

A Look Back at America's Transit History and the Impacts of Household Income on Walkability

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Abstract : Transportation produces the largest amount of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States of America. Today, cars are the predominant mode of transportation across the country, and our cities have been reshaped due to them. This was not always the case. Streetcars were seen in almost every American city of the early 1900s. These streetcar systems were viewed as obsolete with the rise of the automobile. With fewer streetcars came lower public transport ridership. Austin, Texas is one of the fastest growing cities in the country, and it used to have an extensive streetcar line. Today, it plans to build a light rail line with less rail mileage than 100 years ago. This research looks at the areas of Austin that are not included in the city's new transit plan. Transit connectivity is one factor that goes into walkability rates for cities. This study also looks at the correlation between walkability ratings with median household income levels from the 2019 Census. The results showed a correlation between higher income neighborhoods having higher walkability rates, which was influenced by the lack of public transportation options.

Keywords : transportation, walkability, income, austin

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