TRANSPORTATION ISSUES IN THE NEWS

In this course, you will all give a brief (three- to five-minute) presentation to the class which distills a local, state, national, or international transportation-related news story found in the mass media (newspapers, Internet, etc.). You can check the news on almost any day and find a transportation-related story.

Requirements:
1. Introduce yourself and identify the source and date of your article.
2. Briefly synthesize the main point of the article and discuss its implications. If your article is long, focus on the main or most interesting point of the article.
3. Discuss the issue in a broader context. Clearly explain why the article is important. Explain how the article is related to: 1) topics discussed in the course, 2) changes or challenges to the profession, 3) broader global or societal impacts, or 4) your audience of entry-level professional engineers. (Warning: This information may not be found in the article and may require independent thinking!)

Bring a copy of your article to class with your name written on it, and turn it in. Your article must indicate the published source and date.

Evaluation Criteria: Your presentation will be evaluated based on:
1. Appropriateness – Article and subject matter was appropriate for the class and met all constraints and requirements. (10%)
2. Organization – Your ability to briefly discuss the article without notes in the allotted time. (20%)
   - Student gave audience proper introduction of him/herself and the topic.
   - Information was presented in a well-organized logical sequence that the audience was able to easily follow.
   - Student gave audience proper ending to the presentation.
3. Content Knowledge – Your ability to synthesize the important point(s) of the article, speak about your subject intelligently, and answering questions. (30%)
   - The article was clearly and briefly synthesized without use of notes.
   - Student demonstrated full knowledge of subject with concise explanations.
   - Presentation contained no factual errors or errors in logic.
   - Student spoke about the subject and answered questions intelligently and accurately.
4. Broader Context – Your ability to think beyond the scope of the article and give it meaning in a broader context. (20%)
   - Student discussed the issue in a broader context.
   - Student was elaborated on facts of the article as they related to: the audience of young civil engineers, course topics in CE147, or the general fields of transportation or civil engineering.
5. Delivery – Your ability to speak clearly and without notes while maintaining eye contact with your audience. (10%)
   - Student appeared to be at ease with content and spoke clearly.
   - Student spoke without notes while maintaining eye contact with the entire audience.
   - Student demonstrated appropriate attentive posture and engaging body language.
6. Voice and Language – Appropriate use of technical vocabulary and correct grammar. (5%)
   - Student used a clear, distinct voice.
   - Student used appropriate technical terms when necessary.
   - Presentation contained no grammatical or pronunciation errors.
7. Appearance – Demonstrating appropriate attire, posture, and body language. (5%)
   - Student demonstrated appropriate attire and appearance.
Constraints:
- Your presentation will not exceed five minutes. You will not be permitted to use notes, a laptop, or an overhead projector during your presentation. If your article contains interesting pictures or figures, you are welcome to bring photocopies/handouts for your audience. If your article contains important data, you are permitted to write them on the chalkboard before class. (You are not required to memorize factoids!)
- Your article cannot be more than two weeks old, must exceed 250 words, and must be a stand-alone article in the mass media. (No “Q&A” pieces like “Dear Abby.”)
- The article must originate from a reputable news or information source, like the Sac Bee, SF Chronicle, Sac Business Journal, State Hornet(?), etc. (No blogs. No press releases.).
- To avoid presentations about the same subject on the same day, the subject of your presentation will be constrained to a geographic region (inside Northern CA, inside the U.S., or outside the U.S.).
- Your presentation cannot address a topic already presented in the class.
- When necessary, you should do a little background research so that you know what you are talking about and are able to answer questions on the subject intelligently!

Partial List of Potentially Good Topics:
- New or Innovative Local Transportation Projects and Its Challenges/Constraints
- Recent Research Findings
- New or Innovative Technologies, Engineering, Planning, Operations, or Financing Practices
- Changing Law, Public Policy, or Enforcement
- Traffic/Transit/Multimodal Issues
- Transportation-related Sociological, Cultural, or Behavioral Issues/Challenges
- Unusual/Odd/Humorous Events in the Context of Transportation Engineering or Planning

If necessary, you can make arrangements at least one day prior to class to have your article reviewed for appropriateness.