



# TRANSPORT REVOLUTIONS

MOVING PEOPLE AND  
FREIGHT WITHOUT OIL

Richard Gilbert and Anthony Perl

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Gilbert and Perl challenge the wishful thinking that underpins transport planning all around the world in a way that is impossible to ignore. This book should be on the desk of every transport minister's chief policy adviser."

John Adams, Emeritus Professor of Geography, University College London

"A terrific book! Gilbert and Perl present the case for revolutionary change in transportation over the next two decades and spell out the policy options before us, illuminating the consequences of the paths we may choose... This book deserves to be read, debated, and recommended to others."

Elizabeth Deakin, Professor of City Planning and Director, Transportation Center, University of California

"*Transport Revolutions* provides a unique and valuable perspective on the future of transport. Scholars and others who read this book will find it very illuminating."

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"This remarkably timely, optimistic, and practical book is about transitioning painlessly in two stages to an oil-depleted world, so that 50 years from now people and goods can still move around freely. Gilbert and Perl have assembled, digested, and integrated a staggering amount of information, and they describe the revolutions ahead in clear, readable prose."

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"The authors' analysis of solutions to the transportation dilemmas facing us in an era of diminished hydrocarbon availability is absolutely fundamental reading for all of us but particularly for policy makers who can make a difference. If policy makers ignore this book it is at our peril."

Dave Hughes, Senior Geoscientist and Energy Analyst, Geological Survey of Canada

*Transport Revolutions: Moving People and Freight without Oil* sets out the challenges to our growing dependence on transport fuelled by low-priced oil. These challenges include an early peak in world oil production and profound climate change resulting in part from oil use. It proposes responses to ensure effective, secure movement of people and goods in ways that make the best use of renewable sources of energy while minimizing environmental impacts.

*Transport Revolutions* synthesizes engineering, economics, environment, organization, policy and technology, and draws extensively on current data to present important conclusions. The authors argue that land transport in the first half of the 21st century will feature at least two revolutions. One will involve the use of electric drives rather than internal combustion engines. Another will involve powering many of these drives directly from the electric grid – as trams and trolley buses are powered today – rather than from on-board fuel. They go on to discuss marine transport, whose future is less clear, and aviation, which could see the most dramatic breaks from current practice.

With its expert analysis of the politics and business of transport, *Transport Revolutions* is essential reading for professionals and students in transport, energy, town planning and public policy.

Richard Gilbert is a Toronto-based consultant who focuses on transport and energy issues, with recent public- and private-sector clients in North America, Europe and Asia. Anthony Perl is a Professor of Political Science and Urban Studies at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, where he directs the Urban Studies Program.

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