

PLAN 738 Transportation Policy

Spring 2019, Hanes Art Center 116, Wednesday 4:00-6:30 pm

Instructor: Allie Thomas

Office: New East 206

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-4:00 pm sign up at: <https://alliethomas.youcanbook.me> or after class.

Email: alainna@ad.unc.edu Please use "PLAN 738" in the subject of your email

Course website: sakai.unc.edu

DESCRIPTION

This is a core course in transportation planning and policy at UNC Chapel Hill. This course engages a number of topics within the policy realm, and transportation equity is an underlying theme throughout the course. While many of the topics discussed may have been broached in other transportation planning courses, this course aims to take a deeper look at the policy debates surrounding these topics. Because we will focus on a diverse number of issues, the class will have guest speakers. The course is divided into four parts. *Part one – Overview US Transportation policy and the role of equity; Part Two: Travel Demand Management Policies; Part Three –Financing transportation infrastructure; and Part 4: Policy and Project Evaluation Tools.* Each part of the course builds upon the other. **Prerequisite:** PLAN 636 or permission from the instructor.

OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective of this course is to expose students to contemporary transportation policy discussions, debates and methods.

Students will learn not only from the US experience but the experiences of many countries in areas such as:

- Approaches to Equity and Accessibility
- Transportation's role in local/regional economic development
- Local Responses to new transportation modes/technologies
- Evaluation of transportation investments
- Transportation Governance
- Transportation externalities of land use policies
- Environmental Justice and Climate Change

FORMAT

This course requires active student participation and is writing intensive. This is a seminar style course with student-led discussions along with traditional style lectures. Because we meet once a week, the classes are information heavy and you are strongly encouraged to attend and come prepared with both your writing and readings completed.

The assignments for this class are aimed to strengthen writing, analytical skills, and presentation skills. They include both individual assignments and group work, mimicking how planners work in the real world. Guest lecturers will provide real life experiences on how national/regional/local policies affect the way they work. Guest lecturers from the transportation field will include representatives from DCHC-MPO, Fehr and Peers, and NCDOT. (Dates are still to be confirmed.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATE	% OF TOTAL
1. Assignment 1: Individual Op-Ed (Draft; Final)	Draft 2/6; Final 2/27	30%
2. Assignment 2: Group Report + Presentation	Report 2/20; Presentation 2/27	15%
3. Assignment 3: Group Report + Presentation	3/27	15%
4. Assignment 4: Individual Report	4/24	30%
5. Lead Discussion	varies	5%
6. Weekly Icebreakers (Attendance + Participation)	Weekly in class	5%

Note: Throughout the course, your suggestions for additions and/or changes to readings, guest lecturers, other media (podcasts, documentaries, and the like) are welcome.

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Individual Assignment I:** Op-Ed (Draft; Final): 800-1,000 word, well-researched transportation Policy/Project of your choice. Describe equity impacts. I will provide lots of feedback on draft, which is ungraded.
2. **Group Assignment I:** Analyze a transit agency (assigned). Present in Pecha Kucha style –5 minutes timed; images/little text.
3. **Group Assignment II:** Assessment of TDM policy/projects. International vs. US. + 10 minute presentation.
4. **Individual Assignment II:** Short Memo-Professional Quality Report to City of Durham or Chapel Hill. Recommendation on a specific policy. City will be assigned.
5. **Lead Discussion:** You and another student will lead discussion. Sum up readings. Provide discussion q's. respond to Icebreakers. Sign-up sheet via Sakai.
6. **Weekly Icebreaker:** short (1/3 of a page at most!) weekly responses to two readings. Make copies for everyone in class. We read together and then discuss. These can be snarky or serious.

TOPICS COVERED AT-A-GLANCE

Part I. Overview of Transportation Policy & the Role of Equity			
1	9-Jan	Course Introduction and Overview Introduction to Course. Overview of Major Transportation Policies. Framing of the course--Transportation as social policy.	Assignment 1 and 2 handed out; sign up for leading discussion.
2	16-Jan	Transportation Inequity	
3	23-Jan	Community Participation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations	
4	30-Jan	Transportation and Economic Opportunity—Regional and Local Responses	
5	6-Feb	Guest Speakers: Margaret Scully and Aaron Cain, DCHC-MPO/Climate Change & Transportation	Assignment 1 draft due Assignment 3 handed out
Part 2. Travel Demand Management Policies			
6	13-Feb	Climate Change & Transportation/ Parking	Assignment 1 draft returned in class
7	20-Feb	Congestion Pricing, Part 1 <i>We'll split the readings across the two weeks because of assignments that are due</i>	Assignment 2 MPO Analysis Reports due Assignment 4 handed out.
8	27-Feb	Congestion Pricing, Part 2	Assignment 1 Op-Ed Final due. Assignment 2 MPO Analysis Presentations due.
9	6-Mar	Technology and Travel Behavior (*Jesse Cohn, Fehr & Peers, Equity Initiative)	
10	13-Mar	SPRING BREAK	
11	20-Mar	Bus vs. Light Rail	
Part 3. Transportation Finance			
12	27-Mar	Reports & Presentations Transportation Finance/Guest Speaker NCDOT Jamal Alavi, Director, Transportation Planning Division** (or April 3)	Assignment 3 Report and Presentation due
13	3-April	Transportation Finance, pt. 2	
Part 4. Policy and Project Evaluation			
14	10-April	Critiques of Evaluation Tools	
15	17-April	Evaluation Tools—In Class Exercises	
16	24-April	Transportation-themed Movie/ Last Class/Wrap Up	Assignment 4 due

OTHER ACADEMIC BUSINESS

Late Assignments

Assignments are marked down 20% per day it is late. I provide enough time for each assignment.

IF YOU HAVE A MEDICAL OR PERSONAL EMERGENCY, LET ME KNOW ASAP.

My purpose is to help you to excel in this learning environment. Should you need further assistance beyond my help, please consult the following on-campus resources:

The Writing Center: <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/>

Academic Success Program (for students with learning disabilities (LD) and/or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD): <http://www.unc.edu/depts/lds/>

Learning Center: <http://www.unc.edu/depts/acadserv/learn.html>

Counseling and Wellness Services: <http://campushealth.unc.edu>

Honor code

The UNC honor Code states: "It shall be the responsibility of every student at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obey and to support the enforcement of the honor code, which prohibits lying, cheating, or stealing when these actions involve academic processes or University, student or academic personnel acting in an official capacity."

We are committed to treating Honor Code violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at <http://honor.unc.edu/honor/code.html> If you have questions it is your responsibility to ask the professor about the Code's application. All written work, and other projects must be submitted with a signature that you have complied with the requirements of the Honor Code in all aspects of the submitted work.

Absences

Students are permitted to miss class for EXCUSABLE absences only (for details about what an excused absence is, see UNC-Chapel Hill's attendance policy below). If a student has unexcused absences, their attendance and participation grade will be affected. [Basically, attendance is required.] http://www.unc.edu/ugradbulletin/procedures1.html#class_attendance

Laptops and cell phones

Please turn off your cellphones before entering class. If you must have your phone on during class because of an extraordinary circumstance, please let me know beforehand. Laptops are permissible only for classroom purposes. You must turn off all other programs including web browsers, emails, instant messaging, etc. If laptops are used for anything other than taking notes, I will ask you stop using your laptop during class time.

Disability

If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you may need to contact the Academic Services office that houses the Academic Success Program for coordination in your academic accommodations. Please contact me to discuss any accommodations that may be required to satisfy your needs.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

1. All materials are posted on Sakai under the corresponding week.
2. If you are new to transportation policy, review PLAN 636 syllabus. A good textbook is *The Geography of Urban Transportation (3rd or 4th Edition)*, available at the Undergrad Library Reserves (24 hour loan period).

WEEKLY READINGS AND TOPICS

All course readings should be completed before class. I use a variety of readings to discuss policy, including online articles, videos, podcasts, etc. We will also do in-class readings as well. There is a method to my madness!

Part I: Transportation Policy and Equity

Week 1 January 9: Course introduction and Overview

Overview of the course. The current venues for public policy debates. Feedback on the syllabus.

***Sign up to lead discussion on Sakai. Assignments 1+2 handed out.

Lucas, K. (2004-10-13). "Locating transport as a social policy problem" In *Running on empty: Transport, social exclusion and environmental justice*: Policy Press.

<http://policy.press.universitypressscholarship.com.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/view/10.1332/policypress/9781861345707.001.0001/upso-9781861345707-chapter-2>

In class discussion materials and handout/ How public policy is made or influenced/role of op-eds:

Trickey, E. "They're Bold and Fresh': The Millennials Disrupting Boston's Transit System: Armed with data and outside-the-box ideas, TransitMatters is redefining citizen engagement." *Politico*

October 25, 2018 <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/10/25/what-works-boston-transit-221839>

Aloisi, J. Shutdown process costly for the T Tab for well-meaning gesture may be \$3.8m a year. *Commonwealth Magazine*

9/15/2016 <https://commonwealthmagazine.org/transportation/shutdown-process-costly-for-the-t/>

Supplemental Reading

John Urry, "The 'System' of Automobility," *Theory, Culture & Society* 2004, Vol. 21, No. 4–5, pp.25–39

Week 2 January 16: Transportation Inequity. How it is defined. Its ubiquity. How far have we come?

Rosenbloom, S and Altshuler, A. "Equity issues in urban transportation", *Policy Studies Journal*, 1977 - Wiley Online Library.

Bullard, R. (2003-2004). "Addressing Urban Transportation Equity in the United States" *Fordham Urban Law Journal*, 31, 1183-1210.

Lee, R., Ipek N.S., and S. Nathan Jones. "Understanding the role of equity in active transportation planning in the United States" *Transport Reviews*, 31(2),211-226.

"Chapter 2: Accessibility and the purpose of cities" By Reid Ewing, Keith Bartholomew, Alexander Barton, Allison Spain, Pratiti Tagore in *Metropolitan Transportation Planning: New advances, Approaches, and Best Practices*

Access online: <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/9781351211345/chapters/10.4324/9781351211345-2>

In class reading/ Wachs, Bikes and Political pressure

Week 3, January 23 Regional Planning. Community Participation.

Community engagement. The role of the MPOs and regional transportation policy.

Gian-Claudia Sciara (2017) "Metropolitan Transportation Planning: Lessons From the Past, Institutions for the Future", *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 83:3,262-276.

Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHCMPO). *Comprehensive Transportation Plan*, November 2017. **Read Executive Summary, Recommendations pp. 2-2 to 2-11; 2-98-2-99.**

Sutcliffe, J. and Cipkar, S. (2017) "Citizen Participation in the Public Transportation Policy Process: A Comparison of Detroit, Michigan, and Hamilton, Ontario" *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*. Winter 26:2, 33-51.

Rietveld, P. & Stough, R. (2004): Institutions, regulations and sustainable transport: a cross-national perspective, *Transport Reviews*, 24:6, 707-719

Arnstein, Sherry. 1969. "A Ladder of Citizen Participation," *Journal of the American Institute of Planners* 35:4 (July), 216-223. *Skim/review or read if this is your first time seeing this.*

Supplemental Reading

Handy, Susan, Barbara McCann, Linda Bailey, Michelle Ernst, Lanier McRee, Emily Meharg, Reid Ewing, and Kate Wright. 2009. Regional Response to Federal Funding for Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects. UCD-ITS-RR-09-15, Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California, Davis. 202 pages. http://pubs.its.ucdavis.edu/publication_detail.php?id=1304.

Week 4, January 30 Transportation and Economic Opportunity—Regional and Local Responses

"Cities: If You Want to Be Considered for Amazon's HQ2--or Just Be a Nice Place to Live--Invest in This It's one thing Jeff Bezos seems to care about a lot." <https://www.inc.com/minda-zetlin/amazon-seattle-public-transit-h2q-headquarters-cities-short-list.html> (7/31/2018)

Laura Bliss, "Amazon's HQ2 Decision Was Always About Transit" (11/20/2018) <https://www.citylab.com/transportation/2018/11/amazon-hq2-chose-transit-new-york-dc-subway-metro-mta/575932/>

Taylor, Brian D. and Kelly Samples. 2002. "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs: Political Perceptions, Economic Reality, and Capital Bias in U.S. Transit Subsidy Policy," *Public Works Management & Policy Journal*, 6(4): 250–263.

Loveless, Shirley M. 2006. "Sharing the Wealth: Case study of Targeting Transportation Funding to Economic Development in Low-Income Communities," *Transportation Research Record*, No. 1960: 23–31.

Blumenberg, E., & Manville, M. (2004). Beyond the Spatial Mismatch: Welfare Recipients and Transportation Policy. *Journal of Planning Literature*, 19(2), 182–205. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0885412204269103>

Week 5 February 6, Guest speakers from DCHC-MPO/Climate Change and Transportation

Assignment 1 draft Op-Ed due.

Downs, A. Downs, Anthony. (1972). Up and down with ecology: The issue attention cycle. *Public Interest* 28: 38-50.

Bae, Chang-Hee Christine Bae, "Chapter 13: Transportation and the Environment" in *The Geography of Urban Transportation, Third Edition*.

Supplemental

Lisa Schweitzer & Jiangping Zhou (2010): Neighborhood Air Quality, Respiratory Health, and Vulnerable Populations in Compact and Sprawled Regions, *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 76:3, 363-371

US Department of Transportation John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (2014) Statewide Transportation Planning for Healthy Communities.

Part 2. Travel Demand Management Policies

Week 6 February 13 Climate Change and Transportation/ Parking—Transportation and Land Use Connection

Assignment 1 draft returned.

Littman, T. "Why manage transportation demand?" TDM Encyclopedia. Victoria Transport Policy Institute <https://www.vtpi.org/tm/tm51.htm>

Shoup, D. C. (1997). The High Cost of Free Parking—Chapter 18: Let Prices do the Planning; Ch.

Mackie, P. (Producer). (2017). Vox Mobility Lab video: The high cost of free parking. [Video] Retrieved from <https://mobilitylab.org/2017/07/19/voxmobility-lab-video-high-cost-free-parking/--short> video of Shoup breaking down parking policy.

Southworth and Ben-Aren. "Chapter 4: Bureaucracy Takes Control, The Institutionalization of Standards" in *Streets and the Shaping of Towns and Cities*. Island Press, 2003.

Agarwal, O.P. *Mayoral Guidance Note No.4*. "Toward Sustainable and Energy Efficient Urban Transport" Energy Sector Management Assistance Program, The World Bank. September 2014.

Committee for the Study on Relationship among Development patterns, Vehicle Miles Traveled, and Energy Consumption, Transportation Research Board (2009). TRB Special Report 298: "Driving and the Built Environment: The effects of compact development on motorized travel, energy use, and CO2 emissions".

Week 7 February 20 Congestion pricing

**Assignment 2 Reports due; Assignment #4 handed out.

Taylor, B. (2010). How Fair is Road Pricing? Evaluating Equity in Transportation Pricing and Finance. A report for the National Transportation Policy Project, Washington DC.

London Case Study.

Week 8 February 27: Congestion pricing, Part 2

***Assignment 1 Final Op-Ed Due. Assignment #2 Presentations.

King, D., Michael Manville, and Donald Shoup (2007). For Whom the Road Tolls: The Politics of Congestion Pricing. *Access Special Issue, 2014, pp. 24-29*

WIP/Week 9 March 6: Technology, Travel Behavior, and Equity ** [I'm going to a few sessions on this topic at TRB; will update by 1/18/19]

Guest speaker: Jesse Cohn, Transportation Planning Consultant, Fehr and Peers; leads F&P's Equity Initiative (<http://fehrandpeers.com/equity>)

**TRB Paper 2019: "Examining the Equity Impacts of Autonomous Vehicles: A Travel Demand Model Approach", Cohn, et. al

Can New Transportation Technologies Improve Equity and Access?" by the Center for American Progress

Travel Behavior: Shared Mobility and Equity, USDOT/Federal Highway Administration, Read: Executive Summary and Chapters 1-2.

Reed, Rachel (2017) "Disability Rights in the Age Of Uber: Applying the Americans With Disabilities Act Of 1990 To Transportation Network Companies," *Georgia State University Law Review*: Vol. 33 : Iss. 2 , Article 7. (Read: Part 1; only up to p. 528)

Dickerson, et al (2017) "Transportation and Aging: An Updated Research Agenda for Advancing Safe Mobility" *Journal of Applied Gerontology* Vol.0, Iss.0, pp. 1-19.

Coughlin, J. and Lacombe, A. "Ten Myths about Transportation for the Elderly", *Transportation Quarterly*, Vol 51, No. 1, Winter 1997 (91-100)

Can New Transportation Technologies Improve Equity and Access?" by the Center for American Progress

Week 10 March 13 SPRING BREAK

Week 11 March 20: Public Transit vs Light Rail

Hess, Daniel Baldwin, Brian D. Taylor, and Allison Yoh. 2006. "Light-Rail-Lite or Cost-Effective Improvements to Bus Service? Evaluating Costs of Implementing Bus Rapid Transit," *Journal of the Transportation Research Board*, 1927: 22-30.

Richmond, Jonathan E.D. 1998. "The Mythical Conception of Rail Transit in Los Angeles, *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research*, 15(4): 294-320.

Rubin, Thomas A., James E. Moore II, and Shin Lee. 1999. "Ten Myths About U.S. Urban Rail Systems," *Transport Policy*, 6: 57-73.

Stanger, Richard. 2000. "Influence of the Rail Program on Bus Transit in Los Angeles," *Journal of Public Transportation*, 3(2): 1-17.

Part III. Financing Transportation Infrastructure

Week 12 March 27: Assignment 3 Group Presentations/Transportation Finance

NC DOT Guest speaker: Jamal Alavi, Director, Transportation Planning Division

Chapter 11 "The Geography of Urban Transportation Finance" *The Geography of Urban Transportation, Third Edition*.

TCRP 89: Financing Capital Investment

Week 13 April 10: Project Evaluation—Critiques of Tools

Flyvbjerg, B. et. al. (2002). Underestimating Costs in Public Works Projects. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 68, 3, 279-296.

Mackie, P. and Preston J. (1998). Twenty-one sources of error and bias in transport project appraisal. *Transport Policy*, 5, 1-7.

Beukers, E., Bertolini, L. and Brommelstroet, M.T. (2012). Why Cost Benefit Analysis is perceived as a problematic tool for assessment of transport plans: A process perspective. *Transportation Research Part A*, 46, 68-78.

Week 14 Project Evaluation

Small, K. (1999). Project Evaluation (Chapter 5) in *Essays in transportation economics and policy* [**electronic resource**]: a handbook in honor of John R. Meyer

Gomez-Ibanez, J. A. and Meyer, J. R. (1993). *Going Private: The International Experience with Transport Privatization*, Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution, 1-9; 145-163.

Weisbrod, G., Williams, D., & Williams (2010). Framework and Process for Economic Impact Assessment of Potential Highway Congestion Pricing and Tolling Schemes. **Pp. 5-14**

World Health Organization (2001) "Health in the green economy: health co-benefits of climate change mitigation – transport sector."

READ: 41-71; 99-120 (Evaluation, Tools for assessing)
