

# 1.221J / 11.527J / ESD.201J Transportation Systems

FALL 2002

## ASSIGNMENT 1: Transportation System Issues

**Due in:** One week

**Value:** 8 points

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In this assignment, you will write a paper that relates important general transportation system concepts to a particular transportation system or situation *of your choice*. This assignment is meant to get you thinking about the important issues and questions that must be taken into account when designing or evaluating a transportation system.

The “Critical Issues in Transportation” article (see Reader) offers a number of broad transportation issues for consideration as well as more specific challenges contained within each of those issues. The article can provide a useful starting point for your own paper, although you should feel free to introduce other concepts and issues that go beyond the “Critical Issues”. In addition, this paper should make clear how your chosen system fits into the CLIOS (Complex, Large, Integrated, Open System) framework.

Transportation systems are broad, dynamic and often multi-modal. Identify the most important issues for your system and discuss the impacts they have. Also discuss what positive or negative effects might occur if changes were made to the system and, if appropriate, assess the difference between the short-term and long-term effects.

You may choose to conduct additional research to enhance your knowledge of the system and your discussion. Please include a reference list with your assignment.

The page limit for this assignment is five pages (not including the reference list), so keep your thoughts organized and clear. Focus on the quality of presentation of your ideas as well as substance.

As you make your selection of a transportation system, feel free to contact the Professor or the TA, to try out your topic.