



“The ability to reach high-quality and affordable child care via public transportation affects families’ economic and educational success.”

- Allison Bell

Reaching Child Care on Transit

Project Details

In 2015 Metro Transit commissioned a study to understand how accessible child care services are via transit. With this information, Metro Transit will work to remove barriers that families face in getting to child care and jobs. The study included a literature review, interviews with parents who use transit and mapping of transit routes and child care facilities.

The final report is found here:

Metrotransit.org/everydayequity



Project Manager

Allison Bell

Everyday Equity Project Manager

Research Questions

- How many child care facilities in our region are within easy walking relative to high-frequency transit stops?
- What is the availability in these facilities relative to the number of children living in areas within a 20-minute transit ride?
- What is the quality of these facilities?
- What are potential strategies for increasing the capacity and/or quality of transit accessible child care facilities?

Achieving our Goals

This research helps the Metropolitan Council advance the following element of Thrive MSP 2040:

“Creating real choices in where we live, how we travel, and where we recreate for all residents across, race ethnicity, economic means, and ability.”

Findings

- The number of child care spots is significantly lower than the number of parents who work.
- Licensed child care providers are fairly well distributed on the transit system but gaps exist.
- Parents report challenges, including difficulties bringing strollers on buses, long travel times and cost of fares when traveling with multiple children.

About Equity at Metro Transit

Equity is “access to opportunity for all.” Metro Transit already helps people to reach opportunities— but there is always more to do. Everyone at Metro Transit has a role to play in equity, every day.

Removing Barriers

A lack of affordable, high-quality and transit-accessible child care can prevent parents from getting or keeping their jobs. It can also prevent children from getting a strong start in life.

Next Steps

The Everyday Equity Team and other Metro Transit employees are working to implement some of the report recommendations. For example, a committee will be evaluating the stroller policy in 2017 to determine how it could be more family-friendly.

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For more information about Everyday Equity, contact Allison Bell at 612-349-7672 or Allison.Bell@metrotransit.org

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