ROBO410 contemporary issues memo

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| from: | team d – THCM |
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Every engineering project should have a multifaceted impact on its surroundings.  In this memo we will be considering the social, environmental, economic, political and global ramifications of our project with the Terre Haute Children’s Museum. Each of these factors are important to consider, though occasionally certain factors overshadow the rest.

As our project will be placed in a Children’s Museum the largest concern is having a direct social impact on the children who visit the museum.  Children are impressionable and, if they enjoy playing with the exhibit, are likely to consider whatever the exhibit portrays to be a good thing.  For example, if the exhibit included car crashes, fires and mayhem the children are more prone to associate these things with fun. If the exhibit is done properly the children will instead find enjoyment in learning about the basics of racing such as the relationship between tires and top speed.  Following this goal, our project should enhance the learning environment at the children’s museum and provide a new and interesting exhibit. To further this goal we have attempted to make the project as visually appealing and enjoyable as possible while still maintaining educational themes.

Every other impact our project has is minor in comparison with the social effects.  While the introduction of new projects such as this one helps to create a few jobs for the museum, the project in and of itself does not create these jobs.  Furthermore, a few jobs in a city of 60,000 people does not have any significant economic impact.

Like the economic impact, the project does not have any noticeable effect on the environmental state of the community. It produces no material wastes and its sole input from the environment is a negligible amount of power.  In addition to this, the resources used in the construction of the exhibit are non-hazardous as are the processes we used in the exhibits fabrication.

The political and global impacts are likewise limited as our client intends to place the exhibit in a small town museum without intention to mass produce.  Even if the exhibit was mass produced and sold worldwide, it maintains a position of political neutrality.