Study of Transit in Itasca County - Lessons Learned

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- Broad-based community participation is key – whoever shows up at the table shapes the focus.
- Humphrey Institute’s reputation, connections, and professionalism contributed to a smooth process and quality deliverable.
- As conveners, we’ve learned that providing a level of support to community groups keeps projects moving forward.

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- First, this confirmed the rule I first heard Lee Munnich, the director of our program: Everyone is an expert in their own travel. This helped me remember that no suggestions or ideas we heard were bad ones. Rather, they all deserved consideration, and the value we added was creating a way that they could be considered and compared with one another.
- Second, that providing a range of transportation options is important for all people, not just those in urban areas. The challenge, and one that I enjoyed taking on, was coming up with options that were appropriate for areas of very low population densities.
- Third, there is great value in working with local partners that have a well respected tradition and reputation in the area. The people we worked with in the study all were friendly, genuine and forthcoming in their interactions with us, which made our job much easier, end even enjoyable! I suspect this was in no small part due to the groundwork laid, and contacts provided, by the Blandin Foundation and AEOA.

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- Confirmation of a statement I have heard for five years..."Arrowhead Transit is the best kept secret around"
- We do need a new, fresh outlook on what we are doing
- We can't be everything to everybody, but we can try!