

Learning about transportation-related livability: A mixed-methods approach

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September 7, 2011



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

Driven to DiscoverSM

Livability...Quality of Life (QOL)



Inco
Hous

Discretionary
\$30,000
\$25,000
\$20,000

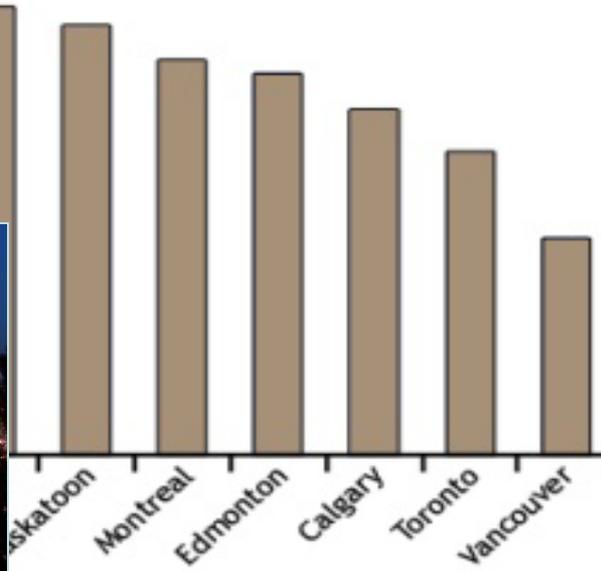
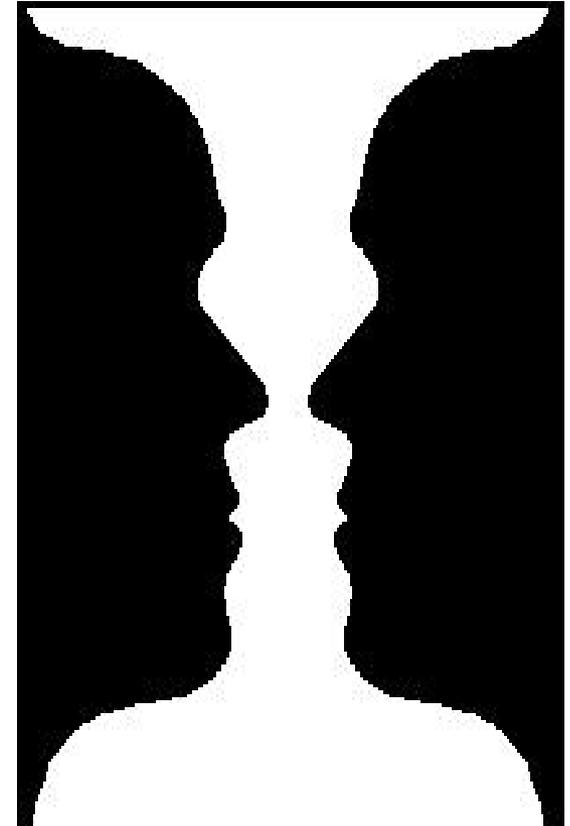
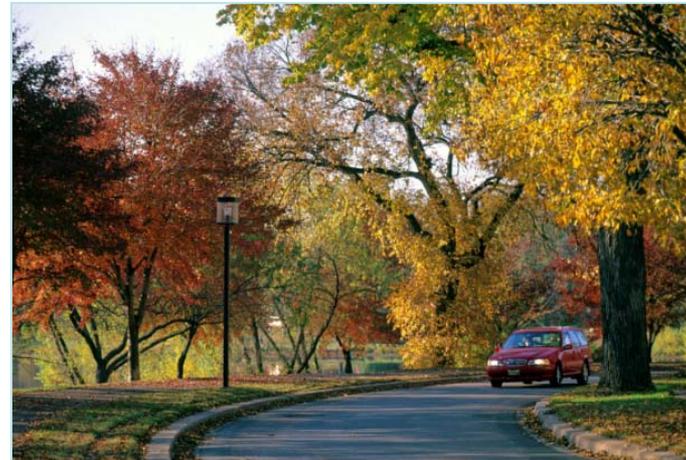


Chart and Calculation: KREDA, Source Data: Saskatchewan Finance



Purpose

- Understand
 - QOL
 - MnDOT role
 - performance measure opportunities



Our route today: 3, 11, 7

- 3 methods
 - 11 quality of life domains
 - 7 transportation elements





3 study methods

Literature
review

Focus groups

Questionnaire



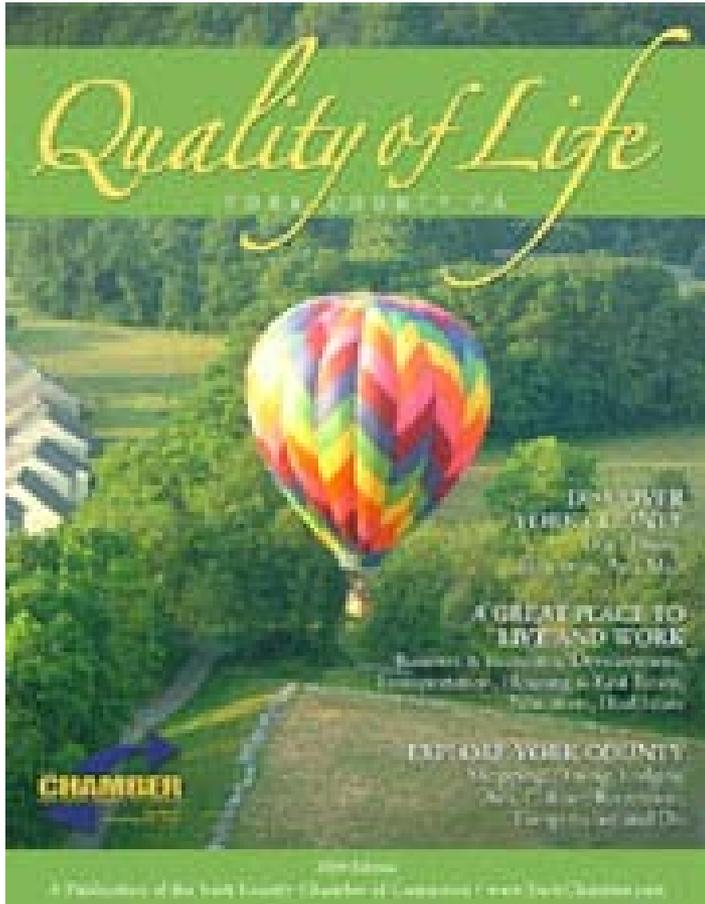


3 study methods

- Literature Review
- Focus Groups
- Questionnaire



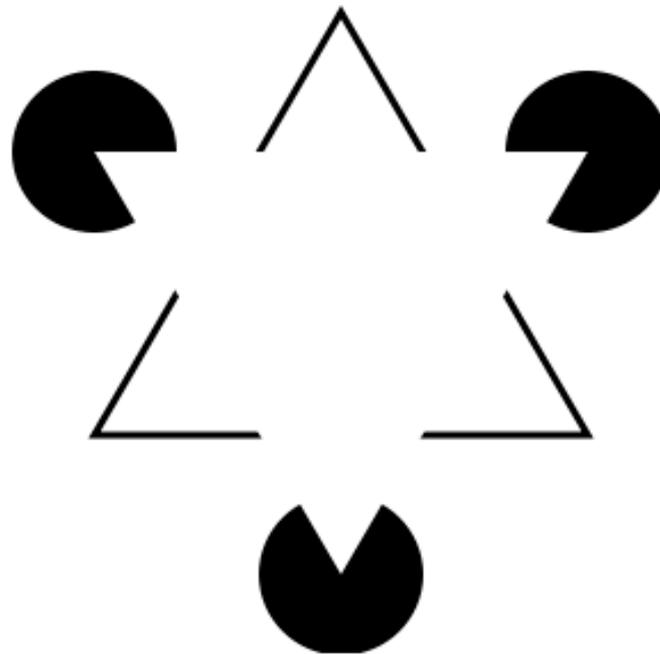
Method 1: Literature review





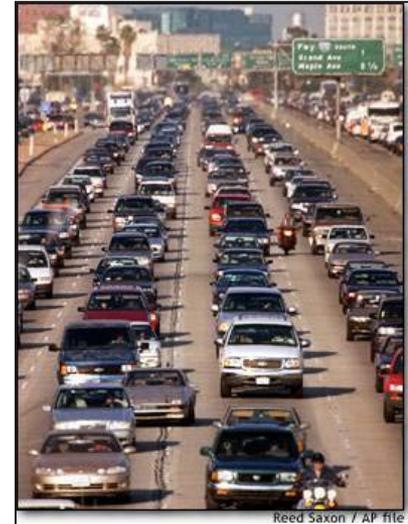
Results literature review: QOL points

- 50 years.....
- Inconsistently measured
- Variety of domains



Transportation & QOL: infrequent & limited

- Infrequent inclusion
- Limited measures
- Emphasis on mobility & accessibility
- Examples



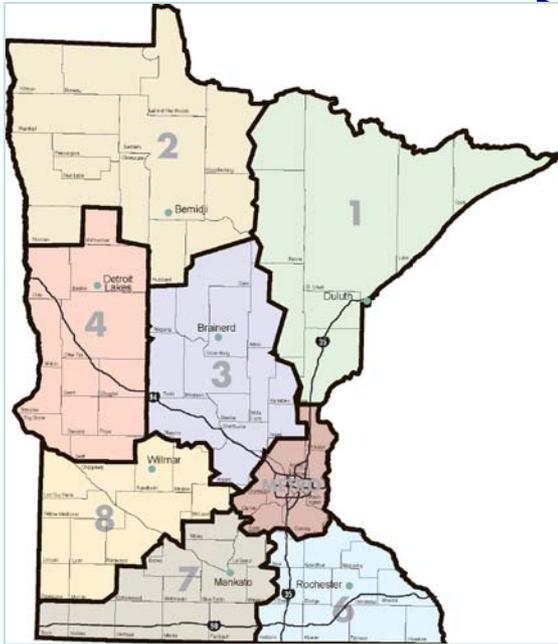
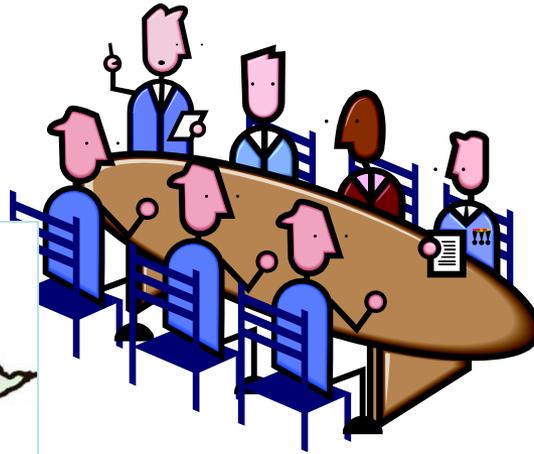


3 Study Methods

- Literature Review
- **Focus Groups**
- Questionnaire



Method 2: Focus Groups





Focus group results: 11 QOL domains (alpha order)

- Education
- Employment/
finances
- Environment
- Housing
- Family, friends, &
neighbors
- Health
- Local amenities
- Recreation &
entertainment
- Safety
- Spirituality &
individual psychic
- Transportation



Focus group results:

7 transportation elements (alpha)

- 1 Access
- 2 Design
- 3 Environment
- 4 Maintenance
- 5 Mobility
- 6 Safety
- 7 Transparency

Our route today: 3, 11, 7

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Method 3: Questionnaire

- Representative sample, 44% response
- Quantify QOL & transportation's role
- Importance & satisfaction with performance



Our route today: 3, 11, 7

- 3 methods
 - 11 quality of life factors
 - 7 transportation elements.....
...and the adventure continues!





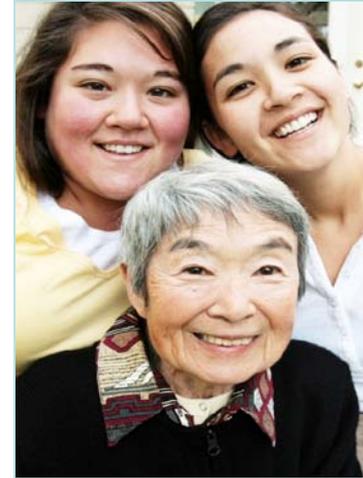
Implications for research

- Multiple QOL domains
- Nuances of transportation elements
- Multiple-methods: still necessary?



Implications for transportation planning

- Complicated!
- Eventually, ideas where to focus
- Attend to changes: demographically, technologically & attitudinally





Purpose fulfilled?!

- Understand
 - QOL
 - MnDOT role
 - performance measure opportunities



Questions?!

- Thanks to
 - Mn Department of Transportation for project support & Technical Assistance team!
 - Participants in focus groups!
 - Respondents to questionnaire!
 - You for your interest!
 - Contact: ingridss@umn.edu; 612 624 4947



Results: Differences by Age

- Younger (20-34)
 - Access: *public transportation*
 - Safety: *detractor only*
 - Mobility: *travel time detractor*
- Middle (35-59)
 - Access: *service transportation*
 - Mobility: *contributor & detractor*
- Older (60-75)
 - Access: *service transportation*
 - Safety: *discussed most by this age group, contributor & detractor*
 - Mobility: *ease of movement contributor*



Results:

Differences by Metro/Non-Metro

Metro

- Accessibility contributes to QOL
- Mobility more often described as detractor
- Snow & ice removal very positive

Outstate

- Accessibility more often detracts from QOL
 - Within area & to Metro
- Mobility is described more positively
- Snow & ice removal, but jurisdictional responsibility confusion