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Summary

The main purpose of the article is to show the importance of the cities, and how we formulate them, for the future of mankind. Peter Calthorpe presents seven principles adopted by the Chinese government, that could be globally used to make better cities, in order to prevent the problems of sprawl. The first principle is to preserve the natural environment, the history and the critical agriculture. Second is mixed incomes, mixed age groups as well as mixed-land uses. Third is walk, designing the cities for walking through them. Four is ride, the bicycle is the most efficient means of transport we know. Five, connect. Street networks that allows many routes instead of singular routes and provides many kinds of streets instead of just one. Six, investment in public transport. And seven, paradigm shift, from a hierarchy of the city based on an old armature of freeways to a city based on transit (all kinds of transit). These changes are well accepted in China and the United States. Finally, the presentation concludes with a very important conclusion: "The real bottom line is that walking, biking and transit are the way cities and communities thrive".

In my opinion, I think we need to decide as a society the kind of cities we want in the future: enormous highways with a huge number of cars, with only one passenger in each one, static with continuous traffic jams, or dynamic cities, with a variety of transport solutions, more friendly and less isolated for the people. Nowadays, we can see how people is reconnecting with different kinds of transport, instead of the private car or the public systems (like bus and taxis). Bicycles, skates, or just walking, make the people connect with the spaces they transit, giving them new meanings and helping to stablish stronger relationships with the community.