Infrastructure and Society- CPSP349T

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What is Infrastructure?

We are constantly interacting with our infrastructure even if we are not always consciously aware of it. It is everything in our built environment including buildings, bridges and water pipes. Without proper infrastructure our society wouldn't be able to function since many of our systems are interconnected like the energy and agricultural sectors which rely on transportation to reach every consumer.

Infrastructure and Covid:

Infrastructure can play a factor in the spread of the coronavirus since it determines the ways in which the public is able to move around and interact with their surroundings. Digital infrastructure and access to the internet has also played a big role in the pandemic as this impacts how up to date an individual is on current information or their ability to work from home. With many people not having internet access, they may have to travel and expose themselves to the virus so that they can continue to make a living.

This is a photo I took in my neighborhood in Gaithersburg, MD. The American Society of Civil Engineers has consistently given the US a grade of a D+ for its poor infrastructure mostly due to maintenance issues.
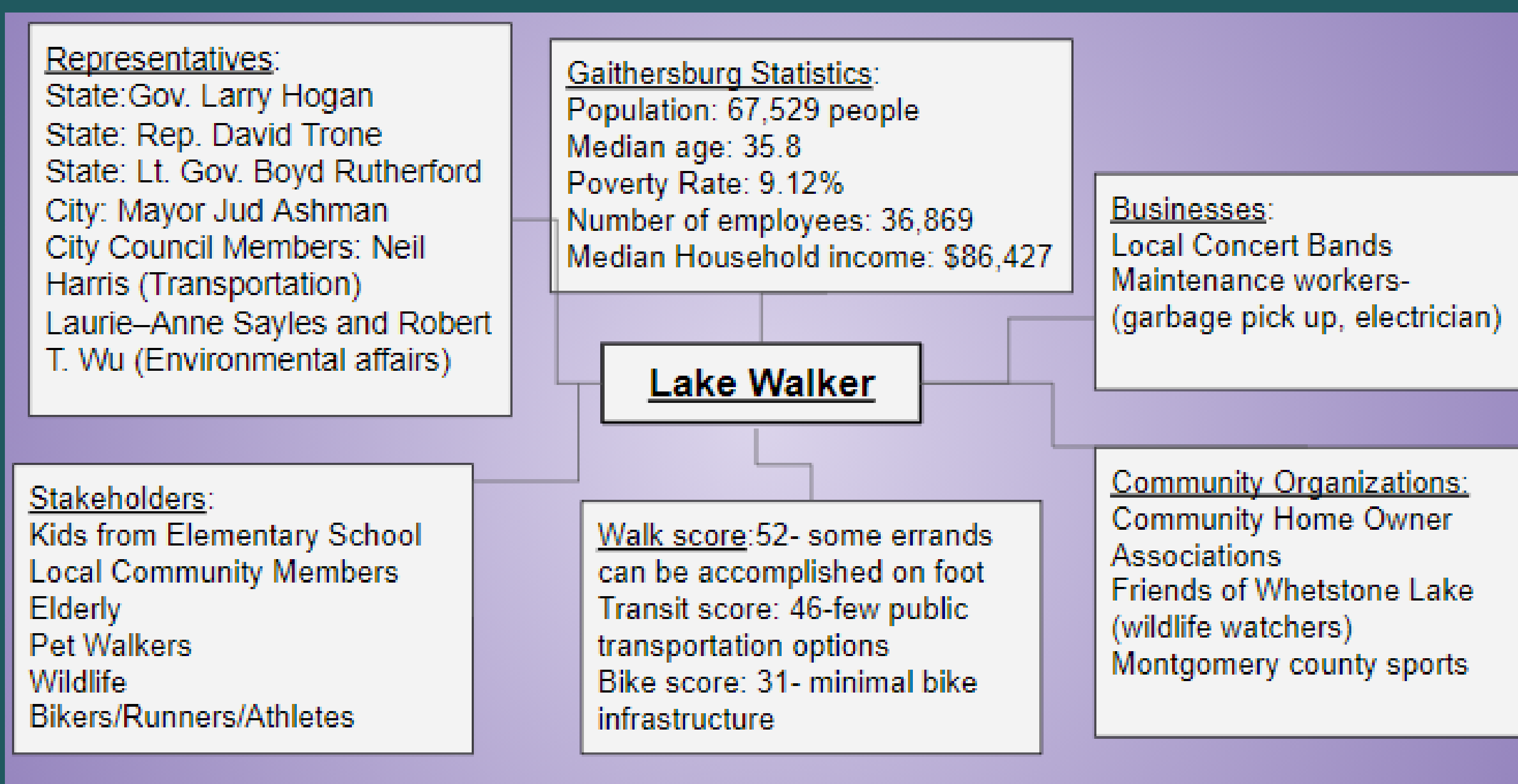

After conducting a walking audit of my community, I noticed many issues at this crosswalk:

- The curve makes it difficult for cars to see pedestrians especially at the speed the vehicles were going, making the pedestrians wait for a long time to cross.

- The sidewalk gets narrower making it challenging for more than two people to walk or social distance.

- There is no buffer between the sidewalk and road creating an unsafe feeling with speeding cars.

Class Project- Photo Essay:

Site: Laker Walker- Montgomery Village, MD

The purpose of this project is to chose a location and through placemaking reimagine the space by envisioning creative ways to improve the community for all the stakeholders involved.

A picture of me at Lake Walker drawing and taking notes about infrastructural issues in the community.

Representatives:
State:Gov. Larry Hogan
State: Rep. David Trone
State: Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford
City: Mayor Jud Ashman
City Council Members: Neil Harris (Transportation)
Laurie–Anne Sayles and Robert T. Wu (Environmental affairs)

Gaithersburg Statistics:
Population: 67,529 people
Median age: 35.8
Poverty Rate: 9.12%
Number of employees: 36,869
Median Household income: $86,427

Businesses:
Local Concert Bands
Maintenance workers- (garbage pick up, electrician)

Lake Walker

Stakeholders:
Kids from Elementary School
Local Community Members
Elderly
Pet Walkers
Wildlife
Bikers/Runners/Athletes

Walk score:52- some errands can be accomplished on foot
Transit score: 46-few public transportation options
Bike score: 31- minimal bike infrastructure

Community Organizations:
Community Home Owner Associations
Friends of Whetstone Lake (wildlife watchers)
Montgomery county sports

This is an example of a stakeholder analysis map that I did specifically on my chosen site for my photo essay at Lake Walker.

Acknowledgments: