

Road space: bus vs bikes vs cars – a famous photo recreated in Canberra

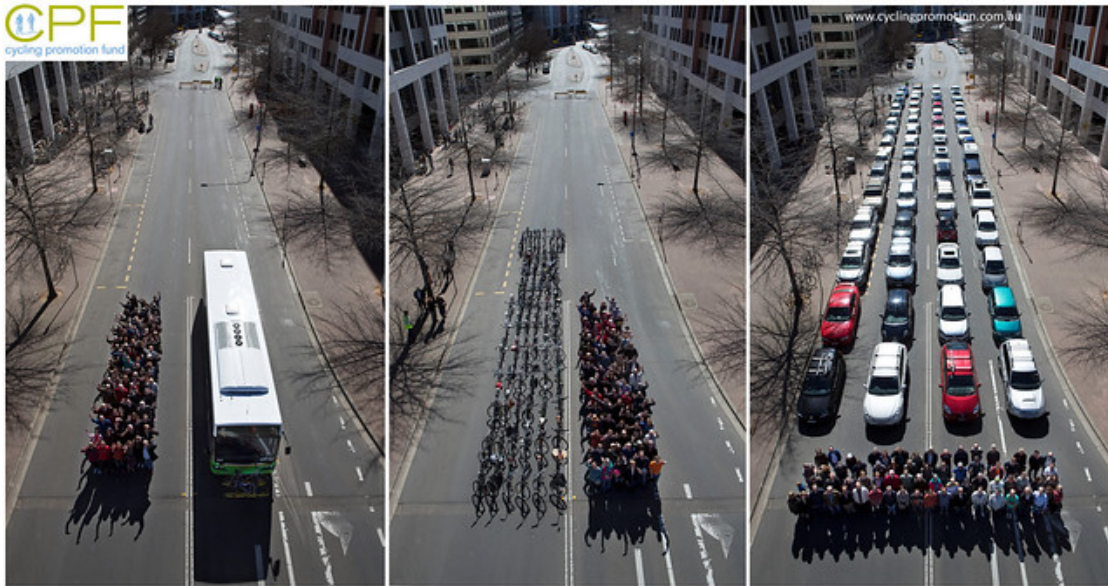


Wed 19 September 2012 <

<https://danielbowen.com/2012/09/19/road-space-photo/>>

Many years ago the German city of Munster set up a photo comparing the road space taken by people in a bus, on bikes, and in cars.

Earlier this month the Cycling Promotion Fund recreated that picture in Canberra, and yesterday they released it.



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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/danielbowen/7999510360/>

On Sunday 9th September 69 volunteers, 69 bicycles, 60 cars and one bus gathered in Canberra to recreate a world-renowned photograph taken more than 20 years ago to demonstrate the advantages of bus and bicycle travel in congested cities.

The captured image shows the typical space occupied in a city street by three common modes of transport—cars, bicycles and a bus — and is being made available free of charge to organisations, group and individuals to help promote the efficiency of public transport and cycling in congested cities.

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The project used 69 people, as this is the capacity of a standard Canberra bus, and 60 cars, as this is the number occupied on average by 69 people.

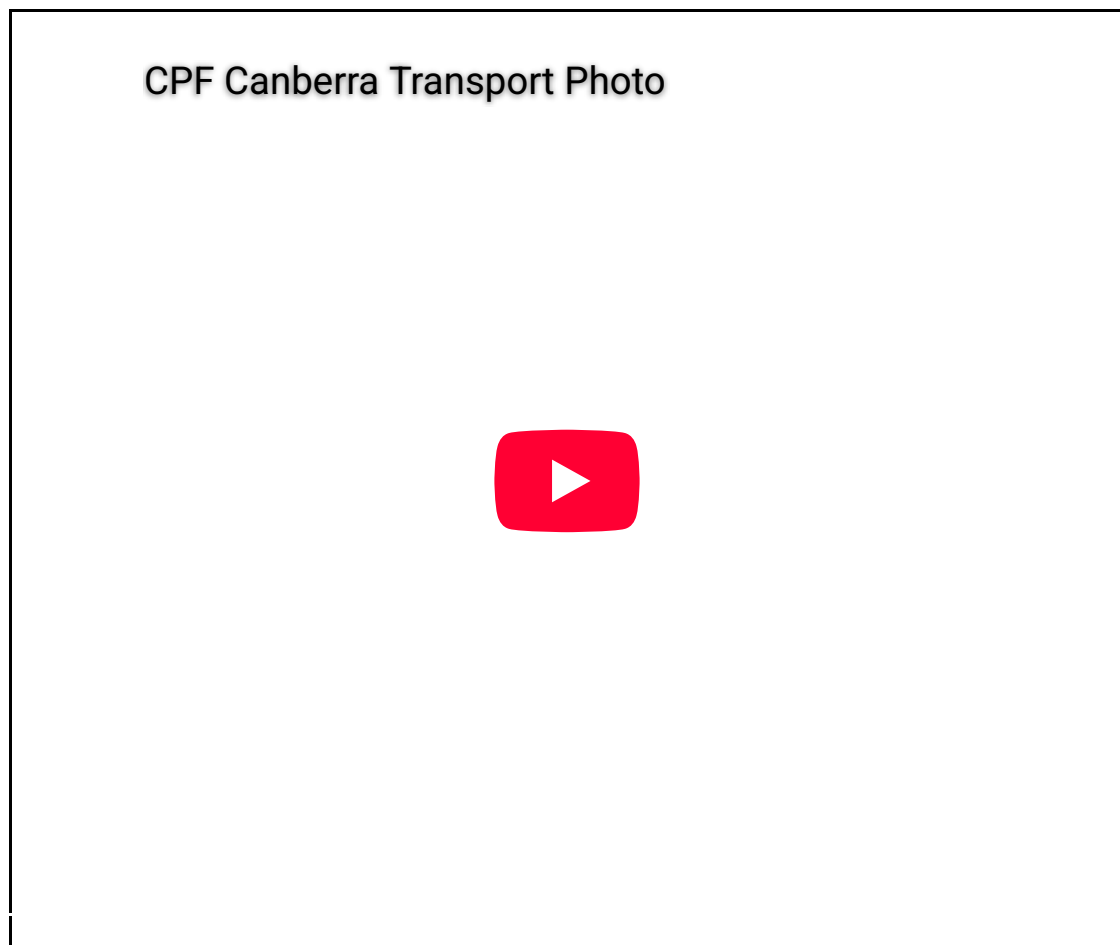
— [Cycling Promotion Fund media release <http://www.cyclingpromotion.com.au/content/view/566/9/>](http://www.cyclingpromotion.com.au/content/view/566/9/)

Like the old photo from Munster, it very clearly shows how moving large numbers of people by car around cities is not efficient — something people sometimes seem to forget when praising such developments as electric cars.

But unlike that old photo (and a similar photo I recall being done on Melbourne's Swanston Street which seems to have never been seen since), CPF have [made the](#)

[photo freely available at high resolution <https://picasaweb.google.com/shodge61/CanbTransPhoto?authuser=o&authkey=GvIsRgCMKYxp37mvrqnQE&feat=directlink>.](https://picasaweb.google.com/shodge61/CanbTransPhoto?authuser=o&authkey=GvIsRgCMKYxp37mvrqnQE&feat=directlink)

They also did a short video showing the photo shoot:



Update 2025: I do not own the photo. But the CPF [made it freely available <https://web.archive.org/web/20120923195113/http://www.cyclingpromotion.com.au/content/view/566/9/](https://web.archive.org/web/20120923195113/http://www.cyclingpromotion.com.au/content/view/566/9/), so it appears there are no restrictions on its use.