Using Accessibility as a Planning and Evaluation Tool for Metro BRT Lines

Shannon Evans Engstrom | Humphrey School of Public Affairs

What is accessibility?

A measure of access to opportunities.

Answers the daily travel question:

What can I get to and at what cost?

cost = time or money

https://www.vtpi.org/measure.pdf
1. Travel time between every origin and destination
2. Sum the number of jobs within 10, 20, 30, etc. minutes of each origin

“For those living within ½ mile of the route, access to jobs on average will increase by 50%”
Metro Scenario Analysis

What happens when we add C Line, Orange Line and Green Line Extension?

What happens when we also add B, D, and E Lines?
What happens when we add C Line, Orange Line and Green Line Extension?

Simple in theory
Complex in application
Timing is everything!

- Depends on the state of your data and the political and funding timeline
- Two key times to use accessibility in transit planning:
  - ~ 2 years before route options are public > planning and communication tool
  - ~ 1 – 2 years after opening > evaluation and advocacy tool

Ask yourself...

How much effort do you want to spend?
Who is the audience?
Where do you want to conduct the analysis? And at what scale?
When do you want results?
Thank you!

Shannon Evans Engstrom | Humphrey School of Public Affairs
engstrom@umn.edu