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Transit Manipulation by the Koch Brothers: Analyzing the Relationship between the Division of Power in the United States Government, Societal Benefits, Voter and Rider Composition, Referendum Language and Cost of Improvement Under the Lens of the 2018 Nashville Transit Improvement Program Referendum

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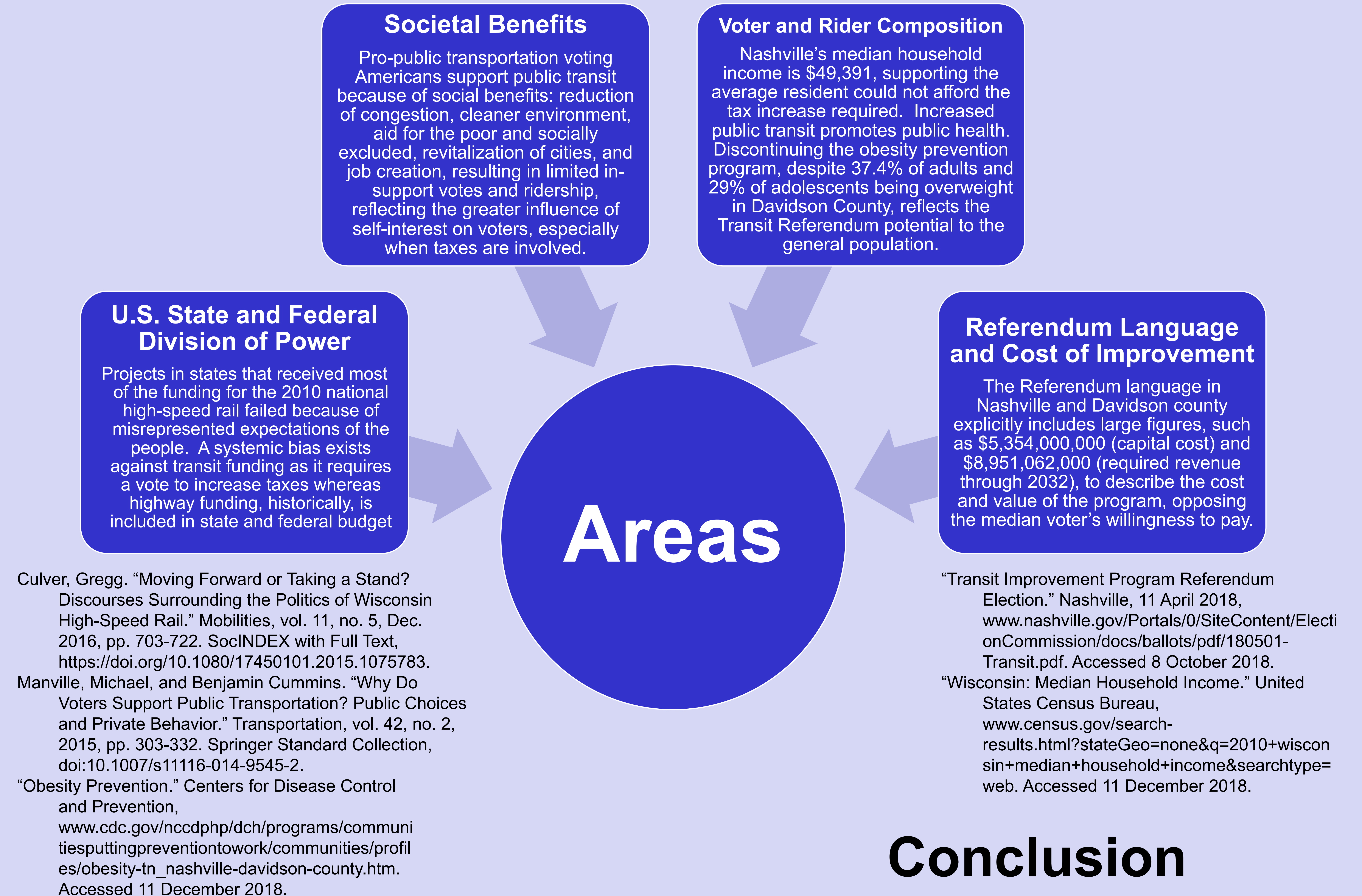
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Introduction

Public transit is the medium that transports all people from point A to point B. In Nashville, Tennessee, Charles and David Koch, known as the Koch Brothers, manipulated these areas--the division of power in the United States government, societal benefits, voter and rider composition, referendum language and cost of the improvement--in order to turn what was **initially positive voter feedback** into a **roadblock for the 2018 Nashville Transit Improvement Program Referendum**, a multi-modal system of interconnected bus, light rail, automobile, biking, and pedestrian transportation.



Map." *Let's Move Nashville*, <http://letsmovevashville.com/map/>. Accessed 6 November 2018.



Koch Brothers

- Known for their funding to conservative, Republican political candidates
- Own holdings in the petroleum industry
- Interested in anti-transit movements, leading to funding organizations such as Americans for Prosperity and NoTax4Tracks

Communications. "The Koch Network: A Cartological Guide." *OpenSecrets*, 7 January 2014, www.opensecrets.org/news/2014/01/koch-network-a-cartological-guide/.

Conclusion

Understanding the failure of the 2018 Nashville Transit Improvement Program Referendum was a result of the Nashville's societal and economic conditions that were exploited by conservative political groups, such as Americans for Prosperity, one can apply such knowledge to future transportation referendums and mirror or counteract the Koch Brothers' actions to prompt successful passage.

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