TOD and Shared Happiness in Cities

Yingling Fan, University of Minnesota
Smart and Empathic Cities: Can urban spaces enable positive and shared emotional experiences?

Understanding Individual- and population-level differences.

Designing policies and interventions that promote shared experiences and unite people.
The role of public transportation and TOD?
Auto-dominant cities can lead to social exclusion

When car is the dominant mode, some groups are favored and some are insulted.

Arlington, Texas
A troubling tradition

• Reducing human experience to the single-dimension of efficiency.

• This is kind of the Tech Bros’ ultimate transportation solution to maximize efficiency.
Theory of Positive Emotions


- Positive emotions can be shaped by human behavior.
- Positive emotions contribute to long-term human development.
- Urban planners can contribute to human development by leveraging the environment-behavior-emotion connections.
Emotional Experiences by travel mode

Adjusted for age, sex, race, employment status, income, family status, general health, life satisfaction, optimism/pessimism, disability, neighborhood characteristics, and trip duration.
Which factors most important?
Gender and Waiting Experience
The Transportation Happiness Project

https://maps.umn.edu/transportation-happiness/
Shared Happiness

• It’s about “we”—the public.

• The quality and inclusiveness of public transportation is essential for building equitable and empathic cities promoting shared happiness.
Thank you.

- Email: yingling@umn.edu
- Twitter: @yinglingfan