

Notes Section 3

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3 11.550x: Land Use and Urban Form

3.1 Auto-centricity: past, present, and future

- Why did cities build highways that were bad for them?
 - Companies like GM and AAA grouped together and started lobbying for tax-funded highways.
 - GM designed a highway system that debuted at the 1939 World's Fair that featured expwys that connected cities and ran right through them, allowing for greater traffic flow and decreased congestion.
 - When highways cut through cities, they require the demolition of entire communities, the victims of which are usually low-income or minorities.
 - Highway designers were usually members of the auto industry, but not urban planners (who did not really exist at the time)