



ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

Environmental Problem Analysis

Highways

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Abstract

The book Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream, humorously compares the highway like a pair of pants, as the person wears a large pair of pants the person grows into those pair of pants. The same goes for highways the bigger the highways the more traffic that it going to make. Traffic alone is not just the problem, the bigger problem is the fact that there is a lot of cars[3]. Problems that come with cars are pollution such as co2 emissions, and finding an efficient way solving the matter. While analyzing the effects of having an efficient automobile.

1 History of the highways

In early America the way people got around were mainly by carriages, or by foot. The roads were very rough and very inefficient. Very few believed that the automobile were going to prosper. The term, “get a horse!” was used on automobiles because of their was lack of efficiency in the beginning[4]. Only a great entrepreneur could make cars into phenomena, that entrepreneur was Henry Ford. Henry Ford was the person that really set the tone for the mass production of automobiles, when he created the very first assembly line. The Henry T model, had the ability to be sold at \$350 opposed to the model a that was sold at 850 dollars. He had cut the cost in the automobile by \$500 dollars. Now everyone one had the opportunity to buy one, and in doing so created the need for more and better roads.

2 Pollution

Co2 emission are big problem with cars the reason being is because there is about a billion cars on the road. This number is going to double in the next decade. The problem is that earth cannot sustain that amount pollution. In the united states, 33% percent of co2 emission are coming from transportation.If the number does not go down with the next decades, we are in for bad environmental events[6]. The World can suffer from climate change from human health because of the quality of air will go down. From glaciaries melting to the point where oceans rise. To People coastal areas oceans getting acidity. Climate change is no joke, and should be taking seriously[1]. The United States have been working on technology because of this issue, there have been many great entrepreneurs working on new technology to help fix this problem.

3 Technology

Due to much of fossil fuel consumption and climate change from a century gasoline powered cars. Technology has improved and continues to improve, and we have much to thank the government[6]. Thanks to president Obama, and support of a more sustainable energy auto industries such as tesla have been able to prosper [7]. During the recession of 2008, companies like General Motors, Chrysler, and Tesla all were becoming bankrupt[5]. Tesla was one of the few that was saved by the government. Tesla plan was to get rid of fossil fuels altogether, and in doing so they interestingly enough did the henry ford did it as well. In the sense that they are going to started selling the car at a very high price, for those that have wealthy or car enthusiasts , and later hope to make the item marketable. As if to show that it is high quality brand. There is no proof that Henry Ford did the same thing but at first they only did attract was the wealthy, and then as time progressed Henry Ford found a way to make a cheaper automobile(T model). In **figure 1** we see the model of Tesla and how they planned to make a very expensive car to start and then try to lower the price as the time progresses. So far they have managed to cut the price in half, their is still no determinant factor in how low the next car will be. According to the owners of the telsa the charger will be free to anyone that purchases the car[2] The government borrowed Tesla 465 million dollars, and little did everyone know

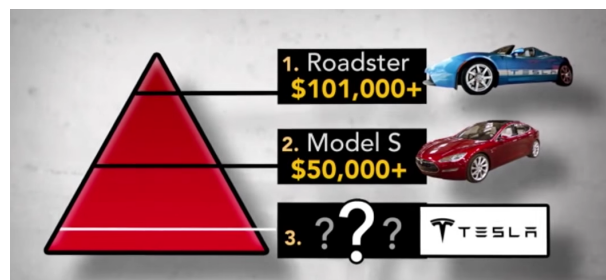


Figure 1: Figure 1: Tesla Approach[7]

it turned out to be a success paying their debt 9 years earlier than expected. Not only did Tesla pay off it debt it gave the government a bonus of 20 million dollars[2]. This would be a good thing for taxpayers as a good investment.

4 Transportations of goods

The benefits of having efficient vehicles will be very beneficial to those that need to transport goods. If this idea explodes this could be revolutionary. Not only would

it cut the cost on products but it will also bring prices down. Would this be a good thing? If we have the ability to make things cheaper would it make competition more fierce or would it create an oligopoly where only the rich business can invest in this new technology thus beating all the competitions leaving no room for small business, the reverse could potentially happen. Where everyone can afford an efficient vehicle. Thus creating more traffic, and creating conflicts to small towns.

5 Small Towns

Small towns could be the most affected by efficient cars because they are ones losing customers and workers, at the same time. Even today some may say that is a problem with the current system we have today with the many highways. Having more cars and means more traffic, and traffic means unhappy people. Politicians would like to solve the problem and thus create more highways. According to Andrés Duany (2000), author of suburban nation the rise of sprawl and the decline of the american dream the bigger the highway more cars will come. [3]. Knowing that their could be potentially car out there that is very efficient and in expensive could cause massive traffic. The benefits of having an efficient car can both have positive and negative effects.

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