

# Transportation & Commuter 交通运输 - 通勤族

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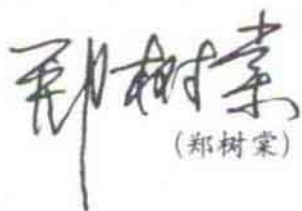
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# 序 言

英语学习，除了在课堂内下工夫外，课外的阅读也很重要。课外除了读文学类的文章，也要读一些非文学类的文章。这套“小书”就是非文学类的文章，涉及文学以外的许多领域和学科。每本书都由一两个相关的主题构成，图文并茂，融知识性和可读性于一体。这些“小书”谈到的很多东西都和我们的日常生活息息相关；更重要的是“小书”体现了人类要与自然和谐发展的思想，这与我们社会和时代的发展是吻合的。读一些这方面的书不仅有利于学生提高英语水平，拓宽自己的视野，也符合当今大学生要全面发展的要求。在“复合型”人才越来越受重视的今天，我很乐意向大学生朋友推荐这套“小书”。



(郑树棠)

《新视野大学英语》总主编  
首届“国家级教学名师奖”获得者

## Introduction

The use of an automobile by one person is very costly in terms of petroleum use and the risk of an accident, but many people still dream of owning a car. Public transportation systems move freight and large numbers of people more efficiently than private cars, but laws and government-sponsored programs are needed to encourage the use of public transportation. After the invention of the automobile, private interests associated with the automobile and oil industries worked together to discourage development of public transportation systems, but governments throughout the world today recognize the environmental and economic benefits of creating efficient and safe systems of public transportation.

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# Transportation

## 交通运输

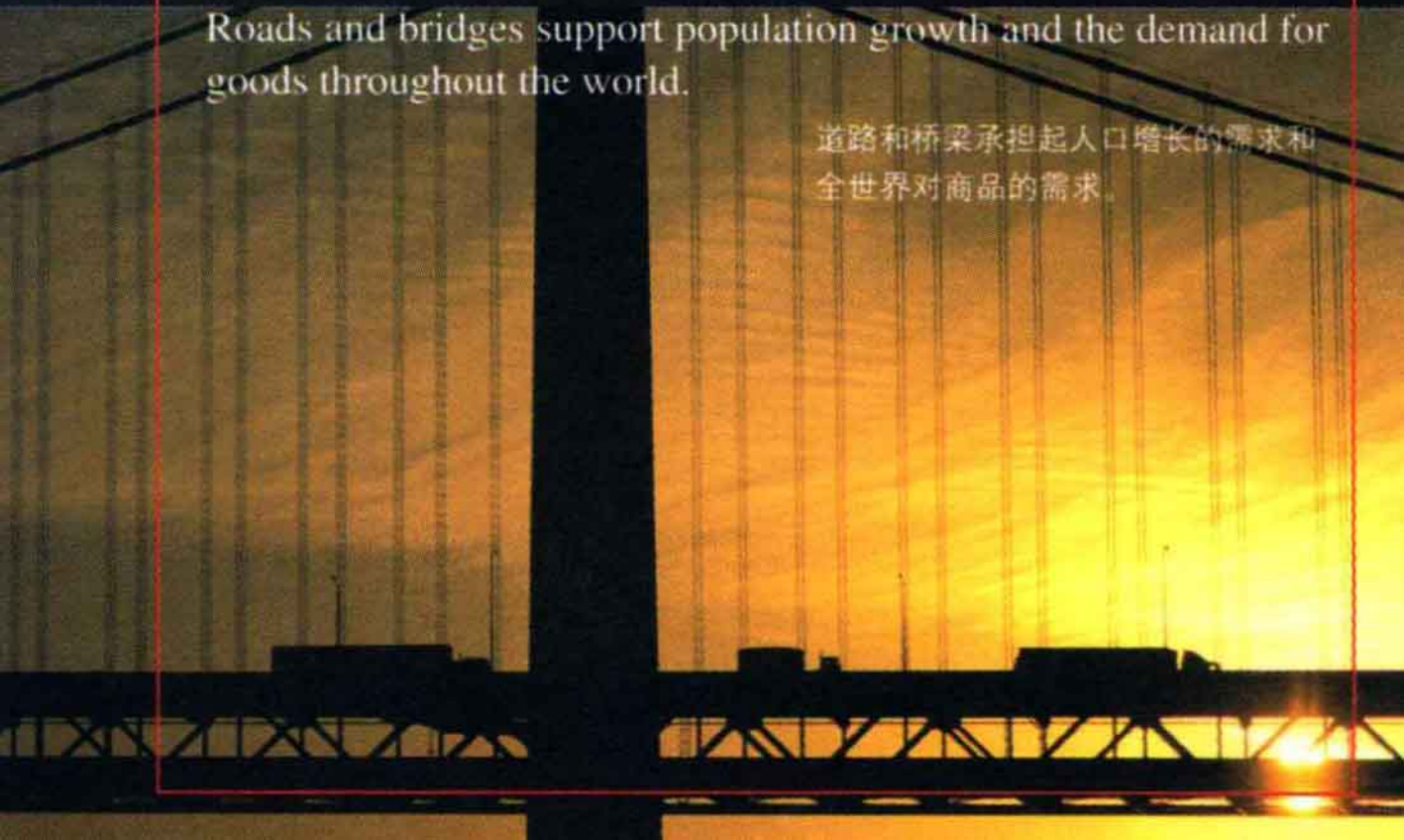
A transportation system enables society to function efficiently by bringing people together to carry out their daily activities. Throughout history, transportation has determined where and how human beings live. When we relied on our own power, we lived close to one another, with homes and jobs clustered by a navigable



waterway for easy movement of people and freight to places beyond a day's walk, which is why for most of human history, cities grew up on strategic waterways. By the turn of the century, the railroads, the streetcar, and rapid transit systems extended the range of travel outward and created small cities, towns, and neighborhoods clustered

Roads and bridges support population growth and the demand for goods throughout the world.

道路和桥梁承担起人口增长的需求和全世界对商品的需求。





within walking distances of streetcar stops and rail stations. The larger central city core remained strong with access to it available from many places and directions.

交通运输体系可以把人们聚集在一起进行日常活动，从而带动社会有效运转。回顾整个人类历史，交通运输决定了人类的栖息地和生活方式。人类在依靠自身能力生活的时候，选择群居，将家和工作场所聚集在可以通行的水路边，其目的是方便活动，便于往一天脚程之外的地方运送人和货物。这就是为什么在人类历史上，城市大多在具有战略意义的水路边发展起来的原因。到了20世纪初，铁路、有轨电车和城市高速铁路将人们的通行范围不









断扩展，建立了聚集在电车和火车站附近的小城市、城镇和街区。而大城市的中心地位仍然稳固，因为那里仍旧四通八达。

As the twentieth century progressed, the availability of the private automobile to many people altered this traditional settlement pattern. All land became more or less equally accessible and ripe for development. The preeminent city became relatively less important. In a similar manner, the airplane brought cities in the nation and around the world closer together, enabling commerce and tourism to thrive. Air travel largely replaced travel by rail or ship for long distance trips.



进入20世纪,许多人拥有了私家车,从而改变了这种传统的安家落户的方式。人们几乎可以去到任何地方,而这些地方发展的时机也已成熟。相对来说,大城市变得不是那么举足轻重了。同时,飞机也拉近了国内外城市之间的距离,促进了商业和旅游业的繁荣。长途旅行时人们主要乘坐飞机,而很少再乘火车和轮船。





# The Motor Vehicle and the Highway System


## 汽车和公路系统

**I**n the United States, most travel occurs in automobiles. In addition to automobiles, there are trucks, motorcycles, and buses. The road network to carry this traffic load ranges from high-speed, multilane, limited-access highways to local streets.

在美国，人们外出大都以汽车代步。除小汽车外，还有卡车、摩



托车和公共汽车。承载交通负荷的公路网包括高速公路、多车道公路、封闭式公路及地方道路。



The resultant unprecedented mobility has not been without its problems. The emission of pollutants causes health problems, damages agriculture, and corrodes buildings. Hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides form ozone, a major ingredient of smog. Carbon monoxide is also produced by vehicle traffic.

随之而来的规模空前的流动性也带来了问题。污染物的排放引发健康问题，破坏农业，侵蚀建筑物。碳氢化合物和氮氧化物形成的臭氧是烟雾的主要成分。各种机动车也会产生一氧化碳。




On average, automobiles log about 10,000 miles (16,000 km) per year, consuming a total of 72 billion gallons (270 billion l) of fuel, or approximately 500 gallons (1,900 l) per vehicle. Including trucks, buses, and motorcycles, vehicles in the United States consume 114 billion gallons (430 billion l) of fuel annually, or about 60 percent of all the petroleum consumed in the United States. This dependence on an imported, finite resource poses great political, economic, and environmental problems.

汽车每年平均行驶大约 10,000 英里 (16,000 公里), 燃料总消耗量是 720 亿加仑 (2,700 亿升), 或者说, 每辆交通工具大约消耗



500 加仑 (1,900 升)。将卡车、公共汽车、摩托车都包括在内,美国的机动车每年消耗 1,140 亿加仑 (4,300 亿升) 的燃料,占美国汽油总消耗量的 60%。这种对有限的进口资源的依赖给政治、经济和环境带来了诸多问题。



The cost of motor vehicle accidents is enormous. Ten times as many people die in motor vehicle accidents as in all other forms of transportation combined.

However, in recent years the death rate from motor vehicles has declined as a result of increased use of seat belts, reduced speed limits, and a change in society's attitude toward driving under the influence of alcohol.



机动车事故造成的代价是巨大的。机动车事故的死亡人数是其他各种运输工具事故死亡人数的10倍。然而，近年来，随着汽车安全带的使用、车速限制和社会对酒后驾驶的态度转变，机动车事故的死亡率已经下降。

Many highways experience serious congestion problems, particularly during the commuting rush hours. The causes are many: parking is provided free by employers to most workers, often even in large cities; gasoline prices have dropped relative to other consumer costs; and trips to work are longer as jobs spread to locations farther from where workers live. The result is higher automobile ownership and fewer people

