Week 7 Reaction Paragraph

# I read the article “Global trends toward urban street-network sprawl” by Christopher Barrington-Leigh. I have long-wondered about the impacts of urban form and land use in the world’s cities. Thus, this paper presents an interesting analysis of the effects of this built infrastructure on land use, energy use, and urban form in the US. The fact that “street-network” sprawl is the persisting urban form seems to spell disaster for high-density, energy-efficient cities. The methodology of the paper is using OpenStreetMap and satellite-derived time series of urbanization to compute development trends in the US and around the world since 1975. They find that newly constructed streets are less connected, while more gated communities are also being built. I had difficulty understanding some of their additional conclusions, but am excited to ask further about it during the speaker session this week.

Questions:

1. What is the significance of low preexisting connectivity and its effect on current levels of connectivity? What does this tell us about sustainable urban development?