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The Hidden Problem in Cities

When people live in a city, they can all agree on something. Traffic can be terrible, whether due to commuters or a traffic accident. It is a problem that many cities around the United States experience every day. An experience that we have come to accept as a problem that cities face. But we are the ones creating the situation and don't want to fix it. Using cars in cities creates bigger problems that we have accepted as a result of many people living in cities. We try to fix it by making roads bigger and faster for cars, but we are just delaying the issue.

The reason people use cars is that they give us the freedom to go anywhere we want at any time. While it gives us freedom to go anywhere we want, it does not give us the freedom to choose whether or not we want a car. We are forced to own a car as a mode of transportation. We have no other reliable alternative that will be just as convenient as cars. While people could make the argument that cities have public transportation as an alternative, it is not reliable. An example would be Columbus, Ga. A city with over 200 thousand people and an average median income of about 33 thousand dollars. The city has a huge population that would benefit from transit, but it only has buses that come once an hour. Most bus stops don't even have shelters or any amenities, just a bus stop sign. Even if you can catch a bus, it will take you double or even quadruple the time it takes compared to a car.

Most bus systems in the United States go from suburbs to downtown, while most people travel from suburb to suburb. Creating a bus system that is not meant to benefit people but is made for people that had no other choice. It is just a service that has no goals but to exist. Just created with no plans that focus on what people want, but what the government can afford.

Prioritizing most of the money in car infrastructure rather than other modes of transportation.

Modes that allow more people to travel and take up less space, thereby reducing road congestion.

While we ignore the answer to the problem, we try to look for other solutions that will not fix the problem. When we want to fix traffic in the United States, we make plans to make roads bigger or speed limits faster. This answer only solves the problem temporarily, but it will never fix the problem. When you make a road bigger, you think that traffic will improve because it has more lanes and will split the load of cars, but that is not what will happen. The reason is that a new lane allows people who would avoid driving during traffic congestion or take alternative routes. Increasing speed limits also does not help reduce traffic. While higher speeds allow more cars to go through, it will never achieve that output because of traffic lights, people entering and leaving the road, and people getting distracted while driving. Making people have to slow down and never achieve the speeds. Even if they were able to achieve the speeds, it would make driving more dangerous for drivers.

The issue will never be fixed if we continue to use cars. While cars can give us the freedom to go anywhere we want, they also make it so that we have to deal with traffic. Traffic that can easily be fixed in cities, but we never focus on the answer. Just find ways to delay the problem so that we can continue to use cars and make us drivers happy. Ignoring the solution that allows more people to travel while reducing the space they take up in the road. Making us ask for a solution that is meant to delay the problem.

AI Essay Feedback

Here are some suggestions to help you revise and strengthen your essay. I'll break it down into **big-picture improvements**, **clarity/style suggestions**, and **specific sentence-level edits**:

Big-Picture Improvements

Thesis Statement:

Right now, your central idea is spread across the essay (cars cause traffic, public transportation is neglected, and road expansion is ineffective). You could make your thesis more direct and clear in the introduction. For example:

"Traffic in American cities will never be solved by building bigger roads. Instead, the solution lies in investing in reliable, efficient public transportation that reduces dependence on cars."

Organization:

The essay is strong in passion but could flow more smoothly. Consider this structure:

Intro: State the problem (traffic, car dependency).

Body 1: Why cars dominate (convenience, lack of choice).

Body 2: Problems with U.S. public transit (your Columbus, GA example is great here).

Body 3: Why road expansion doesn't work (induced demand, safety).

Conclusion: Restate the thesis and call for better solutions.

This will make your argument feel more focused and persuasive.

Evidence & Examples:

You have a strong example with Columbus, GA, but adding one more example (like New York, LA, or Houston) could strengthen your argument. Statistics or studies about induced demand

would also back up your point.

Tone:

Sometimes the essay sounds conversational (e.g., “Just created with no plans...” or “Just find ways to delay the problem”). That’s fine for a draft, but if this is for school or a formal setting, aim for more polished academic language.

Clarity & Style Suggestions

Avoid repetition. For example, “freedom to go anywhere we want” is repeated multiple times. You can say it once and move on.

Vary your sentence structure. Some sentences are long and could be broken into two for readability.

Be precise: Instead of “huge population,” try “a large population that depends on affordable transportation.”

Sentence-Level Suggestions

Here are a few places where you could revise:

Original: “An experience that we have come to accept as a problem that cities face.”

Revision: “We have come to accept traffic as an unavoidable reality of city life.”

Original: “Creating a bus system that is not meant to benefit people but is made for people that had no other choice.”

Revision: “This creates a bus system designed not to serve people’s needs, but merely to exist as a last resort for those without cars.”

Original: “While higher speeds allow more cars to go through, it will never achieve that output...”

Revision: “Although higher speed limits seem like they should reduce congestion, they rarely do because of traffic lights, merging cars, and human error.”

Original: “The issue will never be fixed if we continue to use cars.”

Revision: “As long as cities remain dependent on cars, traffic congestion will persist.”

Final Step

Your essay already has strong arguments, but a revised version could be both sharper and more persuasive. Would you like me to **rewrite a polished version of your essay** (keeping your arguments and examples, but improving flow, grammar, and persuasiveness)?

AI Advice Reflection

After reading what ChatGPT said about my essay, I think that it provides an accurate reflection of how I can improve my writing and facts, but I still think that some of what it said is wrong. The first thing it talks about is my thesis. It states that it is everywhere, but I think that it does not understand my thesis. Whether it be because it is not a clear thesis or because it thinks that I am talking about how to fix the problem. I think that I should have other people read the essay and ask them what they think my thesis is. While it thinks I'm trying to explain the problem, I am mostly talking about what and why it is causing a problem. For the organization, I feel that my writing is already laid out like that. I can see that some information in paragraph 2 can be used in paragraph 3. When it talks about providing evidence, I can agree that I can provide more evidence. If I were able to provide more evidence, it could have made my essay stronger and trustworthy. But I tried to keep my essay around 500-600 words. If it were a bigger essay or no word limit, then I could provide more evidence. I could also have spent time making the essay have less information or condensed it to allow for more evidence. My tone in the essay was to be neutral but informative. Explaining the problem and the solution that would work. I agree that the tone that I was trying to set in the essay was not there, and some sentences made my tone different than what I wanted it to be. I also agree that I may have repeated sentences throughout my essay. My sentence structure varied, and I could have used better words to describe some things. Continuing that if this were a rough draft, it would be a great start, but not a good essay.