

THE SOCIAL RIGHT TO MOBILITY AS PUBLIC POLICY: THE CASE OF MEXICO'S GUADALAJARA METROPOLITAN AREA

Mario Córdova España*

ABSTRACT: The scattered urban expansion and the proliferation of private automobiles in the Guadalajara Metropolitan Area (GMA) have created several landscapes of profound inequality. The possibilities to access the city and its services have decreased for people with lesser resources. It is necessary to implement public policies that address mobility as a Social Right, through better urban planning and improving public transport systems. Currently, at state level, several projects are being developed in favor of public transportation and non-motorized mobility. These projects make a considerable contribution to the development of a city that is more accessible and equal for all. However, there is still much to be done in consolidating a change of vision from a mobility model based on automobiles, to one based on the mobility of people.

KEYWORDS: Social Right to Mobility, Public Transport, Accessibility.

A MORE URBAN WORLD

More than half of the world population currently lives in urban areas. According to the United Nations (UN), this number will grow to almost 70% by 2050. In 1990, there were 10 megacities¹ in the world. In 2014, there were already 28 which, altogether, reached a population of 453 inhabitants (ONU HABITAT, 2014).

Up until 2014, the Latin American and Caribbean region concentrated 13% of the world urban population and harbored 4 of the world's 28 megacities: the Valley of Mexico Metropolitan Area (VMMA), Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires and

* PhD in Cities, Territories and Sustainability by the Universidad de Guadalajara. He has an extensive academic and professional career in architecture, urbanism, mobility, metropolis and sustainability. He is a professor at the master's degree and doctorate studies in Urban Mobility, Transport and Territory in Universidad de Guadalajara. Email: mcordova920@me.com

¹ According to UN-Habitat, a "megacity" is an urban area with a population of 20 million or more. From http://www.un.org/spanish/waterforlifedecade/water_cities.shtml