

1.201J/ 11.545J/ ESD.210J Introduction to Transportation Systems

FALL 2006

INTRODUCTION TO ASSIGNMENTS 2A AND 2B

Distributed Lecture #3
September 14, 2006

Lecture 4, Assignments 2A and 2B are a coordinated enterprise. The overall intent is to give you an in-depth experience with a particular transportation concept -The US Interstate System- *and* its relationship to other transportation systems and societal issues.

Lecture 4 will be devoted in large part to a class discussion of the US Interstate System. In preparation, we ask you to read the R6 papers under Additional Readings listed in the syllabus. Then in Assignment 2A, we ask you to write several short responses, to be handed in at the *beginning* of Lecture 4. Think of it as a “ticket of admission” to Lecture 4. Of course, we will discuss a broader range of topics than the responses requested in Assignment 2A. Please come prepared to participate. We won’t cold-call so you will have to raise your hand if you want to get into the discussion.

Lecture 4 should help prepare you to do Assignment 2B (to be distributed at Lecture 4 on September 19) , which deals with the application of the 30 Key Points framework to the Interstate System.

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

FALL 2006

ASSIGNMENT 2A: Transportation System Fundamentals

Date assigned: September 14, 2006 (Lecture 3)
Date due: September 19, 2006 (*at beginning* of Lecture 4)
Value: 3 points

The main objective of this assignment is to help you prepare for Lecture 4. Your assignment is to read the attached articles and answer the following questions, to be handed in at the *beginning* of Lecture 4. You probably want to print a second copy to keep for your use during the Lecture 4 discussion. *And of course, we will discuss a broader range of topics during Lecture 3!*

1. Identify the “winners and losers” resulting from the the Interstate (about three or four of each) – a sentence of explanation on each would be a good idea (one page limit, 1 point)
2. Comment on the alignment (or lack thereof) between the Interstate and USDOT’s *current* strategic directions--see reading R2 and points from Lecture 1 (two page limit, 2 pages)

As with Assignment 1, clarity and presentation will be factored into the grading of this assignment.