

1. What was the most interesting thing you learned from this reading?

I found it very interesting just how many approaches there are to controlling road congestion. Living in Omaha, there really are not that many times that I have to deal with congestion on the roads. The worst of it happens during the College World Series, but that is expected and I feel that Omaha does a pretty good job with controlling it. Whenever I thought about road congestion, the only solution that came to my mind was either the addition of lanes or alternative routes. I never considered that taxes or tolls could help alleviate the congestion. I found that very interesting.

2. What was the most surprising thing to you in this reading?

It was surprising just how intricate and complicated the solutions that engineers put forth are. Like I said earlier, I considered the addition of lanes as the only solution to congestion. Oftentimes, this approach fails. For example, if lanes were added to a particularly busy street, some people might abandon their usual route for the newly improved street in hopes of a faster commute. However, after a certain amount of time, that road would become just as congested as it was before. This problem led engineers to design intricate solutions like programs to better time streetlights and initiatives encouraging carpooling to work.

3. What is one thing that you learned about LA's experience that you would want transportation officials to know here in Nebraska?

I am not sure if Omaha has a similar carpool program, but I think that would be very useful, especially in larger metropolitan cities, such as Omaha or Lincoln. Cities in Nebraska are not large enough to design an entire public transportation system like a subway. The Omaha bus system is alright for some people, but having another option like a carpool initiative would be very beneficial. Cities like New York, and Chicago need the subway system because their roadways are so congested. Omaha doesn't need that, but it does need something besides busses that the city can offer to those wanting a more affordable commuting option.

4. Describe anything or anyone you would like to know more about after reading this article about LA's experience?

I would really like to learn more about how the roadways and amount of cars in Los Angeles are impacting pollution levels. With so many cars and trucks on the roads, it is hard not to worry about pollution and future generations. I want to learn what transportation engineers are doing about pollution, and whether it is a major factor in their decisions. It will also be interesting to see how the rise of electric cars impacts the industry as well as air pollution.