TTP220 Transportation Policy and Planning

Class 3: History of Federal Transportation Policy

See handout on “Important Federal Legislation Relating to Urban Transportation”

Key concept: types of congressional acts
- Authorization bills
- Appropriate bills

Road Building – 1910s+

Why funding for roads from early on but not for transit?

Early motivations: economic, defense
Early responsibilities: state highways, federal highways, local roads left to locals
Early funding: vehicle license fees, fuel taxes

National Interstate and Defense Highway System Act of 1956
Highway Revenue Act of 1956 – Highway Trust Fund

Freeway Revolt, e.g. San Francisco’s Embarcadero Freeway

Mandated Planning – 1960s+
- 3 C Planning Process = continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative
- Metropolitan regions as focus of planning
- Bureau of Public Roads as arbiter of forecasting techniques

Transit Funding – 1960s+
Motivation was improving conditions in blighted cities
Unequal “match” requirements vs. roads

Citizen Participation – 1960s+
Arising from citizen discontent – freeway revolt, environmental concerns, civil rights
Embedded in 3C process, plus NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) – more later

Intermodal Planning – 1990s+
Key Concept: Level of Service (LOS) = f (volume/capacity)

?? – 2010+

Wednesday: Institutions – who does what
Readings:
“A Citizen’s Guide to Transportation Decision Making”
Handy and Clifton Chapter – “How it Works” sections
MPO Guidebook – Chapter 1