11.953
Comparative Land Use and Transportation Planning
Assignment I: *Accessibility in the Metropolis*
Due in class (hard copy) Session 8

A metropolitan planning organization (MPO) has asked you, as a consultant, to explore the possibility of developing better metrics for transportation and land use system performance for their metropolis. They have requested from you a brief memorandum outlining your proposed approach. Specifically, they would like you to:

1. Define (1) mobility (2) accessibility[1].
2. Highlight the key differences between these two concepts as they relate to transportation and land use system performance and possibilities for guiding relevant MPO policies.
3. Suggest how these concepts – separately or in some explicit combination – could be measured and projected into the future, for the purpose of:

> a) estimating and projecting current and future levels of metropolitan growth patterns, competitiveness, and quality of life and
> (b) making comparisons with other metropolitan areas, in terms of the contribution of mobility and accessibility to metropolitan competitiveness and quality of life[2].

4. Describe the types of data that would be required and the potential sources for that data.
5. Identify major challenges you foresee together with any other issues you think are important.

To write this memo, you should draw from the readings and class materials (lectures, etc.) covered through Session 6. You do not need to do any outside data gathering, nor link the assignment to any particular metropolitan area (though you can do so if you prefer to). Please limit the memo to <u>no more</u> than 6 double-spaced pages (not including any potential figures or tables).

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[1] Using the idea of accessibility as we have been discussing it in this class.
[2] Assuming that other metropolitan areas would develop similar metric(s).