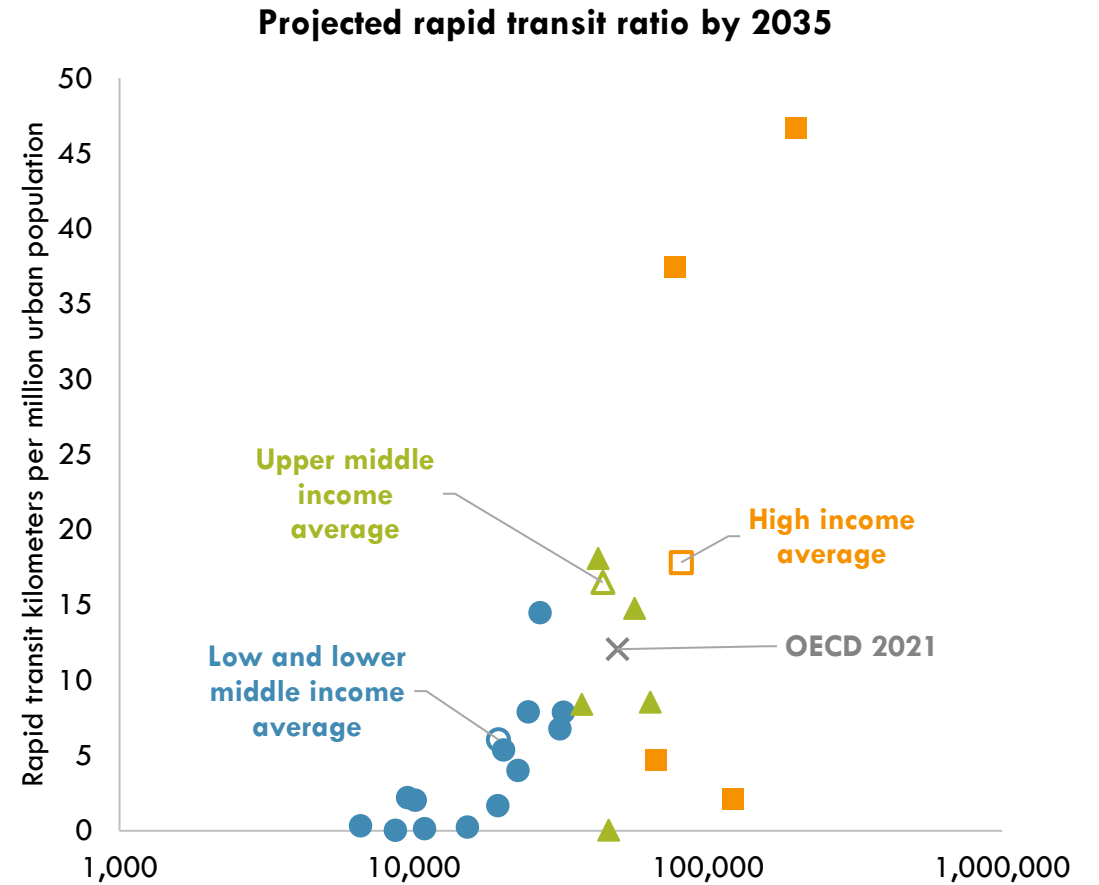


Rapid transit rise: good growth, but fragmented

2000-2020
2025-2035 Asia builds 12,000 km

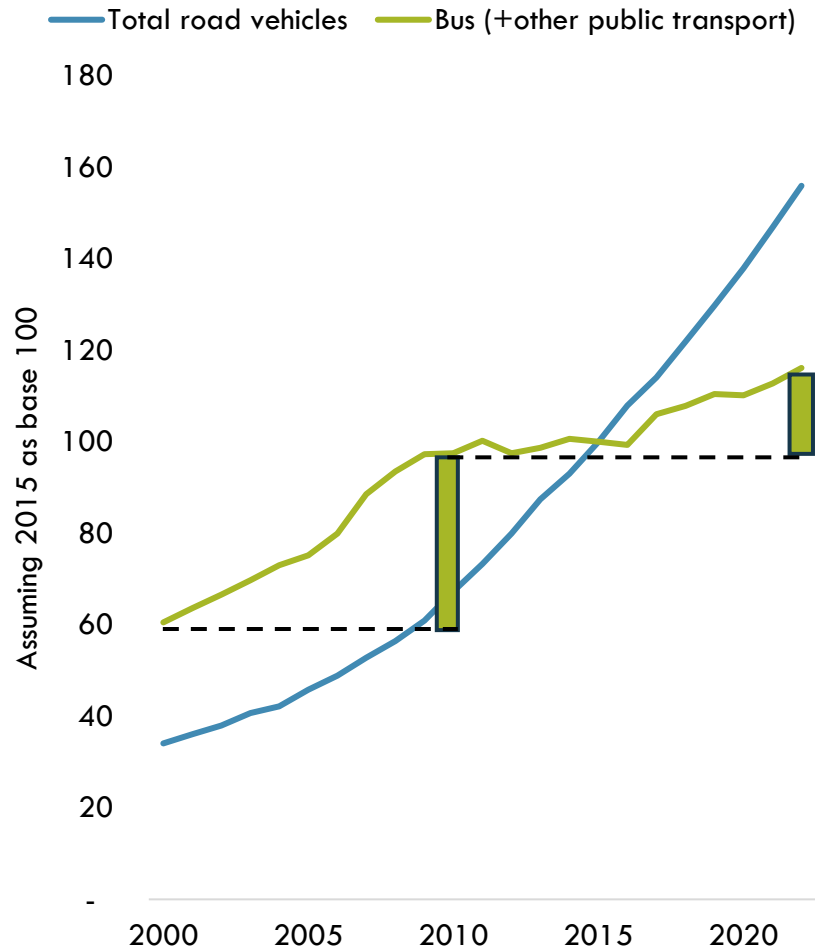


...but we still have access gap

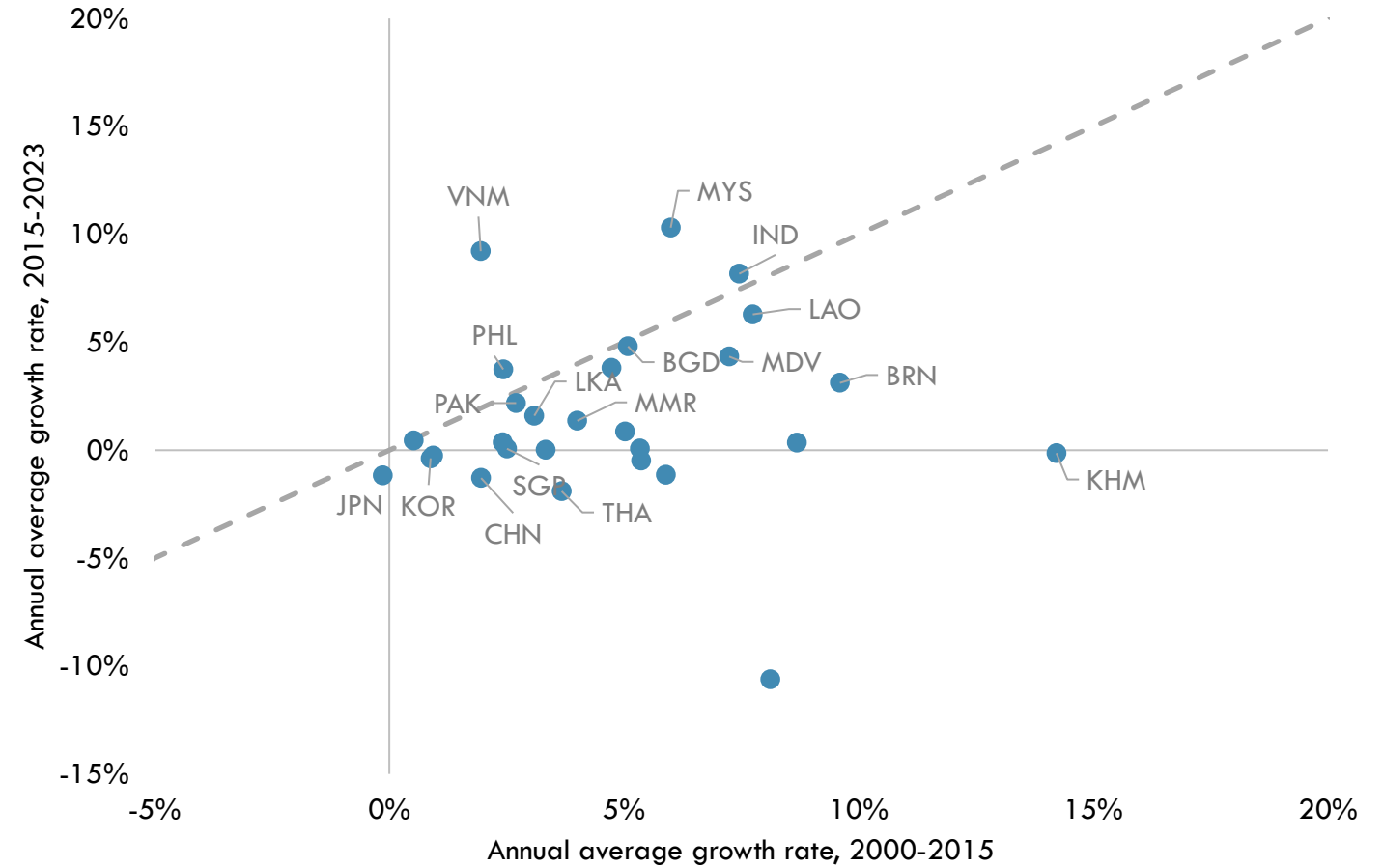


The decline of buses

Vehicle registrations (2000-2022)

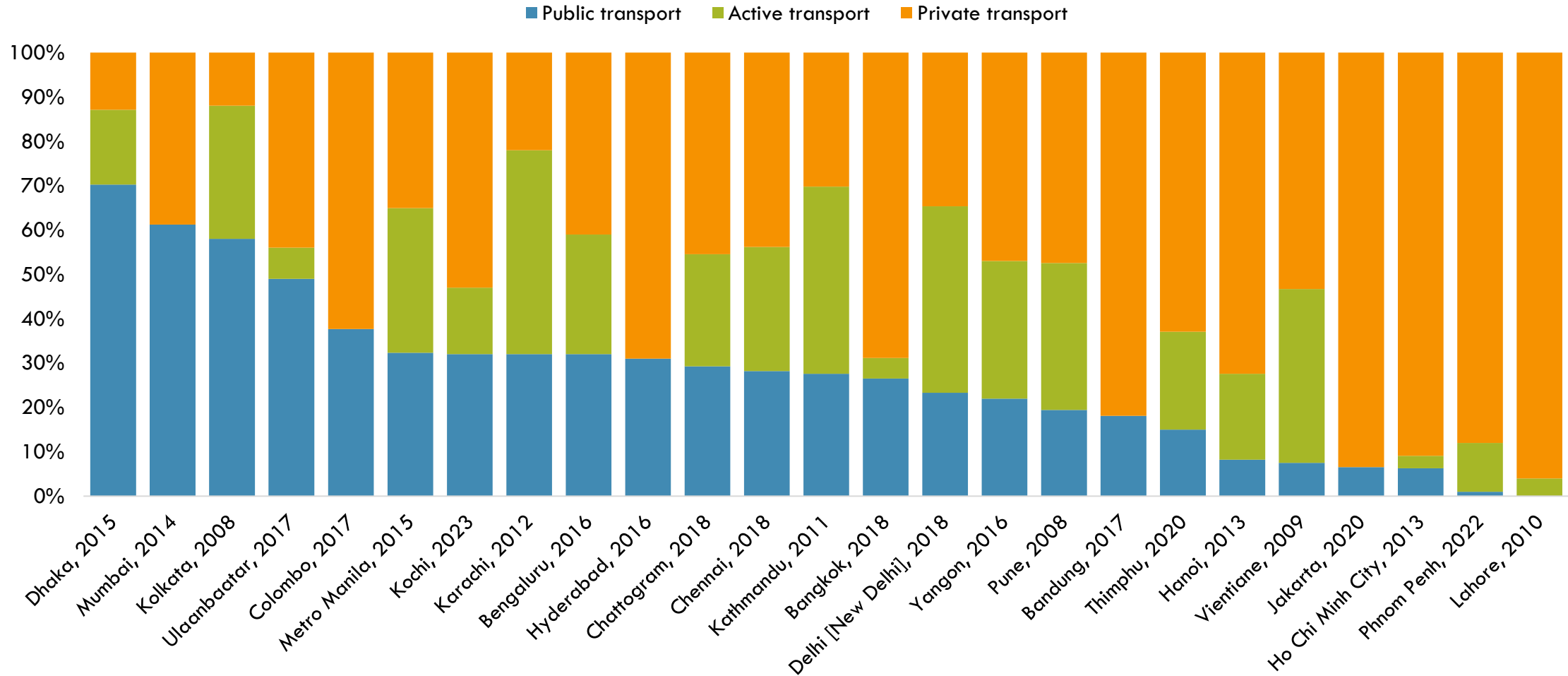


Bus (+ other public transport) vehicle registration in Asia-Pacific countries



Symptoms of poor urban access

Trip mode shares in cities of EST participating countries



Public transport as a clear policy priority

18 EST participating countries*

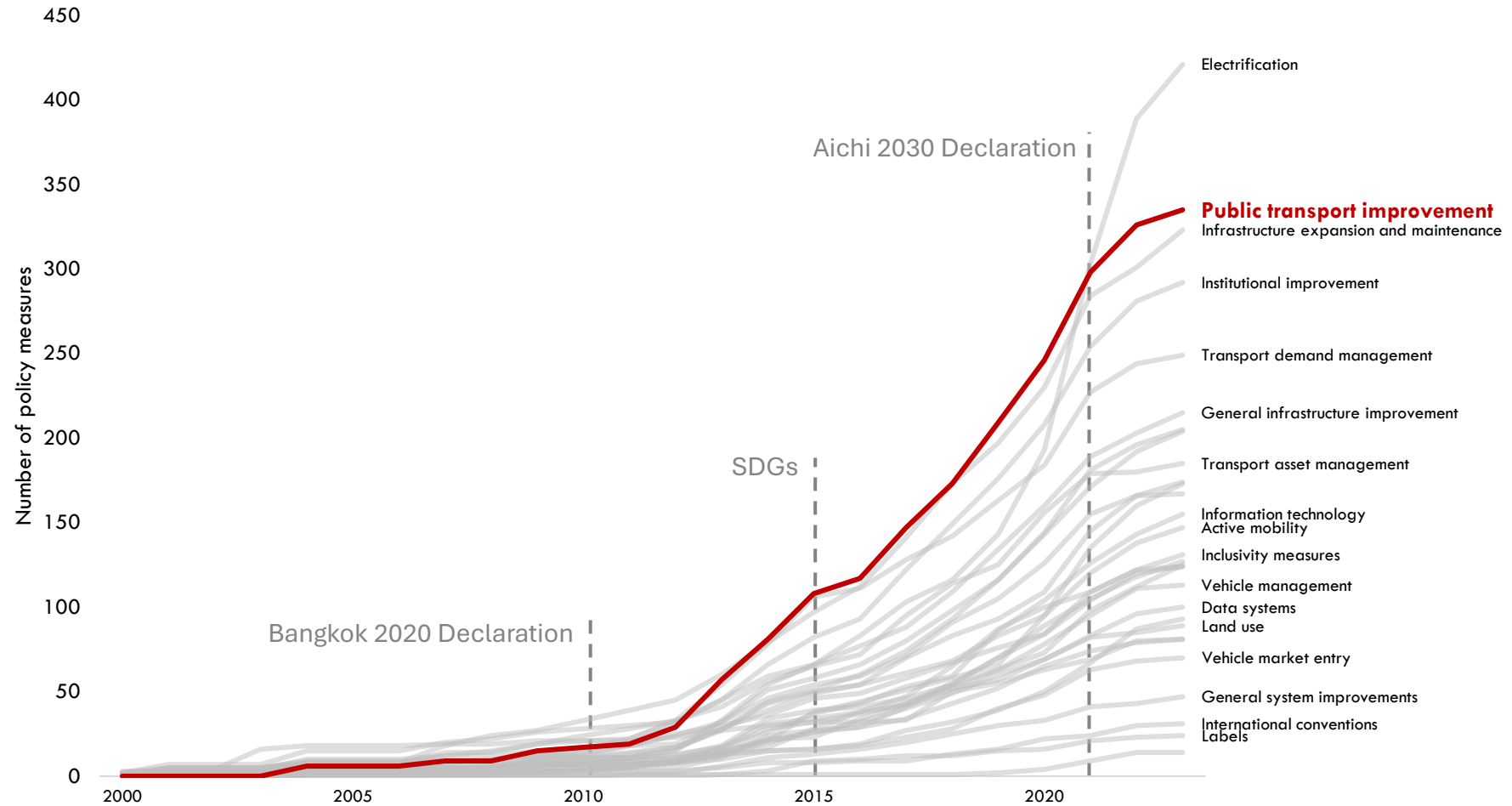
370 policy documents

6,300 policy measures

660 urban policy measures

*Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam

Transport policy measures from EST participating countries, cumulative



Growing momentum after adoption of Aichi 2030 Declaration

Number of countries
with policy

Type	Before Aichi 2030 Declaration	After Aichi 2030 Declaration	Example policy measures adopted since Aichi 2030 Declaration
Mode shift target	5 countries	9 countries	<p><i>45-minute cities and 20-minute towns by 2040, prioritizing walk-cycle-ride mobility</i> (Singapore Land Transport Master Plan 2040)</p> <p><i>Increasing the modal share of public transport in urban areas to 40% by 2030</i> (Malaysia Green Technology Master Plan 2017-2030)</p>
Public transport improvement	18 countries	18 countries	<p><i>Increasing the proportion of bus lanes and granting special privileges for Public buses in the city</i> (Thailand Greenhouse Gas Reduction Action Plan for Transport Sector)</p> <p><i>Bus rapid transit systems will be adopted to enhance the efficient use of public transport vehicles and existing road spaces</i> (Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028)</p>
Active mobility	11 countries	13 countries	<p><i>Develop bicycle lanes and bicycle parking area in the city core and on the roads leading to it</i> (Nepal Road Safety Action Plan 2021-2030)</p> <p><i>Promote non-motorized mobility, through development and management of infrastructure like removal of encroachments, development of micro infrastructure, while ensuring gender considerations</i> (Pakistan National Clean Air Plan)</p>

Filling the gap in supporting policies

Number of countries
with policy

Type	Before Aichi 2030 Declaration	After Aichi 2030 Declaration	Example policy measures adopted after 2021
Transport demand management	13 countries	13 countries	<p><i>Restrict the entry of individual modes of transport to sensitive areas and congested areas of major cities during peak hours through a levy</i> (Sri Lanka Updated Nationally Determined Contributions)</p> <p><i>Achieve 50% of parking ‘de-growth’ in preparation for gradual phasing out ICE passenger vehicles</i> (Bhutan Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) - Surface Transport)</p>
Urban land use	11 countries	13 countries	<p><i>Regulate where to situate high-density establishments and integrate transit-oriented development (TOD) in the local development plans</i> (Philippine Road Safety Action Plan 2023-2028)</p> <p><i>Encourage Local Authorities to consider sustainable intensification of land-use development or redevelopment to limit urban sprawl and move towards car-lite planning</i> (Low Carbon Mobility Blueprint 2021-2030)</p>
Urban freight transport	7 countries	10 countries	<p><i>Develop a city level freight delivery strategy</i> (Bhutan Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) - Surface Transport)</p> <p><i>For large urban cities, final mile distribution centres will be established where appropriate</i> (National Transport Policy of Pakistan 2018)</p>

Summary



**Potential to
ramp up**



**Gaps remaining
to be addressed**



**Strong ambition
and support**



**More room for
more effort**

asiantransportobservatory.org

“ATO translates data
into insights, policies,
and investments”

ATO Team	info@asiantransportobservatory.org
Jamie Leather	jleather@adb.org
Andres Pizarro	andres.pizarro@aiib.org
Manuel Benard	manuel.benard@aiib.org
Alvin Mejia	alvinmejia@asiantransportobservatory.org
Sudhir Gota	sudhirgota@asiantransportobservatory.org