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Professor Petersen

English 2020-013

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Research Proposal

Subject of Interest:

Infrastructure Planning and Pedestrian-Friendly Roadways

Relevance to Service Project:

My service project is at the Bicycle Collective in Provo. I am helping repair donated bicycles to be sold at a fraction of the cost of a new bike to members of the community. Participating in this organization has caused me to think about how cities plan their infrastructure and how each city accommodates pedestrian traffic.

Possible Title:

Bike-Friendly Infrastructure Planning

Thesis:

There would be significant improvements to the environment, an individual’s health, and traffic congestion by changing the mindset behind road planning to encourage bicycle use for transportation.

Main Points to Cover:

It is important to mention the current federal budget allocated specifically for pedestrian-friendly roadways compared to the overall infrastructure budget. Another comparison that will be helpful in writing the research paper is between cities that have put a priority on bike-friendly roadways and cities that have not. It is essential to understand the method that municipal governments use currently when planning their infrastructure. Knowing how much it costs to develop roadways for bicycle use will be important too. There will need to be an examination of how cars impact the environment and what the reduction would be if more people commuted by bicycle. There needs to be examples of where traffic congestion has been reduced in cities where many people commute by bicycle. The health benefits of cycling need to also be presented. There needs to be counter-arguments to respond to those who do not believe that there should be much priority given to pedestrian traffic. All of these aspects should be covered in my research paper.