

*Governments should spend money on railways rather than roads. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the statement?*

It is now widely debated whether governments should invest more money in roads than in railways. Some claim that road networks are far more effective and convenient for public transport. However, I do not agree with the opinion for the following reasons.

Admittedly, it is true that building road networks costs less investment from governments compared with building railways. This is because railway construction is a system that includes building railway networks, stations and trains, which consumes a budget many governments cannot afford. Nonetheless, driving cars on roads provides very low efficiency for public transport, despite less money invested. To be specific, the cost of delivering goods per kilometer by vehicles is usually several times higher than by trains.

On the other hand, it is obviously beneficial to environmental protection that governments invest in railways. For example, Chinese fast train systems produce low emission of carbon dioxide, an achievement beyond imagination by road transportation. In contrast, private cars cause serious air pollution but governments can do nothing but tax drivers more. In addition, development of railways and trains boosts advance of technology, especially in the fields of material, engineering and computer science, which is also one of responsibilities of governments. For instance, benefiting from the advanced techniques of automation, Chinese fast trains can run so smoothly that passengers almost feel like sitting on sofa at home. Hence, money spent on railways equals investment in promotion of technology.

Therefore, although building roads costs less money from governments, it is worthwhile for them to invest more in railways. By doing so we can make sure that environment will be protected and technology will be promoted in the meantime.

是否政府应该把更多的钱投资在公路上而不是铁路上，这一点现在被广泛地辩论。一些人声称公路网对公共交通更有效、更方便得多。但是，因为下列原因，我不同意这种看法。

诚然，与修建铁路相比，修建公路网花费政府更少的投资，这一点是真的。这是因为铁路建设是一个系统，这个系统包括建设铁路网、车站和火车，而这消耗许多政府不能负担的预算。然而，尽管被投入的资金较少，在公路上驾驶汽车为公共交通提供非常低的效率。具体来说，机动车辆每公里运送货物的成本通常比火车高几倍。

另一方面，政府投资铁路显然有利于环境保护。例如，中国的快速列车系统产生很低的二氧化碳排放量，这是通过公路运输无法想象的一项成就。相比之下，私家车造成了严重的空气污染，但政府除了对司机征收更多的税之外什么也不能做。此外，铁路和火车的发展促进了技术的进步，特别是在材料、工程和计算机科学领域，而这也是政府的职责之一。例如，得益于先进的自动化技术，中国的快速列车可以运行得如此平稳，以至于乘客几乎感觉像坐在家里的沙发上。因此，花在铁路上的钱等于在技术推广上的投资。

因此，尽管修建公路花费政府较少的资金，但政府更多地投资在铁路还是值得的。通过这样做，我们可以确保环境将被保护，同时技术将得到推广。