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The Political Economy of Transport Decision Making

My lecture starts with an overview of different political economy models available in the literature. Then we apply some of these models to analyze the political economy underlying a number of specific problems. First, we study how the political system affects the allocation of funds in countries with elected representatives from different districts. Second, we develop models that explain why some socially desirable policies (for example, pricing policies to deal with transport externalities, such as road pricing and cordon charges in cities) have not more often been implemented. Third, we study how voter attention has shaped transport decisions over the last few decades. Finally, we study to what extents transport policy decisions can be decentralized in a democratic country with multiple jurisdictions.