

Transportation has always been imperative to civilization. We use transportation for several reasons such as for importing and exporting goods, taking business trips, and even going on family vacations. Over the past couple of centuries our ways of transportation have changed dramatically. A great amount of those changes have been helpful to people from around the world. However, some of those changes have brought a number of serious problems to the attention of the people in the state of Indiana.

Transportation is incredibly important; however, there are some challenges which need to be dealt with to allow Indiana a brighter and better future.

A vital reason why transportation is important to Indiana's future is because it not only helps businesses grow, but it also builds up cities and towns. Transportation is essential to towns and cities throughout Indiana because without the transportation going through those cities and towns, they would eventually die off. An example of this is Ogden, Indiana. Ogden used to have a school, three churches, a gas station, and a small family grocery store. When the state put in the new National State Highway 40, it caused people who travelled through the area to bypass Ogden. The lack of transportation through Ogden led to businesses closing and the town dwindling away. Ogden now only consists of one small church and a collection of individually owned houses. We need transportation through cities and towns to keep businesses open, which will provide jobs for people around the state of Indiana. For that reason, transportation through cities and towns is necessary to keep the state of Indiana alive.

One transportation challenge Indiana is facing is air pollution. Air pollution is a result of an increasing dependence on automobiles. Research shows that "60% of the ozone pollution in central Indiana comes from motor vehicles" ("Transforming the

Transportation Sector in Indiana,” 2008). Pollution in the air from automobiles has several effects on the people in Indiana. One effect the pollution has is it can make it difficult to breathe, especially for people who are asthmatic or have any respiratory problems. The pollution can also cause lung cancer, bronchitis, and heart disease (Air Quality Tips 2009). One solution to the air pollution problem from transportation is carpooling or using public transportation. Public transportation actually creates about 90% to 95% percent less carbon monoxide and unstable organic compounds and “half as much carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide per passenger mile as private vehicles” (“Transforming the Transportation Sector in Indiana,” 2008). Another solution to the air pollution problem is to not buy motor vehicles with diesel engines. The incomplete combustion in diesel engines contributes to air pollution problems (“Air Quality Tips,” 2009). Air pollution is a serious transportation challenge, which Indiana faces and should not be taken lightly and Indiana needs reduce the amount of pollution that is negatively affecting our nation.

Another transportation challenge Indiana deals with is extra taxes or fees to raise money for road repairs. In Madison County, Indiana, drivers have to pay a \$25.00 wheel tax for every wheel on their car, sedan, or small truck when they register for their license (“Larson”). For drivers with larger trucks or buses, they must pay a \$40.00 wheel tax (“Larson”). The new wheel tax has brought up a few issues from the people who are not happy about this new fee they have to pay. An issue is that some people believe it is not right for them to charge this fee because they will be charging people who drive all the time the same amount that they will be charging people who rarely ever drive. Another issue is that not all people will be willing to pay the fee because they will not be able to afford paying an extra \$25.00 or \$40.00 for each wheel of their car to get their license. A

solution to this dilemma is for the state to use the money they obtain from the Hoosier Lottery to pay for road repairs needed throughout the state. Extra fees to raise money for road repairs are a transportation challenge which Indiana officials need to discuss and solve.

A final transportation challenge in Indiana is the number of fatalities from driving under the influence occurring each year. In 2006, the state of Indiana had a total of 896 fatalities that were from drinking and driving ("Drunk Driving Statistics," 2006). Some good news is that in the last twenty years, the percentages of deaths which are alcohol-related have decreased. The numbers are still high though. Having drivers under the influence on the roads is not only be harmful to the driver but to the thousands of people surrounding them on the roads. Transportation is meant to be safe for the people of Indiana. One important solution is for parents to teach their children what effects alcohol can have on them. Parents should teach their children avoid alcohol especially when operating a vehicle. Another solution is to have programs at school around the state of Indiana to teach children and teenagers about the effects of alcohol to make sure all students will know the facts. A good way to make students realize the true effects of alcohol is to have the principal at a high school check with police officers in their local area about having a volunteer inmate who drove under the influence and killed an innocent person come speak at their schools. A final solution to fatalities caused by drinking and driving is to have stricter punishments for people who drive under the influence and kill innocent victims. Transportation challenges are important, but driving under the influence is one of the most important challenges in transportation which Indiana faces.

Even though there are quite a few challenges that come with transportation, it is still important to the future of Indiana. Air pollution, extra fees to repair roads, and driving under the influence are just a few of our transportation problems. If the people of Indiana can come together to resolve these difficulties, then we can look forward to a healthier, safer, and brighter future.

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