Abstracts 2 Writing Assignment

Read the second 5 "Other Readings" (*Dispatch from London*, *Rethinking Traffic Congestion*, *WSDOT Congestion Management*, *The Path to Discreet-Choice Models*, *The Physical Internet*) and write an abstract for 2 of these articles. Each abstract should be 200 words or less and typed (e.g., using Word). This amounts to a total length of less than one page. Basically, an abstract concisely conveys the meaning of the paper. More precise requirements, paraphrased from the Transportation Research Board's Website, are:

> An abstract must be self-contained, and it must not require reference to the paper to be understood. It should present the primary paper topics and relevant conclusions; the techniques or approaches used in the paper should be described only to the extent necessary for comprehension; and conclusions should be presented concisely and informatively. The abstract should not contain unfamiliar terms that are not defined, undefined acronyms, reference citations, or displayed equations or lists.

Try not to write the abstract as a narrative of your experience reading the article. Rather, just write a summary of the article. For instance, rather than writing, "…*the article then goes on to describe* the impact of transportation infrastructure on the price of a bottle of Coca-Cola…" (italics added to emphasize what is not necessary and will, in the end soak up precious words), write, "Transportation infrastructure's effect on the economy is demonstrated by cataloging the prices for a Coke in several locations."

I intend to discuss some of these readings in class so it would be a good idea to read them so you can contribute to the discussion. It is also possible that I will include a couple of questions based on these readings in the final. The questions will be quite easy to answer if you have done the reading.