

What about Your Neighborhood?

Research the region you live in and learn more about suburban development and urban destruction.

What is your community: urban/inner-city, suburban, rural?

Was there a rapid expansion of suburban growth after World War II and through the 1960s in your area?

If you are near an older city, did it lose part of its population to suburban development?

Were new roads built for these new communities?

Were homes displaced when these new roads were built?

Which highways were funded through the 1956 Federal-Aid Highway Act?

Did anyone in your family participate in the growing suburban communities or lose his or her home due to highway construction? Conduct an oral history session and share your findings.

Resources

U.S. Historical Census Data Browser (<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/census/>)

Using the census, find out how the population of your community changed throughout time. Compare different time periods by selecting different years in the left margin. Select "Total Population," then your state, to find your county's population.

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration National Highway System Page (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep10/nhs/>)

Learn the difference between different types of highways, including President Eisenhower's interstate system. Scroll down and click on your state to view the different highways that run through or near your community.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (<http://www.hud.gov/>)

Click on "About Communities" in the left margin to find maps, statistics, and information on housing in your community. Contact your state housing department for more information.