I firmly believe that urban areas should convert more roads into car-free zones. It is of crucial matter that we cut global emissions and encour age climate action, even if it’s a small step like walking or cycling. People with asthma will be caused irritation from the particles cars release, and will therefore benefit from the removal of some cars. In addition, communities will be happier and satisfied, instead of gloomy and monotonous.

Firstly, urban areas should convert more roads into car-free zones, prioritizing pedestrians and cyclists, as it will cut carbon emissions. Copenhagen’s transformation of 33% of its central roads into pedestrian zones has reduced carbon emissions by 42% while increasing retail revenue by 30% in those areas. With rising global temperatures, walking and cycling has become more common and accessible, in hopes of changing local climatic conditions. Having more pedestrians and cyclists is crucial in order to avoid increased uptake and use of vehicles. Improving the convenience of walking and cycling means that citizens continue their healthy, safe and carbon-free mobility.

Secondly, urban areas should convert more roads into car-free zones, prioritizing pedestrians and cyclists, as it prevent illness in patients of critical care. Dr Elana Mikhailova, leading urban respirtory specialist, walks thrugh hospital wards filled wiyth children wheezing from asthma attacks triggered by vehicular pollution, their small bodies fighting for each breath. Asthma is common in urban areas. The rate of and deaths among children with asthma in urban areas is higher than suburban or rural areas. Why is this? People living in urban areas face environmental allergens and irritants that trigger asthma, such as nitric oxide and black carbon, which is released from cars.

Finally, urban areas should convert more roads into car-free zones, prioritizing pedestrians and cyclists, will support communities with happiness and fufillment. When Barcelona implemented its ‘superblocks’- nine hour block areas where traffic is restricted to residents only- the transformation was nothing short of revelatory. Where once children clutched inhalers with white-knuckled grips, they now play freely, their laughter replacing honking horns and the revving of engines. Why are we suddenly so happy? Because there is a threshold effect of car dependence on life satisfaction. Using a car for over 50% of out-of-home activities lowers life satisfaction, and we could fix that.

In conclusion, a future with much lower traffic will bring many additional benefits for medical, social, and environmental sustainability. Asthma attacks will be uncommon, climate change impacts will be reduced, and we will get to live in a more beautiful and relaxing world.