Transit Oriented Summer Book Club
“Human Transit” by Jarrett Walker
Week 01 Discussion Questions 5/19/2021

Discussion Outline

The breakout room discussion will last 30 minutes, after which we will reconvene, hear from all breakrooms, and conclude for the evening.

Below are the questions we would like you to discuss with your breakout group:

Introduction:
- In the introduction, Walker asks the reader, “Who are you?” Introduce yourselves, and take some time to answer this question among your group members. Why are you and members of your group attending this book club? What do you hope to gain from attending?

Chapter 1:
- (Odd numbered breakout rooms please answer this question, you may come back to the other question if you have time) In the introduction, Walker defines public transit as “consisting of regularly scheduled vehicle trips, open to all paying passengers, with the capacity to carry multiple passengers whose trips may have different origins, destinations, and purposes.” Was there any component to this definition or of Walker’s succeeding explanation that surprised you?
- (Even numbered breakout rooms please answer this question, you may come back to the other question if you have time) Can you distinguish between personal mobility and access? To illustrate the two concepts, discuss how you picked your current neighborhood. What are your options to go places (mobility), and what places can you reach (access), say within 15 minutes if you were walking/using an assistive device, biking, riding transit, or driving in a car?

Chapter 2:
- In Chapter 2, Walker introduces the Seven Demands of Useful Transit Service:
  1. It takes me where I want to go
  2. It takes me when I want to go
  3. It is a good use of my time
  4. It is a good use of my money
  5. It respects me in the level of safety, comfort, and amenity it provides
  6. I can trust it
  7. It gives me freedom to change my plans
Which 2-3 demands are the most important to you? How well does the current bus network serve your demands?
- Walker also breaks down the process of deciding and executing a trip via public transit into the following phases:
1. Understanding
2. Accessing (at the origin)
3. Waiting
4. Paying
5. Riding
6. Connecting
7. Accessing (at the destination)

Which 2-3 phases are the most important to you and why?