

Pedestrian, *n* The variable (and audible) part of the roadway for an automobile.
—Ambrose Bierce
The Devil's Dictionary, 1906

A Pedestrian Dictionary

air Vital element for respiration often imperiled by automobile respiration.



automobiles Means of transport with a misleading name. Not self-propelled.

benches Public displays of hospitality.



bicycles Most efficient means to increase one's speed and range. Fueled

by food, already part of daily consumption. Less dangerous to others than cars.

Big Bird Golden condor living in vibrant mixed-use neighborhood and featured in popular children's public television program.

big box Flat, dull building style requiring long, dull (though potentially dangerous) journey across large parking lot to access.



buses Weather-protected means of increasing one's speed and range.

bus shelters Structures that provide weather protection and a place to sit while waiting for buses.

bus stops Places to wait for buses. If without shelters, benches or sidewalks, can appear makeshift or transitory and suggest "You're really on your own, sucker."

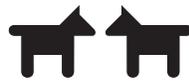
cars Previously: segments on trains. Currently: another name for automobiles.

cities Traditionally, places for material, cultural and social exchange. Places where food, shelter, clothing and other needs can be efficiently met.

comprehensive plans Documents that shape development. Can be hundreds of pages long and full of dull language (such as "comprehensive plan"), but can have huge impacts on daily life. Can determine things such as whether or not children will be able to get to school on their own and if seniors who don't drive will be able to

get to shopping and social engagements independently.

development In theory, the building of homes, businesses and public places. In practice, the pouring of concrete to support automobile travel and parking.



dogs Mammals that increase the legitimacy of one's out-of-doors presence.



drinking fountains Public watering holes that allow travel without purchasing water in containers.

driveways Part private, part public entry and exit ways for cars. Unmarked and potentially dangerous intersections, especially for children.



existential questions at night Puzzles such as why otherwise nice people often become rude and impatient when driving cars.

highways Barriers between destinations.

ice cream Delicious fuel.

land Horizontal space frequently given over to infrastructure for cars. Often includes soil, vital for growing fuel and, contrary to common belief, of limited supply.

mixed-use Living, working, retail, educational, and recreational uses of land combined in one area. Zoning codes, originally written to separate housing from toxic factories, often prohibit this type of development.

office parks Large tracts of land devoted to offices and generally not appealing places to picnic.

parking Public catering to the enormous spatial needs of cars.

parks Places people go to get away from cars.

public transportation Moving people between destinations. Paid for by a variety of taxes: gas, property, income. Supplying highways, parking, emergency medical services, policing, fuel and other infrastructure in support of individual motoring is a very inefficient form of public transportation.



public rest rooms Services provided by municipalities that value pedestrians even when they're not making purchases.

roads Paving that usually favors the use of automobiles over other forms of transport.

sidewalks Long, solid welcome mats.



taxicabs Cars driven by paid drivers who alleviate riders of the need to own their own cars and insurance.

trains Efficient means of transporting people or goods.

train stations Places to wait for trains. Older ones provide some of the nicest examples of architecture in United States.

trees Providers of shade and shelter. Also absorbers of emissions from cars.

zoning codes Laws that determine what can be built where. Many current zoning codes call for different land uses to be separated from each other, spreading out development and forcing people to use cars to get to work, school, recreation, worship, shopping et cetera.