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Transit Oriented Development in Spain and Portugal

Automobile dependence could be decreased in Minneapolis through sustainable urban planning that incorporates alternative transportation options. New Urbanism is a term used to describe a set of development practices that create attractive, efficient, and livable communities. Transit Oriented Development (TOD), a technique within New Urbanism, refers to city design that seeks to maximize access of residential and commercial centers by public and non-motorized transportation. Transit Oriented Development does not exclude automobile travel, but prioritizes alternative transportation options in order to decrease negative vehicle impacts. Two cities that reflect the success of TODs are Barcelona and Bilbao in Spain. These cities have implemented a variety of strategies to manage automobile hazards. Their approach minimizes inner-city congestion through vehicle restrictions and parking management, encourages commuter cycling, and enables pedestrian accessibility. The United States is at the elementary stage of learning to design functional, sustainable urban spaces. Knowledge from our progressive European neighbors is invaluable to further the development of healthy cities and livable streets.



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