

Final Website Report
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Introduction

I am passionate about communities that are accessible, convenient and safe. While cars are an amazing human achievement that originally connected people to their environment in accessible, convenient and safe ways, they are now overutilized in American metropolitan areas unsustainably. Our communities are built—and zoned to be built—for cars, which cost an enormous price. College students and young adults are the most capable cohort to change the car-crazed culture in this country, as they often live in densely populated cities and campuses, are physically fit compared to other cohorts, frequently travel with friends, and have relatively limited funds.

I grew up in the suburbs of Washington, DC, where the city was accessible by subway, but moving around the periphery was slow and inconvenient by bus or foot. I then moved to Melbourne, Australia for my LDS mission, spending time in both the suburbs and the city center. Bike lanes, frequent bus routes and wider sidewalks made life more enjoyable, and it was easier to talk with potential investigators. Now I live in Utah County, Utah, where Provo is densely populated and safe for non-drivers, but “family-city” Orem is dangerous, and I am likely to get wet shoes walking to the bus stop 15 minutes from my apartment complex along a road where the speed limit is 45 but folks drive 60 just to keep up with traffic.

My life experience appears to be supported by facts, that changeable policies in this country allow people with privilege to utilize alternative transportation more effectively than others, and by doing so (and actively taking part in civic processes) they can help bring about change that will make our communities more accessible, convenient and safe for everyone.

This website is for everyone even Elon Musk, but as the title “UniverCity” would suggest, it is especially geared towards college students and urbanites who can probably ditch their car more easily than folks in rural or more suburban areas.

<https://chigham.github.io/WDD130/univercity-info/>

Goals/Objectives

Here are a few statistics that should be considered. The average new car costs \$894 per month or \$10,728 per year according to a [study by AAA](#). [46,000+ people die](#) in the US every year due to automobile accidents at a rate of 126 per million, versus [291 public transit deaths](#) in 2020 or an 8 per million rate (the total count increases each year, but so is usage). Additionally, there is reason to believe that walkable, bikeable and transit-accessible countries like Australia, Singapore and northern European countries have happier people because of their communities that reject car-required culture. In 2020, the US [ranked 19](#) out of the world’s happiest countries.

The educational content of my website is for everyone, but it is tailored especially for older teens and young adults that may have left their childhood homes in the car-driven (no pun intended) suburbs to communities that are more accessible without a car. I included a how-to page for the folks who intend to become less car-dependent themselves or at least learn some helpful tips and tricks that they can share with others. I shared links to helpful merchandise and other resources that can empower women and others to feel safe and confident in a city outside a car. News articles and blog posts can be educational as well, which I also share (although those articles are fictitious).

Design Process

Coming up with text for each page was easy for me since I have such a passion for the subject matter. Designing the how-to and news pages was easy since I could break up the information into different themes. Since I believe the subject matter is for everyone in the community, I added a section for parents who may not find that ditching their car is practical for them but where it makes more sense for their teens to do so. Of course I also share tips and tricks for the folks who do want to ditch their cars or move more effectively without one. News articles may be relevant for a long time (featured section) or less substantial but have new and trendy content (trending section). Blog posts may not be directly tied to news, but they can have great content from subject matter experts. I chose fun colors like purple and yellow because accessing the human environment should be fun. Searching for relevant pictures was fun as well since there is so much content on humans, transportation, and futuristic (and impractical) workarounds from the brilliant car-centric inventor Elon Musk. In short, coming up with text, pictures, divisions and other thematic elements came naturally.

Building and then styling one page at a time worked for me, rather than trying to style text and content blocks for multiple pages all at once. One early design mistake that caused problems later on was writing a css rule for the “p” selector that set a static left margin for the whole website. I quickly realized that styling classes and ids worked better than whole groups of tags.

Conclusion

I learned that grids simplify the styling process. I definitely nested grids inside grids inside grids because the geometry just made sense to me. Similarly I learned that building with html came more naturally to me than styling with CSS. I also learned about some new element tags and hope I used them semantically. Examples include `<button>`, `<hr>`, and `
`.

In the future I plan to spend more time in w3schools learning css before jumping into styling my next website. I also want to know more about inline elements like `` and how to incorporate

them into my design more seamlessly, whether that be wrapping them in <div>s or using some other method.

Most importantly, I rediscovered my passion just in time to vote for local officials! I am reminded that I can use tools like the web to research policies, learn how to be a better citizen, and share what I learn with others.