



Not Just Bikes and Strong Towns Discuss Public Transit in North America

Episode Link: https://youtu.be/UXCl3_Xq21I

Running Time: 59:26

“Successful transit needs two things: people to ride and destinations people want to go.”

Discussion Questions

- Describe your most recent trip using public transit. Where were you going? How did you get there? What was the transit experience like?
- What is the best transit experience you've had? What was the worst? What made them so good and so bad?
- Jason Slaughter and Chuck Marohn talk about how land use and public transit go hand-in-hand. What conversations about land use are being had in your community? What conversations are being had about transit? Are those conversations being had together, or are they siloed from one another?
- Do you think transit should be a high priority for your community at this time? Why or why not?
- What are the common objections you hear in your community about public transit?
- Public transit is often a “charitable overlay” on a development pattern that prioritizes automobile travel above all other considerations. This can lead to transit systems that disrespect people who use transit and would-be transit users. Where is the transit system in your community respectful of people? Where is it disrespectful?
- One of the core Strong Towns insights on the topic of public transit is the important difference between transit-oriented development and development-oriented transit. How would you describe this distinction, and why is it so important?
- Jason says, “Successful transit needs two things: people to ride and destinations people want to go.” Are there places in your community people want to go? What are some of the obstacles in your city—for example, minimum parking requirements—that make it harder to build more great places people want to go?
- What else stood out to you from this discussion?

Ideas for Taking Action

- Share this video with someone whom you think will resonate with the content.
- If your city has transit, take a trip. Humbly observe where people are struggling to use it. Do the transit stops have shelters to keep people protected from the elements? Are there benches where weary travelers can rest? Is the bus, streetcar, or train car clean? Does the service run reliably and regularly? Get off at one more stops: Are you at “the corner of Nothing and Nothing,” as Jason says? If you had to walk from here to your home, workplace, or store, what are the walking conditions like? Document—in a way that is respectful to transit users—what you observe. Share those observations with others, either privately or on social media. With kindred spirits, consider together, “What is the next smallest thing we can do to begin to address the struggles faced by people who use transit in our town?”

Essential Strong Towns and Not Just Bikes Content

- Videos
 - [“America Always Gets This Wrong \(when building transit\)” \(Not Just Bikes\).](#)
 - [“Throwing Good Money After Bad Car Infrastructure—Wonderland Road” \(Not Just Bikes\).](#)
- Articles
 - [“Why Development-Oriented Transit is better than Transit-Oriented Development,” by Rachel Quednau.](#)
 - [“Transit’s Chicken & Egg Fallacy,” by Charles Marohn.](#)

Go Deeper

- Articles
 - [“What’s Wrong With This Picture?” by Daniel Herriges.](#)
 - [“Don’t Just Add Trains, Sidewalks, and Bike Lanes to Your City,” by Tiffany Owens Reed.](#)
 - [“In Transportation Costs, ‘It’s the System, Stupid,’ by Daniel Herriges.](#)
- Videos
 - [“Business Parks Suck \(but they don’t have to\)” \(Not Just Bikes\).](#)
 - [“30 Days of Confessions: #12 Why We Need Transit”.](#)
- Book: [Confessions of a Recovering Engineer: Transportation for a Strong Town, by Charles Marohn.](#)

Got Questions?

Check out the [Strong Towns Action Lab](#). You can type in any word, phrase, or question into the search bar and be directed to core insights, top content, and case studies for your query. Try it out by typing in “Public Transit.”

Not Just Bikes

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Strong Towns

- Website: www.strongtowns.org
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