

Syllabus (Draft)
PUBP 718
Transportation Planning and Policy
Spring 2009

Instructor:	John McClain, AICP, Senior Fellow and Deputy Director, Center for Regional Analysis, School of Public Policy	
Contact Information:	Tel: 703-993-2401 E-m: jmcclai5@gmu.edu	
Office Hours:	3:00 – 4:15 Thursdays, or by appointment	
Course Purpose:	This course is designed to introduce the student to transportation planning and policy – trends, issues, and tools.	
Textbook/Readings:	Hanson, Susan (2004) The Geography of Transportation, ISBN: 1593850557 Other selected readings	
Grading:	Midterm	25%
	Final	25%
	Participation	50%

Classes will generally proceed as follows: The first part of the class will involve discussion and presentation of case studies on the topic from the previous week. Each student will be assigned an issue (See ISSUES below) and required to collect a case study and present as part of the discussion on that topic. Case studies should be sent to the class list on the Monday of the week for which the discussion will occur. All students are required to read the case study and participate in discussions.

The second part of each class will involve a lecture on the topic assigned for the day.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Week 1 (1/22)
Introduction and Historical Perspectives
Divided Highways (video)

Week 2 (1/29)

Introductory Concepts and Issues, Transportation Resources
Hanson, Chapters 1-2

Week 3 (2/5)

Guest Lecturer – Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning, National Capital
Region Transportation Planning Board

Week 4 (2/12)

The Transportation Sector: Overview and Trends, Managing the Auto
Hanson, Chapters 3 and 14

ISSUE 1: Can and should congestion pricing and/or HOT lanes be used to manage
congestion?

Week 5 (2/19)

Impact of Information Technologies and Intelligent Transportation Systems
Hanson, Chapter 4

ISSUE 2: Can and should teleworking/telecommuting be used to manage
congestion?

ISSUE 3: Is the application of advanced technologies to transportation always
beneficial to the traveler or society?

Week 6 (2/26)

Public Transportation
Hanson, Chapter 8

ISSUE 4: Should the government continue to subsidize public transportation? Is
there a role for the private sector?

Week 7 (3/5)

(Midterm handed out)

Land use and Transportation
Hanson, Chapter 9

ISSUE 5: Can and should land use policies be used to manage transportation
problems?

ISSUE 6: Can and should transportation plans be used to manage sprawl?

Week 8 (3/12)

Spring Break

Week 9 (3/19)

Critical Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security

ISSUE 7: Should all transportation systems be categorized as “critical infrastructure”
and if not, how should criticality be defined and transportation systems classified?

ISSUE 8: Should homeland security as related to transportation be a local, state, or
federal responsibility?

Week 10 (3/26)
Geographic Information Systems
Hanson, Chapter 7

Week 11 (4/2)
Travel Demand Modeling
Hanson, Chapter 5

Week 12 (4/9)
ISSUE 9: Should we do long-term forecasting for transportation planning?
Travel Demand Management – Guest Lecturer

Week 13 (4/16)
Special Topics

Week 14 (4/23)
Special Topics

Week 15 (4/30) (Final handed out)
Special Topics