

# Transportation Planning & Policy Syllabus – UP771

## Spring 2017

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School of Architecture and Urban Planning  
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee  
Mondays 5:30 p.m.-8:10 p.m.  
Room AUP 189

### **Instructor:**

Rob Henken, President, Public Policy Forum  
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Office Hours: By appointment

### **Overview**

This course is intended to provide an understanding of how transportation planning intersects with public policy and politics on the national, state, and local level. It will help develop an understanding of the federally-mandated transportation planning process and federal budget and transportation policies, with a particular focus on how those mandates and policies impact real-world decision-making in Wisconsin and Greater Milwaukee. The course also will review the history of urban transportation, transportation finance, land use and transportation interaction, and the impacts of new technology on transportation systems.

The following questions will be addressed:

- Why is transportation important in urban development and quality of life?
- How do federal policies guide and affect the transportation system we have today?
- How is the transportation system financed at the federal, state, and local levels, and what are the problems associated with transportation finance?
- What is the relationship between transportation, land use, and urban growth patterns?
- How have federal, state, and local politics impacted transportation policy in the recent past, and how might political issues continue to impact transportation policy in the near-term future?
- Can we afford both good transit systems and good roads and highways, and what is the nature of the conflict between pro-transit and pro-highway advocates?
- What are Southeastern Wisconsin's biggest transportation challenges and how might those be resolved?

Our discussion of these broad questions will be buttressed by consideration of current transportation policy issues at all levels of government, including the transition to the Trump presidency, continued impacts of federal and state budget woes, and local transportation debates over streetcar and Bus Rapid Transit systems in Milwaukee. We also will have occasional guest speakers who are involved in transportation planning and projects in southeast Wisconsin.

## Reading Materials

- The Geography of Urban Transportation, Susan Hanson and Genevieve Guiliano. The Third Edition New York: The Guilford Press. *[Optional]*  
For students lacking in transportation coursework, this is a good background textbook. Specific chapters will not be assigned but students are urged to review the table of contents and include relevant chapters in their weekly reading based on class topic.
- Hand-outs and PDFs from other sources
- Other reading materials accessible through the Internet. URLs are provided below.

## Assignments & Grades

The final grade for UP771 will consist of the following:

15%	Class Participation
20%	Short Writing Assignment (2-3 pages)
30%	Medium Writing Assignment (4-6 pages)
35%	Final Writing Assignment and Presentation
100%	

Class Participation will be a major component of each weekly class and each student's final grade. Each student is expected to complete assigned readings and be prepared to offer thoughts and opinions as part of each class discussion. Also, for each class, students may be asked to serve as Lead Discussant and highlight major findings of authors and present your perspective.

Short Writing Assignment will be a 2-3 page essay regarding a Federal transportation policy issue. Students will be given the paper topic at the February 13<sup>th</sup> class.

Medium Writing Assignment of 4-6 pages in length will be assigned during the semester. Students will be given the paper topic at the March 6<sup>th</sup> class.

Final Writing Assignment will be handed in and presented on the last day of class. Each student will be expected to present a five-minute overview of the paper. Students will be given the paper topic at the April 10<sup>th</sup> class.

## Attendance

Please note that ***attendance is mandatory***. If you cannot make a specific lecture, please make arrangements to get the missed information. If you will need accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact Mr. Henken as soon as possible.

Students will be allowed to complete course requirements that are missed because of a religious observance or other extenuating circumstances approved in advance by the instructor.

Otherwise, ***no makeup will be given for missed assignments***, except in extreme circumstances (e.g., medical/family emergency, automobile accident, etc.). Under such circumstances, written supporting evidence may be required.

## Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct

All students are expected to be familiar with, and adhere to, the standards set forth and implied in the SARUP Honor Code and/or the academic conduct codes of their major department, and of the University of Wisconsin system in general. A breach of these standards will result in actions not inconsistent with University of Wisconsin System Academic Affairs Policies and Procedures.

### **Other Course Policies**

This course adheres to campus policies regarding students with disabilities, religious observances, active military service, incompletes, discriminatory conduct, academic misconduct, complaints about the course, grade appeals, and firearms. For details about these policies, see <http://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2016/12/Syllabus-Links.pdf>

### **Odds and Ends**

Food and drinks are allowed in the classroom under two conditions. First, if you brought it in, you take it out. Please be considerate of the people who have to use the seminar room after you. Second, please be discrete (e.g., no slurping sodas, no blowing bubble gum, etc.).

I check my **work** e-mail quite regularly ([rhenken@publicpolicyforum.org](mailto:rhenken@publicpolicyforum.org)) and will do my best to get back to you as soon as your message is read. Once I have sent an e-mail message to the class e-mail reflector, I assume it is received and understood by all persons on that reflector, unless I get a system message saying the e-mail was undeliverable to a particular address. It is **YOUR responsibility** to make sure your e-mail is working, and to check your e-mail often enough to make sure you know of any class updates.

## Course Outline

### I. Federal Transportation Policy: Background and Current Issues

**Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Introduction to the Course, Recent Transportation Trends, Outline of the Debates

#### **In-Class Material:**

–Infrastructure,” Last Week Tonight with John Oliver, March 2, 2015  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wpzvaqypav8>

–Donald J. Trump’s Infrastructure Vision,” Trump-Pence Campaign Website  
<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/policies/an-americas-infrastructure-first-plan>

National Association of Manufacturers, –Building to Win,” October 2016 – video and selected pages  
<http://www.nam.org/BuildingtoWin/>

–Seattle: America’s Next Top Transit City,” <https://vimeo.com/196010541>

**Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>** – ISTEA: The Origin of Recent Federal Transportation Policy

#### **Reading Material:**

–Transportation 101: Executive Summary,” Transportation for America, March 2011  
<http://t4america.org/docs/Transportation%20101%20SUMMARY.pdf>

(Full report is not required reading but is a great resource. It is available at:  
<http://t4america.org/docs/Transportation%20101.pdf>)

A Guide to Metropolitan Transportation Planning Under ISTEA - How the Pieces Fit Together, U.S. Department of Transportation, pp. 1-28  
<http://ntl.bts.gov/DOCS/424MTP.html>

O’Toole, Randal, –ISTEA: A Poisonous Brew for American Cities,” November 1997  
<http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa-287.html>

**Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>** – Post-ISTEA Federal Transportation Policy

#### **Reading Material:**

TEA 21: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21/sumcov.htm>

SAFETEA-LU: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/index.htm>

Final Report to Congress of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Commission, January 2008, Recommendations  
[http://www.transportationfortomorrow.com/final\\_report/pdf/volume\\_1.pdf](http://www.transportationfortomorrow.com/final_report/pdf/volume_1.pdf)

## February 13<sup>th</sup> – Federal Transportation Policy Debate – Funding

### **Reading Material:**

–Paying Our Way,” Report of the National Commission on Surface Transportation Infrastructure, Executive Summary, March 2009

[http://financecommission.dot.gov/Documents/NSTIF\\_Commission\\_Final\\_Report\\_Exec\\_Summary\\_Feb09.pdf](http://financecommission.dot.gov/Documents/NSTIF_Commission_Final_Report_Exec_Summary_Feb09.pdf)

–The Life and Death of the Highway Trust Fund,” Eno Center for Transportation, Dec. 2014

<https://www.enotrans.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Highway-Trust-Fund.pdf>

–The Road to Sustainable Highway Spending,” Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, May 2015

[http://crfb.org/sites/default/files/road\\_to\\_sustainable\\_highway\\_spending.pdf](http://crfb.org/sites/default/files/road_to_sustainable_highway_spending.pdf)

### ***Short Writing Assignment Assigned***

## February 20<sup>th</sup> – Federal Transportation Policy Debate – MAP 21 and the FAST Act

### **Reading Material:**

MAP-21: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/summaryinfo.cfm>

Obama Administration Fact Sheet on GROW America Transportation proposal, Feb. 2015

[http://www.dot.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/GROW\\_AMERICA\\_Overall\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.dot.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/GROW_AMERICA_Overall_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

FAST Act: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/>

Davis, Stephen, –Think FAST – The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly in Congress’ New Five-Year Transportation Bill”, December 2, 2015

<http://t4america.org/2015/12/02/think-fast-the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly-in-congress-new-five-year-transportation-bill/>

## February 27<sup>th</sup> – Current Federal Transportation Policy Debate – The Trump Administration

### **Reading Material:**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, –Cabinet Exit Memo”, January 5, 2017

<https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/DOT-EXIT-MEMO-FINAL.pdf>

New York Times, *Room for Debate*, –Can Trump’s Infrastructure Plan Work?”, December 20, 2016 – read all five op eds

<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2016/12/20/can-trumps-infrastructure-plan-work>

Other readings to be determined

### ***Short Writing Assignment Due***

## II. The Intersection of Transportation Policy and Planning

**March 6<sup>th</sup>** – New Urbanism and Transit Oriented Communities: An Introduction

**Reading Material:** (PDFs)

Kunstler, James Howard, The Geography of Nowhere, 1993, Chapter 11

Norquist, John O., The Wealth of Cities, 1998, Chapter 9

Duany, Andres, et. al., Suburban Nation, 2000, Chapter 5

*Medium Writing Assignment Assigned*

**March 13<sup>th</sup>** – New Urbanism and Transit Oriented Communities: A Critique

**Reading Material:**

Alain Bertraud and Robert W. Poole, Jr., –Density in Atlanta: Implications for Traffic and Transit,” April 2007

<http://reason.org/files/0d642e267c868322f65139ee573965c4.pdf>

O’Toole, Randal, –Dense Thinkers,” January 1999

<http://www.reason.com/news/show/30875.html>

Sam Staley and Adrian Moore, Mobility First, 2009, Chapter 10 (PDF)

**March 20<sup>th</sup>** – Spring Break

**March 27<sup>th</sup>** – Transportation Policy in the Age of Uber and Autonomous Vehicles

**Reading Material:**

Jaffe, Eric, –How the Microtransit Movement is Changing Urban Mobility,” CityLab, April 2015

<http://www.citylab.com/commute/2015/04/how-the-microtransit-movement-is-changing-urban-mobility/391565/>

Public Policy Forum report on Last Mile Challenge, March 2017 (PDF or link to be provided)

–The Future of Mobility: What’s Next,” Deloitte, September 2016 (PDF)

### III. Federal Transportation Policy as Played out in Wisconsin

April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Transportation Funding in Wisconsin

**Reading Material:**

–Milwaukee County’s Transit Crisis: How Did We Get Here and What Do We Do Now?”  
Public Policy Forum, May 2008

<http://publicpolicyforum.org/sites/default/files/MilwaukeeTransitCrisis.pdf>

–Wisconsin’s Transportation Budget: Misplaced Priorities, Unmet Needs, and Better Alternatives,” WISPIRG, et. al., May 2015

[http://www.1kfriends.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Alternative\\_Budget.pdf](http://www.1kfriends.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Alternative_Budget.pdf)

Grunwald, Michael, —“Expenses: A Love Story,” *Politico*, July 2015

<http://www.politico.com/agenda/story/2015/07/transportation-infrastructure-scott-walker-highways-000153>

*Medium Writing Assignment Due*

April 10<sup>th</sup> – Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee Commuter Rail

**Reading Material:**

Public Hearing Presentation on KRM Commuter Link, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, September 2009

<http://www.sewrpc.org/KRMonline/pdf/2009-09-presentation-for-public-hearings.pdf>

Rubin, Thomas A., and Robert W. Poole, Jr., —“Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee Transit Service Options: An Investigation and Analysis,” December 2008

<http://reason.org/files/963538f9dc8331b5c4eee2dd84ac4912.pdf>

*Final Writing Assignment Assigned*

April 17<sup>th</sup> – Milwaukee’s East-West Corridor Study Part I: Light Rail and I-94 Expansion

**Reading Material:**

Rowen, Jim, —“The Railroad Not Taken,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, September 2008

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/32538794.html>

Jackson, Derrick Z., —“Milwaukee’s Invisible Racial Cage,” *Boston Globe*, August 2016

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/columns/2016/08/17/milwaukee-invisible-racial-cage/iUsRIE048xIEcrFJ6nvRvL/story.html#>

Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Public Hearing Handout Packet for I-94 East-West Freeway Corridor Study, December 2014

<http://wisconsindot.gov/Documents/projects/by-region/se/94ew-study/hearing-handout.pdf>

Stout, Mark L., –The Transit/Rehab Option: A Better Solution to Milwaukee’s East-West Corridor,” November 2014

<http://www.wispirg.org/sites/pirg/files/reports/The%20Rehab-Transit%20Option%20-%20A%20Better%20Solution%20for%20the%20I-94%20East-West%20Corridor.pdf>

**April 24<sup>th</sup>** – Milwaukee’s East-West Corridor Study Part II: The Milwaukee Streetcar and BRT

**Reading Material:**

Grabar, Henry, –Tram Wars! Why Streetcars are Back — Whether You Like it or Not,” December 2013

[http://www.salon.com/2013/12/28/tram\\_wars\\_why\\_streetcars\\_are\\_back\\_%E2%80%94\\_wether\\_you\\_like\\_it\\_or\\_not/](http://www.salon.com/2013/12/28/tram_wars_why_streetcars_are_back_%E2%80%94_wether_you_like_it_or_not/)

Milwaukee Streetcar Overview, Milwaukee Streetcar web site

<http://www.themilwaukeestreetcar.com/pdf/Streetcar-Overview-Presentation-9-25-12.pdf>

O’Toole, Randal, –The Streetcar Scam,” May 2012

<http://static.maciverinstitute.com/Milwaukee%20Streetcar%20Scam.pdf>

East-West BRT, Locally Preferred Alternative Report, August 2016

[http://www.eastwestbrt.com/assets/eastwestbrt\\_locally\\_preferred\\_alternative\\_report.pdf](http://www.eastwestbrt.com/assets/eastwestbrt_locally_preferred_alternative_report.pdf)

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** – Fast Rail in Wisconsin

**Reading Material:**

Federal Railroad Administration, Vision for High-Speed Rail in America, April 2009 (PDF)

Midwest Regional Rail Network Executive Report, September 2004

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/railplan/docs/railmidwest.pdf>

–Wisconsin High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail”, Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation, PowerPoint Presentation to Brookfield Common Council, July 2010 (PDF)

Walker, Scott, –Stopping Train Fulfilled Campaign Promise,” *LaCrosse Tribune*, Dec. 2010

[http://lacrosetribune.com/news/opinion/article\\_aee267dc-0a2f-11e0-beb5-001cc4c03286.html](http://lacrosetribune.com/news/opinion/article_aee267dc-0a2f-11e0-beb5-001cc4c03286.html)

Adler, Ben, –This is Why We Can’t Have Nice Trains,” *Mother Jones*, September 8, 2015

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2015/09/europe-high-speed-trains>

**May 8<sup>th</sup>** – *Final Writing Assignment and Presentations*

The final research paper and presentation will serve as the final exam for this class. It will be submitted for a grade and presented at the May 8<sup>th</sup> class.