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James A. Kushner

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James A. Kushner : The Post-Automobile City: Legal Mechanisms to Establish the Pedestrian-Friendly City before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Post-Automobile City: Legal Mechanisms to Establish the Pedestrian-Friendly City:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. a nice guide to solutions for sprawlBy Michael LewynThere are plenty of books out there that excoriate (or defend) suburban sprawl. But this book is unusual in that it focuses on

solutions, and in particular on small, incremental steps that local governments can do to make cities more pedestrian-friendly such as changing parking rules and encouraging pedestrian malls.

The Post-Automobile City surveys the literature on the automobile and its impact on the design of American cities and the quality of life. In the face of worsening traffic congestion, deteriorating central cities face growing unmet housing and employment needs. Suburban zoning and other land use controls aggravate these needs by excluding apartments, failing to offer efficient public transport, and rendering access to suburban jobs dependent on expensive automobile use. The book describes a vision of a city that is not dominated by the automobile. The post-automobile city is not car-free, but the city is redesigned to offer infrastructure for pedestrians and those who desire to live car-free. Parks, park blocks, gardens, urban landscaped pathways, pedestrian shopping streets, and inviting piazzas would replace the emphasis on surface parking lots and a tight grid of traffic. The book explores various strategies to pursue the post-automobile city, including planning, housing, redevelopment, transportation, and pedestrianization strategies. Kushner also explores various legal mechanisms that can implement the post-automobile city and explains legal constraints to various planning strategies, particularly the constraints of the Takings Clauses and the regime of American property rights.

The Post-Automobile City is a timely survey of the automobile's place in our society . . . Kushner anticipates the day when car-free living becomes more popular than driving. Regardless of whether that day happens soon or decades down the road, The Post-Automobile City sets forth a broad survey of the possible strategies in much the same way as a trusty travel guide can help navigate a backpacking tour of Europe. --Journal of the American Planning Association
About the Author James A. Kushner is a professor of law at Southwestern University School of Law.