

Supplementary material

Table S1. Demographics (%)

	Residents of Turku	All Respondents (T1)	Participants
Gender			
Men	47	46	55
Women	53	54	45
Age			
15-29	30	16	21
30-44	25	18	30
45-59	20	19	21
60-79	25	46	28
Education			
Basic education	20	8	3
Secondary education	51	43	24
Tertiary education	28	49	73
N	156199	2462	171

Table S2. News headlines

<p>Research: Private motoring is mere expenditure – this is how much cycling and walking benefit the society. According to a recent study, cycling traffic generates 24 billion, and walking 66 billion worth of profit in the EU annually. (Against, 37 words)</p>
<p>The amount of emissions is the sum of many factors – Private motoring is partly blamed pointlessly. Private motoring does not generate more emissions than public transport per kilometre, when comparing travelled kilometres. The situation would be different if buses and trains were full of passenger at all hours and when travelling to both directions of their routes. (For, 57 words)</p>
<p>Opinion: Sitra’s climate report wants to end free-time private motoring – goodbye to weekend trips to the cabin. According to Sitra’s calculations, ending free-time private motoring would reduce the individual person’s so called carbon footprint annually as much as by becoming vegan or by using wind power. (Against, 46 words)</p>
<p>What’s the point of driving cars? Especially in urban areas, private motoring is considered an indispensable form of transport. Kansan liike studies what could be done about private motoring that harms the environment, your health and wallet – and finds several concrete solutions. (Against, 42 words)</p>
<p>Together for car use in Satakunta – “Our province won’t grow and progress if the cost of car use just keeps on rising.” Car use is expensive and seems to get more so. Car use is also the favourite child of the taxman that is used when money is needed. The justification for car taxation is often environmental factors. (For, 58 words)</p>
<p>There are many reasons why private motoring would be banned if it were invented now. Private motoring is harmful in many ways but is hard to restrict since it is the people’s right. Volvo has predicted that car use will become the chore of professional drivers, at least in cities, because privately owned cars are noisy and polluting. (Against, 58 words)</p>
<p>Only a few people make do in the countryside without their own car. Having one car per household is almost a must in small rural towns. The distances between towns alone are long. Work, hobbies and other everyday needs of families necessitate flexible transport. Alongside practical reasons, preferences speak for private motoring. (For, 52 words)</p>
<p>Comment: Think-tank spouted nonsense – objectors of private motoring forget many facts. In a sparsely populated country like Finland, private motoring is practically the only possible form of transport for about three million citizens, if we imagine that the rest two and a half million people happen to live in cities and work during office hours. (For, 55 words)</p>

Knowledge questions (correct answers are marked in bold)

Issue knowledge

- 1) Which is the most popular mode of transportation among the citizens of Turku? [Walking; Cycling; **Private car**; Public transportation; Don't know]
- 2) The city of Turku has a goal that the combined share of public transport, walking and cycling by Turku residents should increase by 2030. How big is the target percentage? [**Two thirds**; Half; A third; There is no exact goal; Don't know]
- 3) What is a master plan? [A plan to measure population growth; A guidance for municipalities to evaluate traffic amounts; **An overall plan for land use in a municipality**; A detailed plan for regulating, for example, the location of buildings, their size and use; Don't know]
- 4) Which of the following sectors causes the most greenhouse gas emissions in Finland? [Industry and construction; **Energy production**; Domestic transportations; Farming; Don't know]
- 5) Which body is mainly in charge of transportation system planning in Turku? [Constructions and construction permit municipal committee; **City environment municipal committee**; Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment of Finland proper; Regional State Administrative Agency for Southwestern Finland; Don't know]
- 6) Who of the following are not allowed to travel for free in local buses in Turku? [A child less than 7 years with a passenger who pays; **Every citizen of Turku who is over 80 years old**; A passenger with pushchair or baby carriage; Don't know]

General political knowledge

- 1) Who is the Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade in the current government? [**Ville Skinnari**; Katri Kulmuni; Pekka Haavisto; Anne-Mari Virolainen; Don't know]
- 2) Which groups are entitled to vote in the Finnish general elections? [All Finnish citizens of legal age and those EU citizens who have a permanent resident in Finland; All Finnish citizens of legal age who do not have a double citizenship; **All Finnish citizens of legal age**; Don't know]
- 3) Which is the second largest party when measured by seats in the parliament? [National Coalition Party; Social Democratic Party; **Finns Party**; Centre Party; Don't know]

Figure S1. Private cars opinion and confirmation bias before and after deliberation.
Dots are weighted according to the number of observations with the same pair of values.
A quadratic fit used to plot the data with a curved line, accompanied by 95% confidence intervals.

