Syllabus August 25
Fall 2014
Transportation Finance and Economics
Updated August 25, 2014

Professor David King
Monday 9-11am
Buell 300N

Office Hours: Monday 3-5

Overview:
In this course students will engage with contemporary debates on how to finance transportation systems, and learn to evaluate transportation concepts through economic analysis. Large issues that will be discussed include congestion, transit fare policy, governance of transport investments, equity and transport regulation. Policies such as dynamic pricing for roads and parking, user fees and privatization (and its discontents) will also be discussed. The readings and lectures will draw from U.S. and international experiences.

This course is of interest for students who want to learn more about how finance affects planning decisions and how local planners are now at the forefront of how transportation will be financed.

Readings and materials:
Most readings are journal articles or reports that are available online. Readings for each week are listed below.

In addition to required weekly readings students are expected to use the Transportation Economic wikibook created by David Levinson. (http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Transportation_Economics)

Assignments:

There are three assignments that represent 90% of the total grade, with the remaining 10% from class participation. These assignments are to be done individually and represent original work. Existing research must be cited appropriately.

Students are expected to fully participate in class discussions (10% of grade)

Critical summary of five weekly readings (30%)

Case study of how a transit agency pays for and prioritizes operations and capital costs (30%)

Literature review of transport finance topic (e.g. gas tax, congestion pricing, fare policy, value capture, etc.) (30%)
Weekly Readings:

The readings are available on Courseworks. The required readings will be updated as the semester progresses. Expect 3-5 journal articles per week.

Week 1 (September 8): Paying for Transport: Historical and Current Issues in North America, Europe and Asia


Week 2(September 15): How Finance Leads Planning and Infrastructure Bias


(Part 1: Costs of Transport)

Week 3 (September 22): Congestion

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Transportation_Economics/Pricing

Cities Research Papers.


Week 4 (September 29): Congestion (Continued) and Costs of Environmental Review


Week 5 (October 6): Regulations

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Transportation_Economics/Regulation


(Part 2: Benefits of Transport)

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Transportation_Economics/Revenue

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Transportation_Economics/Costs

Week 6 (October 13): User benefits

Week 7 (October 20): Non-transport economic benefits


Week 8 (October 27): Student Presentations of Case Studies

Each student will make a brief presentation.

(Part 3: Models of governance and revenue)

Week 9 (November 10): Institutional models of transport provision


Week 10 (November 17): Implications of local control and finance, local voting


Week 11 (November 24): Privatization: It doesn’t mean what you think it does

Bel, Germa, and John Foote. (2009) “Tolls, Terms and Public Interest in Road Concessions Privatization: A Comparative Analysis of
Recent Transactions in the USA and France,” *Transport Reviews*, 29 (3), pp. 397-413.


(Part 4: Paying for Transit)

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Transportation_Economics/Productivity

Week 12 (December 1): Fare policy

Readings TBA

Week 13 (December 8): Value capture and other revenue sources

