

11.953

Introductory Assignment: Observe and Think

Due: Session 3

Explore the land use-transportation interaction in your neighborhood.

In particular, try to answer the following questions:

1. Would you define your “neighborhood” by physical, social, economic, other characteristics, or some combination?
2. How do you think transportation infrastructure and services have or have not influenced the physical evolution of your neighborhood?
3. What are the relevant physical characteristics of your neighborhood that might influence individual/household travel behavior? How would you measure them?
4. How do you think these physical characteristics actually do influence travel behavior in your neighborhood?
5. What other characteristics influence travel behavior in your neighborhood?
6. What do you think might be the influence of transportation on development of your neighborhood over the next 15 years?
7. Do you have any other relevant observations?

You do not need to refer to any readings for this assignment. You should explore your neighborhood by foot, by map, and by mind.

Answer each of the above questions in a maximum of two pages; one brief paragraph on each point will suffice.