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'burg Blogs : 2012 : 07 : 03 : MAPS (in all caps) Part I

Zach Westmark

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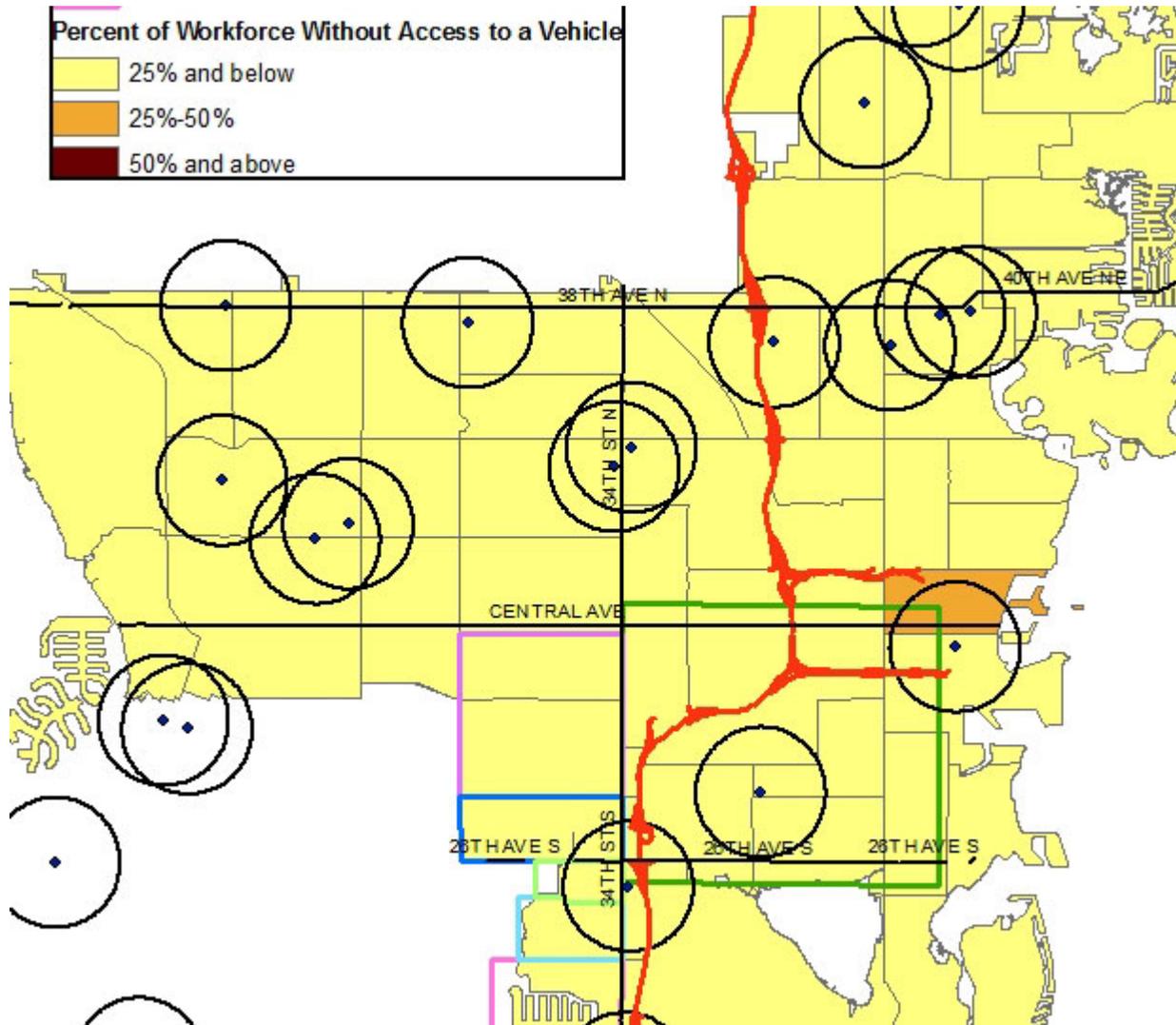
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['burg Blogs »](#) **MAPS (in all caps) Part I**

Posted [July 3, 2012](#) at 9:36 am by [Zach Westmark '12](#)



Screen shot of an old reference map I created.

It was not until my senior year that I discovered the bliss of geographic information systems. I am still a complete rookie on the GIS bandwagon but totally proud to admit working in the lab on my days off.

Yes, for fun.

Heck, GIS may very well be the reason that I now work for the Center for Urban Transportation Research.

During my second GIS class, I inventoried bicycle parking in a portion of St. Petersburg.

It was so cool to receive a (good) grade for riding around the city and GPS marking bicycle racks (of course there was a greater amount of time spent mapping the data.)

While working in the computer lab, I met a GIS analyst from CUTR who would tell me about cool transit research projects, and the rest is history.

Now, a few GIS students (including myself) are assisting a geography professor to study vulnerable populations in St. Petersburg.

The work is intended to make policy recommendations for city planners, to ensure a high standard of living for all residents in the area.



A picture I took while surveying bicycle parking. At some grocery stores, you can ride a make believe pony for 25 cents, but you cannot ride a bicycle and expect to find parking.

About the blogger



Zachary Westmark is a USFSP graduate who loves puns. His last name affords a convenient connotation: his blog captures his attempt to migrate to the West coast of the USA while exploring culture, frugality, geography, physical exertion and sustainability - via long distance bicycle trek (peppered with other random tidbits).