Understanding Metropolitan Transport + Its Governance Systems

Discussion based on papers by Måns Lönnroth and Jeffrey Kenworthy

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Governance + Implementation + Power

Governance = “the processes of interaction and decision-making among actors involved in a collective problem” (Hufty 2011)

Implementation = “the struggle over the realization of ideas” (Pressman + Wildavsky 1979)

Power = the ability to forge (or prevent) links in causal chain to achieve desired results; to win the ‘struggle over the realization ideas’

Paucity of research on the ways that public decisions are made, especially in systems of pluralism and democracy (Davis and Altshuler 2018)
Interrelated
Multi-Scalar

National
- Limits on Car Ownership

State/Regional
- Binding Emissions Targets

Local/ Sub-Municipal
- Land Regulation

Sustainability

Economic Efficiency

Placemaking

Competitive Grants

Gas Taxes

Value Capture
Morning Commute in New York City

Morning Commute in Kansas City, MO
Contextual

Parking in Midtown New York City
$25/hour

Parking in Downtown Kansas City
$4/day
Notes from the U.S. Midwest

“You don't get any community excited about transit if you are talking about moving people around but if you start ratcheting up the conversation about how do we save the core of our city, how do we focus our development patterns, how do we bring money to our region. That’s the way to engage an average person who does not see themselves as a direct transit user. Framing as less of a transportation issue and more of an urban development and lifestyle issue is the best way to engage the community.”

- President, Regional Transit Advocacy, Kansas City Missouri

“You have rail. You have a transit system now. Anywhere can have a bus. I live out in the suburbs and we have a bus.” - Streetcar Outreach Director

The city not going to move the streetcar five years down the road when things start happening in other parts of the city - its an investment that developers see as long-term and so they are willing to build.”

- Mayor, Kansas City

“Best plan for success is to build transit in areas where it has proven support, not into areas where the perception of need for transit may be highest.”

- Streetcar Authority Board Member
Governance Issues of Urban Transport are Complex:
   Interrelated/Relational + Multi-Scalar + Contextual

Target Middle Class -> Broader Investments for Low-Income Residents

Road-based Transit -> Land Use + Development Impacts

New Technologies -> Reduce Automobile Dependence Long Term

When, Where and How? For Whom?
Lessons from Cases of Success + Failure
Toward a *Political* Understanding of Urban Transport