

Vroom Vroom!



A Country of Cars

United States travel infrastructure

**How do most Americans get
from one place to another?**

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from one place to another?**

**90% of passenger
travel is done by car.**

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How do most Americans get from one place to another?

How does this happen?

What does this mean?

Is it good or bad?

Will it ever change?

90% of passenger travel is done by car.

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Federal funding is used to pay for highway system during and after WWII. A defense expenditure?

**1946 there are 28 million passenger cars...
1964 there are 72 million**

From 1950 to 1960 there is a 269% increase in number of cars.

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Old stats (1960s)


Estimated that 1 in 6 business are car related to the car industry.

1 in 7 workers is employed in car related industry.

... manufacture, sale, distribution, insurance, oil, media, maintenance, repair, cleaning, rubber, speakers.

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Biggest companies of early 20th century

Oil

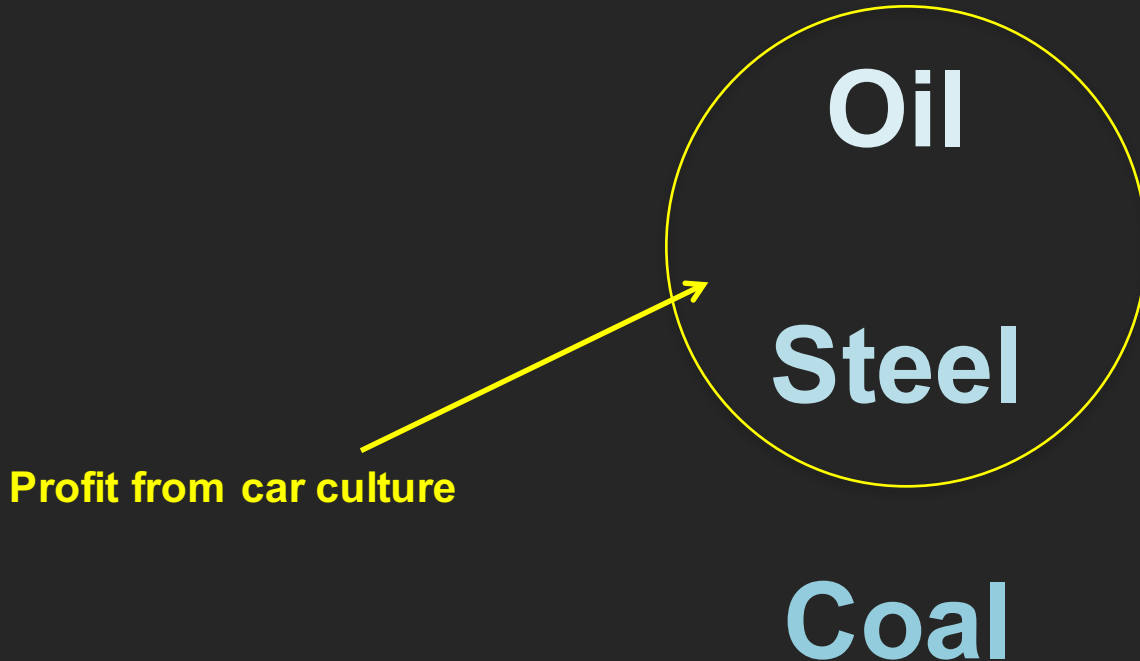
Steel

Coal

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Biggest companies of early 20th century



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Biggest companies of middle 20th century

Some of the biggest car companies...

General Motors

Ford

Chrysler

The Future of Cars

(according to 1960s)

Will we run out of supplies of steel, petroleum and other resources?

“Liquid petroleum mining in America probably will become uneconomic within a few decades.”



The Future of Cars

(according to 1960s)

Speaking of fuel...

... Why are U.S. gas costs so low
(relatively)?



The Future of Cars

(according to 1960s)

And where are our...

Self driving cars!

Flying cars!

The Future of Cars

(according to 1960s)

“Garish, flashing, reflecting and moving signs render the main shopping streets of many American cities and towns very distracting and ugly.

Billboard walls mask the countryside and distract the driver with cigarette, petroleum, auto, whisky and other advertisements and election campaign posters.”



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Henry Ford // Fordism

- Assembly line production
- Automated production
- Mass Production
- Standardized Production
- Highly efficient



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Henry Ford // Fordism

- Workers paid relatively well?
- Enough to afford the products they produce.



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Henry Ford // Fordism

- Workers paid relatively well?
- Enough to afford the products they produce.
- Encourages expansion and accumulation



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Roads, Paths, Routes



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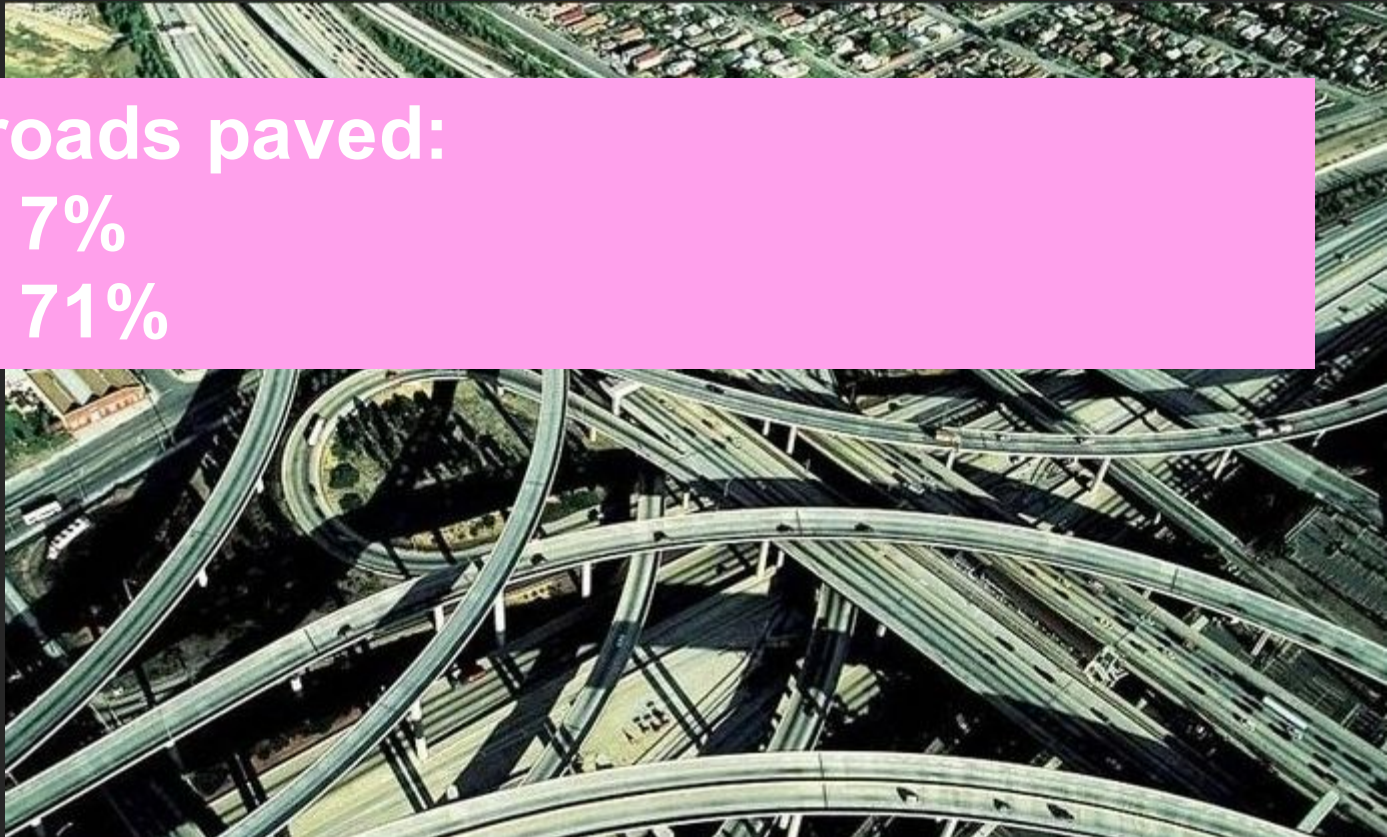
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Roads, Paths, Routes

Rural roads paved:

1904 = 7%

1962 = 71%



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Roads, Paths, Routes

- Roads are often taken for granted
- But what are paths, trails, routes?
- Pre-determined spectrum of places to go? Possible routes of travel...
are we programmed to follow them.

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Town v. Country

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Town Country

Suburbs!

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Town Country

Suburbs!

- Car is impetus for urban sprawl suburbs springing up...
- Places like Houston, Orlando, Phoenix have no significant downtown.
- Their downtowns are filled with parking lots
- They are car friendly not pedestrian friendly because businesses want to lure in customers from suburbs

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Town Country

Suburbs!

- Public transport is 20 to 40 times more efficient in handling passengers into and out of cities, and it eliminates parking concerns.

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Town Country

Suburbs!

- Public transport is 20 to 40 times more efficient in handling

Should we tax driving in Manhattan?

and it eliminates parking concerns.

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Gentrification

vs.

Suburbanization

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Levittown

s travel infrastructure

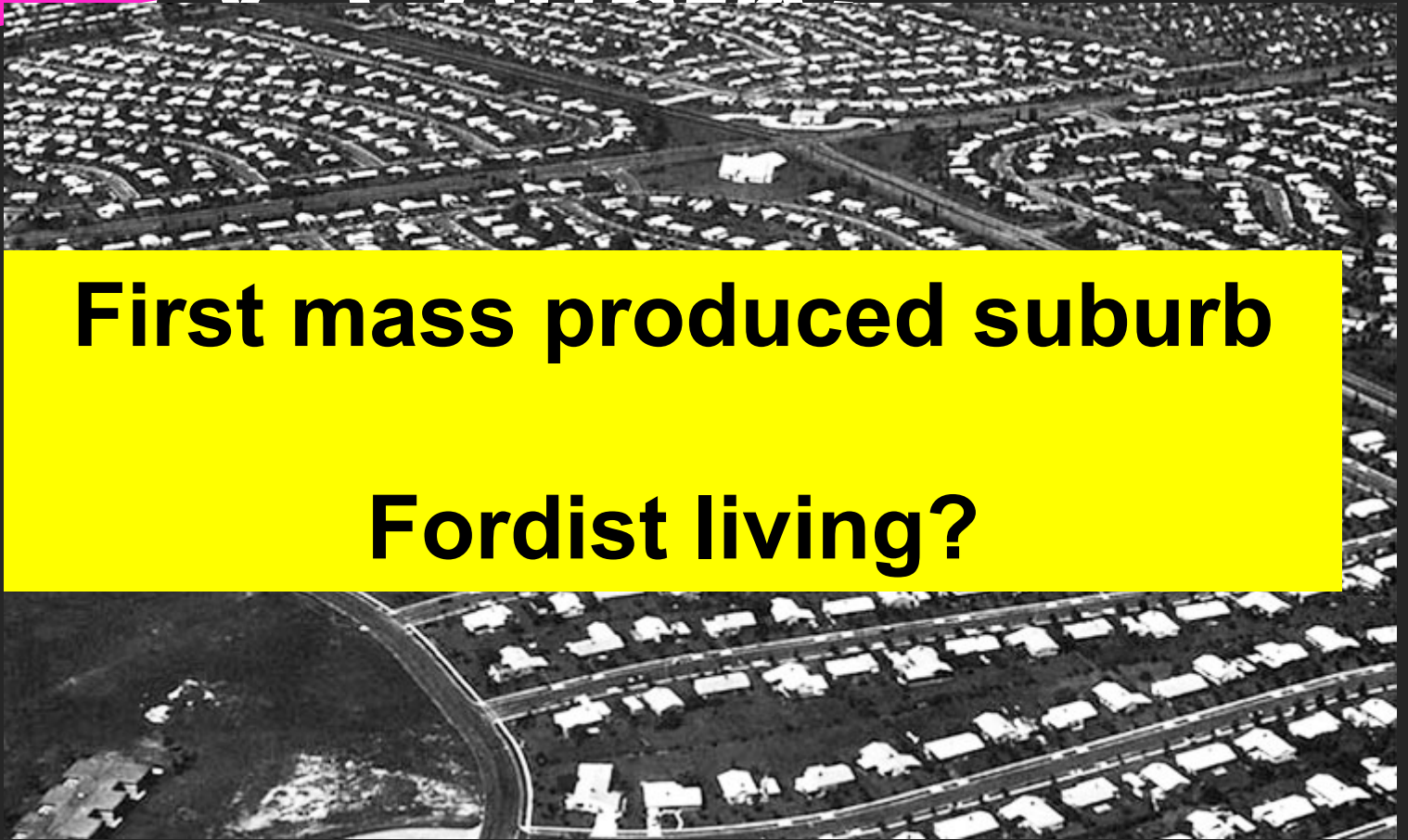


Sprawl

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Levittown

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First mass produced suburb

Fordist living?

A Country Club Community

Celebration, FL

Travel Infrastructure



A Country Club Community

Celebration, FL

travel infrastructure



A Disney produced town

Nostalgic?



A Country of Stars

Celebration, FL

Travel Infrastructure

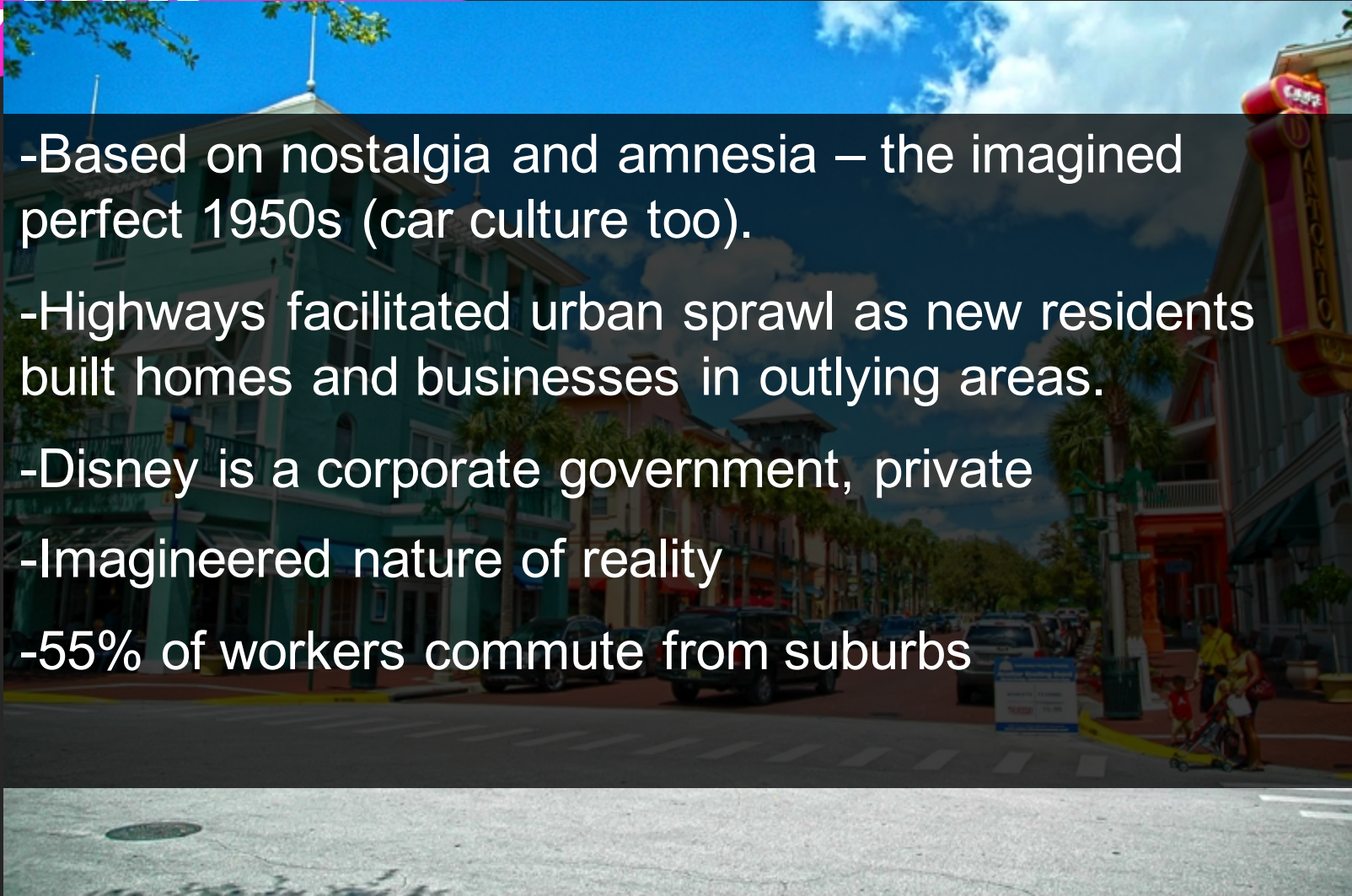


A Country of Cars

Celebration, FL

travel infrastructure

- Based on nostalgia and amnesia – the imagined perfect 1950s (car culture too).
- Highways facilitated urban sprawl as new residents built homes and businesses in outlying areas.
- Disney is a corporate government, private
- Imagineered nature of reality
- 55% of workers commute from suburbs



Cars vs. Cities

Robert Moses:

“Cars are more important than people.”

