Project Example in Colombia

**Project Summary:**

**Purpose:** To reduce carbon emissions and transform public transportation efficiency

**Project approval date:** 2009

**IBRD Financing:** US$300 million

**Project ID:** P114325

**Mitigation:** Lower carbon urban transport

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**Colombia Integrated Mass Transit System**

75% of Colombia's population currently lives in cities and most of these urban residents rely entirely on the public transportation system. Yet, public transportation is the cause of many of these cities' problems, including serious traffic congestion, high incidences of accidents and crime, unhealthy air, and pollutants responsible for 62% of Colombia's carbon emissions.

In 1998, the Colombian government began modernizing its transit system by developing a rapid bus system called *Transmilenio* in Bogota. Funded by the World Bank through the Bogota Urban Transport Project, the *Transmilenio* soon became an internationally recognized model for efficiency, improved speed, safety, and reduced urban traffic.

The Colombian government and the World Bank are continuing to work together through the World Bank-funded Integrated Mass Transit Systems Second Additional Financing Project. It is designed replicated the success of *Transmilenio*, improve transport efficiency and accessibility, reduce fuel use per kilometer, as well as pollutant emissions. Old buses are being retired and replaced with new fuel efficient ones. The government continues to see this new transit system as an important contributor to climate change mitigation and is analyzing how further improvements to urban transport systems can contribute to reducing Colombia's carbon footprint.

The *Transmilenio* program has been registered under the Clean Development Mechanism to deliver carbon credits. It is projected to result in reductions of 246,560 metric tons of CO$_2$eq emissions per year.

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*Video:* [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZHncLy1w30&feature=plcp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZHncLy1w30&feature=plcp)