

# Class 12a: Suburban geography

- Transportation and land use
- History of suburban growth

# History of the suburbs (U.S.)

- Tied to transportation technology
  - One hour commute
- And federal subsidies
  - Mortgage deductions, veterans' loans

# Transportation and urban land use

- Walking, horsecars (to 1888)
  - High density downtown
- Streetcar, commuter rail (1888-1920s)
  - Interurban electric rail, subways/elevated
- Recreational auto (1920s-1950s)
  - Buses feed streetcar lines
- Freeway Era (1950s-)

# History of the suburbs (U.S.)

- Residential land uses
  - Escaping urban ills, spreading out
- Retail followed the market
- Industry followed the employees
  - More space, new buildings
  - Good transportation access

# History of the suburbs (U.S.)

- Edge cities
  - At a new kind of crossroads
  - Subcenters instead of CBD
  - “Shadow governments”
- Leapfrog development
  - Expensive utilities
  - Inefficient land use

# Suburbs and inner cities

- Suburban residents and jobs came from somewhere
- Growth now limited to suburbs
- Segregation by class, race
- Falling tax income, rising service needs
- Spatial mismatch: jobs moved, poor didn't

# Suburbs and inner cities

- But agglomeration still matters
- And immigrants still arrive in cities
- Increasing redevelopment of downtowns
  - LoDo in Denver
  - Jack London Square in Oakland
  - Train station in Sacramento