

TOPIC ONE

PLANNING FOR ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

In addition to walking, early Utahns rode on horses, wagons, bicycles, or in buggies. Later trains and trolleys became transportation alternatives. When automobiles became popular, most city planners began to focus attention on building roads that effectively moved cars. Large roads carried more lanes of traffic. Roads were paved with a variety of materials, speeds limits increased, people began to travel longer distances to work and school, freeways were built, and parking lots appeared.

The focus on automobiles had positive and negative results.

As a result of city planners focusing on automobile travel, providing for other forms of transportation became less important. As roads were paved, trolley rails were covered. Busy roads made bike riding dangerous, horses were banned, and dark streets and fast traffic made walking difficult.

As a group, list several advantages of using roads for automobile travel:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

List several disadvantages:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Walk-able Communities

Today, many community planners want to encourage alternatives to automobile transportation and are looking to the past for examples. Before automobiles, shopping and government offices had to be available to citizens with limited means of transportation. There was no need for large parking lots. People walked or road buggies, trolleys, or bikes to go shopping, to attend school, and to go to work. Today’s planners call this concept a Walk-able Community plan. In this design, parks, schools, homes, stores, and businesses are located so that driving is not a necessity.

In your presentation, explain how transportation has changed and explain the idea of Walk-able Communities.