

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

FALL 2000

## ASSIGNMENT 3: Transportation System Fundamentals

**Date assigned: October 3, 2000**

**Date due: October 19, 2000**

**Value: 20 points**

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In this assignment, you will look at the 30 key points in the context of a particular transportation system. Each of the 30 key points is important in understanding transportation systems. This assignment asks you to relate the key points to a specific transportation system.

This assignment gives you a choice of two different transportation systems -- a traveler (passenger) system and a freight system -- of which you will select one.

1. Freight in the New York Metropolitan Area
2. Passenger Light Rail in New Jersey

Your assignment is to take *some* of the 30 key points and relate them to the transportation system you select. Enclosed with this assignment are some articles on both systems that will be the source of information for your paper. Feel free to conduct additional research on either topic to aid in the formulation of your thoughts. Further information on the key points can be found in the text, reader or from lectures. Any references used in your paper should be noted in a reference list.

Of course, not all key points are equally relevant. Indeed, some may be irrelevant for the system you select. Choose those key points you think are most relevant (no more than ten and probably less). Explain your rationale for choosing the key points you selected and clearly discuss how each selected key point applies in this case. In addition, discuss connections between some of your chosen points, and what effects one may have on the other(s).

The assignment has a maximum page limit of ten pages (not including the reference list), 1.5- or double-spaced, using 12-point font. Clarity, content and presentation will be factored into the grading of this assignment. Remember to take your time to organize your thoughts into a structured paper. Keep in mind that you should focus on quality rather than quantity.

enclosures

## TOPIC 1

### **Freight in the New York Metropolitan Area**

#### Background Articles

1. *Traffic World*, August 2000 -- "Tunneling into New York"
2. *Railway Age*, July 1999 -- "New York City studies rail freight options"

## TOPIC 2

### **Passenger Light Rail in New Jersey**

#### Background Articles

1. *The Star-Ledger*, April 10, 2000 -- "Heavy hopes ride on light rail"
2. *The Star-Ledger*, May 30, 2000 -- "Hard questions on light rail"