

212 and more roads, freeways, and parking lots, Brown is saying, would
222 need to be constructed, covering over farmland and wilderness lands
235 if the status quo is maintained. There will be more demand on carpool
248 lanes and the need to construct more toll lanes where people have to
261 pay to drive on the freeway will increase. Brown reminds us that with
274 more people riding buses and trains, fares may go up and more people
288 may find that they have to stand instead of sit when riding in buses
301 and trains during peak hours of use. As demand for gas increases, so
314 will the cost to fill up at the pump. With increasing numbers of
324 vehicles on the roads, air pollution, noise pollution, and competition
332 for parking places are bound to get worse.

342 Using a more optimistic outlook, however, it may be possible
353 for inventive people to come up with solutions to these challenges
363 that may actually improve our transportation system, rather than just
378 watch it get worse. It has been proven at the ballot box in recent years
389 that the populations of crowded states are willing to tax themselves
401 more to widen freeways and fund new passenger rail projects, like the
411 Metro lines spreading out around Southern California. To solve some

422 of the parking headaches, many people are turning to ride sharing
436 apps on their phones like Uber™ and Lyft™. With the advent of
449 these services, many people are now able to earn part time money as
459 drivers for these companies. Because of ride sharing competition, the
471 availability of these services has also driven down taxi fares, and the
483 fares of airport shuttle services. People using Uber™ and Lyft™ also
496 get the benefit of a faster commute, too, since these trips can be made
508 using carpool lanes that usually allow traffic to move faster. One of
523 the best features is they can drop the customer off at the door of their
537 home or hotel, or just steps away from an airline gate with no parking
540 hassles or fees.

551 The rapid growth in electric vehicles is not only helping with
563 the pollution issue, it is having the additional benefit of keeping gas
576 prices down, for those who still use a gas powered car, since fewer
587 people now buy gas. Even when commuters are traveling alone, those
598 with electric vehicles are allowed to use the carpool lanes. Federal
611 rules about miles per gallon standards in new cars sold in the U.S.
623 have had the effect of reducing car owners' fuel consumption. On the

634 noise pollution matter, most of us know that the modern light
644 passenger trains makes little noise, and electric cars ostensibly make
645 none.

655 There are other solutions people, and the companies they work
666 for, have come up with to help with the transportation challenge.
678 Some companies now offer the ability of their employees to work one
689 or more days a week from home, generally conducting business and
702 reporting their work time over the Internet. This form of work is often
712 called *telecommuting*. This takes cars off the highways, and gives
723 workers more flexibility in their schedules, and gives them the ability
733 to take family members to school or medical appointments during
742 work hours. Other companies provide ride sharing vans where
752 employees drive one another to work, taking turns driving, and
762 offering preferential parking. This could mean a reserved space close
774 to the entrance of the building. Ride sharing vans also reduce the
785 number of parking spaces needed around a building, and reduces gas
795 cost for the employees. Employee passengers can conduct work while
808 riding in the vans, relax, or even take a nap. Still other companies

820 allow workers to ride bikes to work, and some even offer showering
832 and dressing room facilities for these workers if they arrive to work
833 sweaty.

843 One of Brown’s greatest contentions is that traffic wastes time.
854 It’s impossible to argue with that point. “More cars also translates
864 into more traffic congestion. Americans are spending more and more
875 time sitting in their cars going nowhere as freeways and streets
885 become, in effect, parking lots. As cities sprawl, longer commuting
896 distances and more congestion en route combine to increase the time
907 spent in automobiles.” Since the year 2006 when Brown wrote this
916 article, many aspects of the transportation crisis have remained
926 problematic, while others have improved somewhat. An app on a
938 Smartphone has proven to be one of the most effective solutions for
952 those mired in traffic on a daily basis. The app is called *Waze*TM, and
965 it allows users, for free, to input their home and work addresses, and
978 then proceeds to search for the best routes between the two. The app,
989 then, through visual maps and auditory prompts, helps the driver get
1001 to work or return home, using the fastest route. Sometimes the fastest

1014 route is the way the user is accustomed to going anyway, but when
1028 there is a traffic jam on the normal route because of an accident, road
1040 repair, or police activity, the app will advise another ‘way’. To a
1052 novice user being diverted in another direction, it may seem the app
1063 has gone crazy, advising a roundabout route. But with access to
1074 traffic sensors now built into streets and freeways and GPS tracking,
1089 *Waze*TM really does know the best way to go, even if the distance is a
1102 bit longer, and is able to adjust its recommendations if a new accident
1116 or incident occurs in the path it had planned for the driver. The app,
1128 with input from other drivers further ahead on the same freeway or
1138 street, can warn fellow drivers of upcoming concerns like potholes
1151 and red light cameras. *Waze*TM knows where you are at all times, and
1165 will notice and recalculate if you miss an exit, or go the wrong way.
1178 *Waze*TM can predict within a minute or so when drivers will arrive at
1188 their destinations. Since *Waze*TM displays in large readable digits the
1199 anticipated arrival time, it has the additional benefit of lowering the
1209 driver’s stress level, because users seldom worry about what time
1216 they will get home or to work.

1225 Some suggestions I'd like to offer regarding their transportation
1235 woes include asking people to change their attitudes toward these
1244 problems. The predicament we find ourselves in is not
1254 insurmountable. We can act independently in ways that can help
1265 ourselves and everyone else by decreasing the use of our collective
1277 system. We can push ourselves to get up earlier to find lighter traffic
1291 in the morning. We can try to ride the buses or trains just once a
1304 week. We can find someone to carpool with or ride a bike. Some
1315 people, especially young single people, can try to find an apartment
1325 closer to where they work, maybe even within walking distance.
1339 College students can try to enroll in one class each term that they can
1349 take online, reducing trips to our crowded campuses. Many people
1364 may not be able to afford to buy an electric vehicle now, but can at
1377 least make a commitment that the next car they purchase in a few
1384 years will be an electricity powered one.

1397 Everyone who drives or rides the bus or rail systems in their city
1407 can see transportation challenges. When we see a construction project
1421 slowing down traffic, a sense of frustration can rise in us all. But if

1434 we take a thoughtful view of the ways the movement of millions of
1447 people is being addressed, and the way we ourselves choose to use it,
1459 we can be optimistic that things can get better. Even with ever
1468 growing populations, the people who innovate to improve our
1480 transportation system, and the people who use it, can work together to
1492 ensure we get where we need to go as efficiently as possible.