

Buffalo, bytes, biking, books, and bile.

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Mobile Millenium

The Mobile Millenium project, described <u>here</u>, looks pretty neat. They've developed a Java application that can be run on Nokia and Blackberry smartphones that reads GPS information (location, speed, etc.) and uploads it to a central server. There, the information is crunched and analyzed to produce realtime maps of traffic congestion in the Bay Area.

I bet California wishes they'd thought of this approach before spending millions of dollars installing their own sensors.

This is also the sort of story that makes me so happy that Buffalo has a highway system designed for twice its current population. The idea that an infrastructure can be so overloaded as to require something like this is mindboggling to me. I get antsy when I'm in the car for more than twenty minutes or so; those crazy bastards elsewhere in the country who have multiple hour commutes are out of their minds.

(EDIT: Hey, this is my hundredth post on here. Wow, I thought I'd get bored and abandon this way before I hit that. Neat.)

This entry was posted on Friday, November 7th, 2008 at 9:11 am and is filed under <u>Nerdiness</u>. You can follow any responses to this entry through the <u>RSS 2.0</u> feed. You can <u>leave a response</u>, or <u>trackback</u> from your own site.

22 Responses to "Mobile Millenium"

1. *Pitt* Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 10:37 am

Matt, with the addition of myself (and possibly soon Adam) to your list of contributors, hopefully it will remove some of the burden from you to provide insightful, witty, topical posts every day.

Note: I realize I dropped the ball and did not post last night. Thursday is my drinking, I mean, bowling night, so sod off.

2. BrianN Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 11:14 am

'I get antsy when I'm in the car for more than twenty minutes or so; those crazy bastards elsewhere in the country who have multiple hour commutes are out of their minds.'

3. BrianN Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 11:23 am

Although I have to admit, things have gotten better since they painted lines on the mass pike

4. matt Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 11:26 am

@BrianN

Ten minutes, door to door, on my bicycle. Woo-hoo! Too bad Jin didn't get that slot at University at Buffalo.

5. BrianN Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 11:38 am

@Matt

Jin's commute could actually be 10 min. on a bike, but given the accident rate in cambridge, I don't think it's worth the risk (especially since she has to drop off Jake too).

What's funny is that sometimes she has to go to Children's hospital, which is in downtown Boston, about 3 miles from our house. When she was pregnant I used to drive her over at ~8:30AM and it took as long to drive that 3 miles as it did to drive the remaining 45 to Worcester. Surprisingly, there aren't that many cars, it's just that the roads here are still designed around oxcarts.

6. matt Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 11:44 am

@BrianN

No kidding. You'd have to be insane to ride in Boston traffic; and I say that as someone who rides all over the city of Buffalo in all kinds of weather. The drivers in your neck of the woods are a very specific kind of sociopathic.

Have you considered buying an oxcart?

7. BrianN Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 12:05 pm

I have a prius. That's pretty close.

8. *Pitt* Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 12:54 pm

A prius is like an oxcart, except that with an oxcart, the ass is on the outside of the vehicle...

DC traffic was bad, NYC traffic was congested but at least seemed to have a rhythm to it. The few times I've driven in Boston I thought to myself "This is a joke, right? People don't actually do this _every day_, do they?"

I now spend 30 minutes to drive 20 miles to work, and I see a total of 3 stop lights, 4 stop signs, and

about 23 other cars.

9. BrianN Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 2:08 pm

@Pitt

Your knowledge of oxcarts is lacking. The Ass is between different parts of the vehicle. Dumbass. or Dumbox.

I think NYC traffic management is a feat of engineering. Something like 3 million people come into the city using 5 bridges and 2 tunnels. Traffic can be slow, but it rarely comes to a complete stop. Also cool is that is that when you drive up the Avenues at around the speed limit you can watch the traffic lights turn green just before you pass them. I understand that we have Robert Moses to thank, who, as Matt pointed out in Buffalo, was forward thinking enough to run the major artery for the West side down the middle of otherwise beautiful Riverside park.

10. *matt* Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 2:20 pm

@BrianN

As anyone here knows, I'm not a religious man. But sometimes I wish I was, so that I could know with moral certitude that Robert Moses is roasting in hell for destroying so many cities.

11. <u>Pitt</u> Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 2:27 pm

Brian, I'll agree with you vis-a-vis NYC traffic. I always thought DC traffic was worse. Probably because DC has so many levels of psychopaths living there, while everyone in NYC is more-or-less equally psychotic. Like I said, there's a rhythm to it.

When I lived in DC it was a 45 mile drive to work that could take anywhere from 45 minutes to 3 hours. Now my tolerance band for the drive in to work is about +/- 5 minutes, and the greatest amount of uncertainty is whether or not Farmer Kelsey is walking his cows across the road at the precise moment I'm driving by his fields. I'm not kidding.

Oh, and sometimes I get caught behind a school bus. Wretched, evil, hulking, ugly, yellow rolling roadblocks, teeming with unwashed screaming ignorant masses.

12. *matt* Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 2:35 pm

"Wretched, evil, hulking, ugly, yellow rolling roadblocks"

You fixed the Imperial's transmission?

13. *Pitt* Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 3:42 pm

@matt:

:-P~~

14. Adam Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 4:16 pm

I like traffic. Traffic keeps me fed and clothed. It makes cars were out, break down, and collide while I reap the benifits. Muuhahaha Muuhahaha Mu......well you get it. By the way anyone looking for a vehicle? Matt that Subi has seen better days. I only need one of your limbs as a down payment or perhaps a kidney or peice of your liver would be an even trade. Banks aren't lending as freely so we have resorted to black market organ harvesting. On the other hand I have seen how you treat your internal organs and they would probably be of no use. See drinking.

15. *matt* Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 6:02 pm

@Adam

Sure, I'd love a new car. GM manage to make a four wheel drive wagon yet? Or are they still manufacturing things that nobody wants, and then wondering why nobody buys them?

16. Kevin Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 7:14 pm

Boston + GPS = Recalculating Route every 30 seconds.

@ Matt in regards to Adam

Can we get a spell check on here?

I am hungry for the power to post Matt, don't let Adam run unchecked.

17. Pitt Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 7:19 pm

You guys are really demanding.

@matt: GM's going bankrupt. They just admitted in a press release they have about 3 months worth of cash reserves left.

But don't worry, Misser Obama, he's a gonna save us all!

18. *matt* Says:

November 7th, 2008 at 8:52 pm

@Pitt

Excellent. I wonder if they'll still manage to swallow up Chrysler and drive it into the ground on the way out, suicide bomber style.

19. Pitt Says:

November 8th, 2008 at 1:13 pm

Yeah I think the only reason GM wanted Chrysler was for their cash. Apparently, their business model is "spend more than you make, and then when you run out of money, take over someone else who has money so you can spend it."

So basically, GM is a lot like a gold-digging Las Vegas prostitute. Except they don't get bailouts.

Its kinda too bad. I actually like some of the new GM products, like the Malibu especially. Too bad it was only about 15 years too late. I mean, come on, the Lumina? What the hell were they _smoking_?

20. Pitt Says:

November 8th, 2008 at 1:14 pm

Some of the commentators over on Jalopnik were suggesting GM resurrect the dies from the '69 Camaro, '57 Bel air, etc and crank out a few more before they finally go belly up. Blaze of glory, at least.

21. Adam Says:

November 9th, 2008 at 10:57 am

Yeah thats what Chrysler did with the Challanger. We were not going to take them over because they have money for the simple reason that they don't have money. They are in worse shape than us, they just don't report it because they are not a publicly traded company.

@kevin

I get it I am functionaly illiterate. I don't have time to dictionary.com evry word i use. I'm sorry if I don't spell gooder like U.

22. matt Says:

November 9th, 2008 at 11:05 am

@Adam

I was reading an article on CNN Money yesterday about the aborted GM / Chrysler merger. Apparently, Chrysler has about nine billion dollars in cash and liquid assets, so GM was willing to trade GMAC to Cerberus Capital to get control of that. Then, they realized that those nine billion dollars also came with a debt load of ten billion. Whoops. So they would have been trading their finance arm for another billion in debt.

Add to that the huge trust fund obligation for the UAW health care deal, and things are looking pretty damned dire in Detroit these days. And that's just the Lions.

Although, I have to admit, as an AMC fan, I would like to see the karmic represented by someone buying Chrysler and trashing everything but the Jeep line, much like they did twenty years ago.

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