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work time annually—nearly a full workweek for every commuter. The overall cost to the U.S. economy is nearly \$90 billion when lost productivity and wasted fuel are taken into account. At the Martin Prosperity Institute, we calculate that every minute shaved off America's commuting time is worth \$19.5 billion in value added to the economy. The numbers add up fast: five minutes is worth \$97.7 billion; ten minutes, \$195 billion; fifteen minutes, \$292 billion.

It's ironic that so many people still believe the main remedy for traffic congestion is to build more roads and highways, which of course only makes the problem worse. New roads generate higher levels of "induced traffic," that is, new roads just invite drivers to drive more and lure people who take mass transit back to their cars. Eventually, we end up with more clogged roads rather than a long-term improvement in traffic flow.

The coming decades will likely see more intense clustering of jobs, innovation, and productivity in a smaller number of bigger cities and city-regions. Some regions could end up bloated beyond the capacity of their infrastructure, while others struggle, their promise stymied by inadequate human or other resources.

The Most Congested Cities in 2011
Yearly Hours of Delay per Automobile Commuter

80

QUESTION 1 OF 5

The passage most strongly suggests that researchers at the Martin Prosperity Institute share which assumption?

- A Employees who work from home are more valuable to their employers than employees who commute.
- B Employees whose commutes are shortened will use the time saved to do additional productive work for their employers.
- C Employees can conduct business activities, such as composing memos or joining conference calls, while commuting.
- D Employees who have lengthy commutes tend to make more money than employees who have shorter commutes.

QUESTION 2 OF 5

As used in line 51, "intense" most nearly means



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