

Russell Wight

E90

Topic Memo

Sept. 29, 2006

For my E90 project I intend to work on some transportation engineering project. Using tools from my various civil engineering courses as well as operations research, I hope to get involved in some kind of road construction/highway improvement project in the Philadelphia area. I have already contacted a Professor at Penn State who is actively involved in transportation engineering, and hopefully he will assist me in narrowing down my topic. Part of my project could involve measuring traffic volumes along various routes, facilitated by placing cables across the road which measure each time a car crosses the cables. I could also be involved with studies to expand 476 from two lanes to three lanes in its southern part, as it was originally intended to be three lanes along its entire length. Finally, for my operations research case study I am planning on setting up some kind of optimization model for the Septa R3 Media-Elwyn route. Depending on the success of this model this semester, I may try to expand on that model for my E90 next semester, possibly by extending it to the entire Regional Rail system. These are all possible options which I hope to narrow down in the near future.