The purpose of the term paper is to make you an expert in one aspect of transportation economics.

I. The paper will be graded in two phases.

   Phase I: Includes:
   1. A project title and short (1/2 page) paragraph of what you intend to do.
   2. An outline of the paper.
   3. Five full journal (professional journal) references to be used in the bibliography.

   Phase I is due at the beginning of class on Monday, May 6. It is worth 25% of the final paper grade.

   Phase II: Final paper due at noon on Monday, June 10, 2002 (the time of the regularly scheduled final).

II. General Requirements/Comments:

   1. All papers are expected to have a complete list of references (Author, Title, Journal (if article), Date, Page numbers).
   2. Do NOT use extensive quotes, but if you do quote, be sure to acknowledge the author in an endnote.
   3. Use endnotes rather than footnotes.
   4. All papers must be typed, double spaced, and no longer than 20 pages including endnotes, tables, and references. (normal margins).
   5. No late papers will be accepted. Both phases of the project will be collected at the beginning of the class period.
   6. Plagiarism will be rewarded by a grade of "F" in this course and the individual involved will be reported to appropriate university authorities. Plagiarism is defined as taking and passing off someone else's writing, ideas, etc. as one's own. Proper citations should avoid this.

III. Paper Organization:

   Each paper should have at least the following four required sections.

   I. Introduction: An introduction to the project topic and the issues you intend to address. It is appropriate to refer to past studies in the area and explain how your work fits into the literature.
   II. Theory: The second section should explain the economic theory that is used in the area
you are considering. For instance, if you are evaluating the impact of deregulation or regulation of an industry, you would want to review the rationales for regulation and discuss the importance of scale and/or scope economies. If you are looking at road pricing, use a road pricing model, etc.

III. Methodology and Analysis: In the third section you can collect and present your own data or theoretical model or critically evaluate other people’s work. This is the creative part of the project and this requires the most brain power. Present your findings/theories/suggestions here. Graduate students must analyze some sort of data and present in tabular form. (If you are doing a theoretical piece, you still need to provide some empirical data to support your work.)

IV. Conclusion: The final section of the paper should briefly summarize your major findings. This is the place to make policy recommendations (these are required.)

IV. Sources:

The following are journals which often have transportation articles aimed at business/economics/policy audiences. Looking through recent volumes may help you get an idea of what you would like to study.

- Journal of Transportation Economics and Policy
- International Journal of Transport Economics and Policy
- Transportation Journal
- Logistics and Transportation Review
- Transportation
- Research in Transportation Economics
- Transportation Research, Part E

See me for more journal references. General economics journals such as Economic Inquiry, Southern Economic Journal, Journal of Political Economy, etc. sometimes have papers related to transportation.

Popular publications such as Newsweek may give you some ideas for topics, but these do not count as professional journal references. If you do use them, include them in your bibliography, but be sure to read the journal publications to position your paper in professional economic terms.

Data may be found in a variety of sources including publications by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Interstate Commerce Commission, American Trucking Associations, American Railroad Association, and the Census of Transportation. Some references are in government documents. I have a data set on operating and financial statistics for Class I and II motor carriers.

V. Topics: The following are but a few possible project topics:

1. An analysis of air, bus, or truck service to small communities.
2. The impact of deregulation on labor in air, rail, or motor carriage.
3. Estimation of cost or profit functions, frontier analysis, analysis of efficiency such as DEA (data envelop analysis) for transit operations or other transportation industries.

4. Application of Ramsey pricing to a transportation example (highway pricing and user fees, airline pricing?).

5. Cost benefit analysis of a transportation investment (light rail?).

6. An examination of the efficiency of alternative road pricing schemes (i.e., which are closer to efficient pricing or reflecting each user’s P=MC).

7. A comparison of the economic efficiency and equity of road pricing schemes in different U.S. states or countries.

8. An analysis of efficient road pricing for alternative energy vehicles.