Leonard McCarthy

Dr. Sommers

WRIT101-004 (Fully Virtual)

11 October 2024

**Part One (I included a standard/non-annotated bibliography as well as an annotated one):**

Bibliography Sources

1. Wang, Luqi, et al. “The Impacts of Transportation Infrastructure on Sustainable Development: Emerging Trends and Challenges.” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, 5 June 2018, [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6025045/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6025045/).
2. Laurance, William F, et al. “Reducing the Global Environmental Impacts of Rapid Infrastructure Expansion.” *Current Biology*, Cell Press, 5 Mar. 2015, [www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0960982215002195](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0960982215002195).
3. Agency, Environmental Protection. “Smart Growth in Small Towns and Rural Communities.” *EPA*, Environmental Protection Agency, 28 Aug. 2024, [www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-small-towns-and-rural-communities](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-small-towns-and-rural-communities).

**Note for Annotated Bibliography Below**: I summarized the main concepts of each article, hence why there’s no particular page numbers in my hanging-indented in-text citations. I will be accumulating more proof in the form of quotes at a later point in time when I go to write my full essay. The assignment only recommended getting quotes sooner rather than later, but it wasn’t against the assignment to simply summarize the articles and say how they’re relevant to my thesis for my annotations.

Annotated Bibliography:

1. The study by Wang et al. (Wang and others) discusses how transportation infrastructure affects sustainable development, particularly in terms of environmental, social, and economic challenges. The authors emphasize the need for governments and planners to balance economic growth with environmental conservation, which goes hand-in hand with my argument against rapid infrastructure expansion in Upstate SC and the NC/Charlotte area. The article provides useful statistics and case studies, showing that unregulated expansion can lead to significant environmental degradation, something I have observed locally, here in Clover/Lake Wylie, SC, particularly with road and housing construction and development. The study also highlights the social impacts of expansion, such as disruptions to communities, which supports my concerns about the loss of the local character of Upstate SC and the NC/Charlotte area (way of life). The research goes on to show that transportation improvements are necessary but must be done sustainably, which aligns with my provided counter-argument about this topic being nuanced. The extensive data provided will strengthen my essay by grounding my personal observations in academic research, particularly statistically and as a point of framing my essay, rather than being fully relied upon (I will include frequent anecdotes in my essay). I will use this source to argue that current expansion efforts are not carefully keeping long-term environmental and communal impacts in consideration. The source also provides a good comparison between sustainable and unsustainable expansion models, which will help me argue for better planning policies, which also would mesh well with my counter-argument paragraph simultaneously with my argument paragraphs. Overall, this source offers a comprehensive overview of the negative effects of rapid infrastructure growth, supporting both my thesis and counterthesis on an as-needed basis.

* Wang et al. *The impacts of transportation infrastructure on Sustainable Development: Emerging Trends and challenges* - 5 June 2018

1. This article by Laurance et al. (Laurance and others) focuses on the environmental consequences of infrastructure expansion. Furthermore, it focuses on deforestation, habitat fragmentation, and biodiversity loss. Although it discusses global cases, the concerns raised can be applied to the expansion happening in Upstate SC and the NC/Charlotte area. The article is especially useful in providing evidence on how rapid infrastructure development can lead to long-term ecological damage. This will help me argue that the current rate of expansion is unsustainable. The authors suggest that planners need to consider not just economic growth but also the preservation of natural landscapes, an idea that I plan to highlight when discussing the loss of green spaces in my community. The article offers several solutions to mitigate the environmental impacts of expansion, such as using strategic environmental assessments and more stringent land-use planning, which I can propose as alternatives to the current approach in my region. I will also use this source to counter arguments that claim infrastructure expansion is purely beneficial for economic reasons, as it provides detailed evidence of the ecological costs involved. Obviously, expansion costs tax dollars, which may be felt more or less depending on a location’s majority demographic(s). The article’s clear stance on the need for more thoughtful expansion policies aligns well with my thesis. Overall, this source will allow me to make a strong case for rethinking infrastructure projects in ecologically sensitive areas like Upstate SC and the NC/Charlotte area.

* Laurance et al. *Reducing the global environmental impacts of rapid infrastructure expansion* - 5 March 2015

1. This resource from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) outlines strategies for implementing “smart growth” principles in rural communities, which are relevant to my argument against unchecked infrastructure expansion in Upstate SC and the NC/Charlotte area. The concept of smart growth prioritizes sustainable development that balances population growth with the preservation of community character and environmental health, which directly supports my view that current expansion efforts in my region are happening too fast (my stance is against the current rate of expansion). The website provides examples of small towns that have successfully adopted smart growth strategies, helping to show that there are alternatives to large-scale infrastructure projects. I plan to use this source to argue that local governments should focus on improving existing infrastructure and promoting sustainable practices rather than expanding into undeveloped areas. Additionally, the source emphasizes the importance of community involvement in planning decisions, which will support my argument that local residents' concerns are often ignored. This will be particularly useful when discussing the social impacts of infrastructure expansion, as it backs up my claim that community voices should be considered more seriously in the planning process. The practical examples provided will help me suggest viable solutions for managing population growth in a way that doesn’t compromise the region’s environmental or social fabric. The source aligns perfectly with my thesis by advocating for more sustainable, community-focused growth models. This is because my stance is not about being against public infrastructure expansion full stop. Instead, it’s about the importance of regulation and striking a balance, going on to say that it’s a nuanced topic.

* Agency *Smart Growth in Small Towns and Rural Communities* - 28 August 2024

**Part Two:**

**Thesis with 4 reasons (the last part of these sentence with commas separating the four reasons for my thesis)**:

On the topic of public infrastructure expansion as exemplified in Upstate SC and NC (Charlotte and its surrounding areas), I find myself being against the current state/rate of expansion currently in effect because of the communal, infrastructural, economical, and, to a varying degree, the environmental/ecological impacts that public infrastructure expansion can and does cause.

**Counterargument (I went a little beyond and added a pseudo rebuttal while also giving credit where credit is due)**:

With all of the aforementioned downsides and negative impacts of public infrastructure expansion aside, supporters of public infrastructure expansion, including state transportation officials and some developers, argue that expanding infrastructure is necessary to accommodate the region’s (Upstate SC and NC (Charlotte and its surrounding areas)) rapid population growth and enhance economic development. To a varying degree, this is true. However, the issue of public infrastructure expansion is more nuanced than the extreme outliers of either side would let on, and it’s definitely not black-and-white. While there’s some important merits to public infrastructure expansion, proper regulations, policies, and precedents need to be in place to ensure that public infrastructure expansion is done carefully. This way the expansion compliments pre-existing areas rather than replacing them.