

*Assignments to be submitted electronically to [ryan@rsa.cc](mailto:ryan@rsa.cc)*

### *Assignment 1: Reasons for Bicycling and Walking (20%)*

#### **Goal**

There are many reasons why people do or do not bicycle or walk in a community. The goal of this assignment is for you to explore the current “levels” of bicycling and/or walking in a selected city, and prepare a paper analyzing and speculating why.

#### **Assignment**

- 1) Choose a city to analyze: This will be a city of your choosing. I advise you to choose an area that you can easily visit or are interested in learning more about the physical environment. You will need to walk or bicycle around the area as well as research it online. You may also choose an area of a large city, as long as you can find data for it.
- 2) Analyze the “levels” of biking or walking: As illustrated thus far in the readings, there are many different reasons why people do or do not bicycle or walk. Demographics, existing infrastructure, existing transit, land uses, urban form, among others, all play a role in determining the levels of bicycling and walking. Research using available data (see resources), existing plans, citywide policies, anecdotal evidence (informal / formal surveys, the number of bicycle shops in an area etc.) among others to surmise what factors influence levels of bicycling or walking. I do not expect you to look at every existing data source or city document for this assignment.
- 3) Explain your findings: Write a 2-page single spaced (12-point font) paper describing your findings. Be sure to include the reasoning behind your assertions. Explain what you measured and why, and if you believe the “levels” are low, medium, high, etc. and what leads you to believe this is the case. Cite the readings when appropriate.

**Due Date: January 23**

#### **Resources:**

- Census data (American Fact Finder) tracks levels of bicycling and walking for commuting.
- American Community Survey.
- The City may have an existing bicycle and/or pedestrian plan – look to the Planning, Transportation, and/or Public Works Department websites for clues.
- Information gathered from city staff.

### *Assignment 2: Bicycle Planning Exercise (20%)*

#### **Goal**

Now that we have covered the basics of creating a bicycle plan, I would like you to draft a bike route plan for an area of your choice. The assignment will help you gain experience assessing an area's existing conditions and make physical planning recommendations.

### Assignment

- 1) Choose an area to analyze: This can be a small city, defined neighborhood, or other size area of your choosing. It should be an area of a 2 to 3 miles square or so. I advise you to choose an area that you can easily visit or are interested in learning more about the physical environment. You will need to walk or bicycle around the area.
- 2) Examine Existing Documentation: Where would bikeways make sense in your chosen area? Is there an existing bicycle plan with mapped routes? Choose streets to examine for candidate bikeways based on some of the information we discovered in Assignment 1: connections to transit, density, etc.
- 3) Conduct Fieldwork: Examine the existing conditions of your site. Where do bikeways currently exist? Can bikeways fit on your candidate streets? You do not have to have accurate measurements of streets. You may use Google Earth, pacing off the width, or measuring devices.
- 4) Write Up Recommendations: Prepare a list of recommended bikeways along with their type. Write up a short section on the methodology you used, including assumptions you made while conducting your fieldwork and deciding which bikeways could fit where and why. Please include a map of your plan. This may be in GIS or a graphic format.
- 5) Teaming: You may work with one other classmate on this.
- 6) Length: This should be no longer than 2 pages of text per person, plus a map.

**Due Date: February 5**

*Assignment 3: Pedestrian Planning Exercise (20%)*

### Goal

I would like you to draft a pedestrian plan for an area of your choice. The assignment will help you gain experience assessing an area's existing conditions and make planning recommendations.

### Assignment

- 1) Choose an area to analyze: You should choose an area to examine that contains at least 5 intersections to improve. The more public facilities, businesses, or different types of land uses that are in the area, the more interesting it will be for you to make planning recommendations.
- 2) Examine Existing Documentation: What are the traffic volumes, lane widths, speed limits, etc.?
- 3) Conduct Fieldwork: Examine the existing conditions of your site. What will make the site more pedestrian friendly? What devices will make it safer for pedestrians?
- 4) Write a brief Plan Report: Prepare a 2-page (per person) (not including maps or graphics) report with your recommendations. The report should include a

description of existing conditions and proposed projects. Create a bullet-pointed list of the improvements at each site. It will be best to support this with a map of the area and some graphics showing your recommendations. You should also include a short section why you selected the devices that you did.

- 5) Teaming: You may work with one other classmate on this.

**Due Date: February 19**

#### *Assignment 4: Final Project (40%)*

Individually, or in groups (of up to 4), students will produce a plan that uses tools taught in the course. Project topics should be chosen by week 4 of the quarter and a brief synopsis of your proposed case study will be submitted. All students are required to present their plans to the class on March 3. You may build upon your prior projects.

#### **Goal**

The intention of this assignment is to combine what we have learned in this course to create a new planning and policy document to make a community more bikeable and walkable.

#### **Assignment**

Please prepare a report (up to 4 pages per person + graphics, maps, etc.) and a PowerPoint presentation (up to 5 minutes per person) summarizing your findings.

#### Topic 1: Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Plan

Create a bicycle and/or pedestrian plan for an area of your choosing. The document should contain the primary elements of a comprehensive plan that we discussed in class including an introduction, planning context, goals and objectives, existing conditions, proposed projects, and financials.

#### Topic 2: Safe Routes to School Plan

Choose a school to create a comprehensive SRTS plan for. The plan should include bicycle facilities leading to the school, on campus facilities, pedestrian improvements within a quarter mile of the school, as well as a 5 E program. You should include a map of the bicycle and pedestrian recommendations, as well as with graphics of your proposed pedestrian improvements.

**Due Date: March 3**