

Mobility Hubs for Women & Caregivers

A conceptual framework sustainable urban access

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A collaboration between the *Shared-Use Mobility Center* (USA) and *Living Cities & Communities* (Sweden)

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Why mobility hubs?

- ▶ **New mobility options are reshaping transportation**
 - ▶ Buses, trains, shared bikes, scooters, and uber, taxis, and cars
- ▶ **Mobility hubs are designed to bring these services together**
 - ▶ Making it easier for people to switch between them
- ▶ **Cities are starting to plan and design hubs**
 - ▶ How mobility hubs could work better for women and caregivers



Why women and caregivers?



Transportation systems were designed for commuters—often men—who travel regularly to, and from work

- ▶ **However, women and caregivers travel differently**
- ▶ Their trips are often shorter, more frequent, and outside of peak hours
- ▶ **They might also bring strollers, groceries, or wheelchairs. They may have to drop off, or pick up children at school**
- ▶ **Women face higher risks of harassment in public spaces and transportation**

Our approach

Over the last year, we've reviewed

- Available literature on travel needs and patterns of women and caregivers and on the design of mobility hubs
- We held 8 focus groups and 13 interviews with community-based organizations in Chicago, the US, and in Gothenburg, Sweden, to meet and listen to 66 women and caregivers

Unmuting the voices of women and caregivers – Seven Personas

To explore the travel needs/behaviour, a set of personas were developed. We considered the following travellers:



Unpaid Caregiver



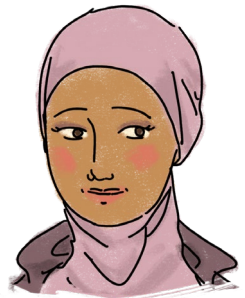
Young Girl



Older Woman



Unpaid Caregiver



Paid Care Worker



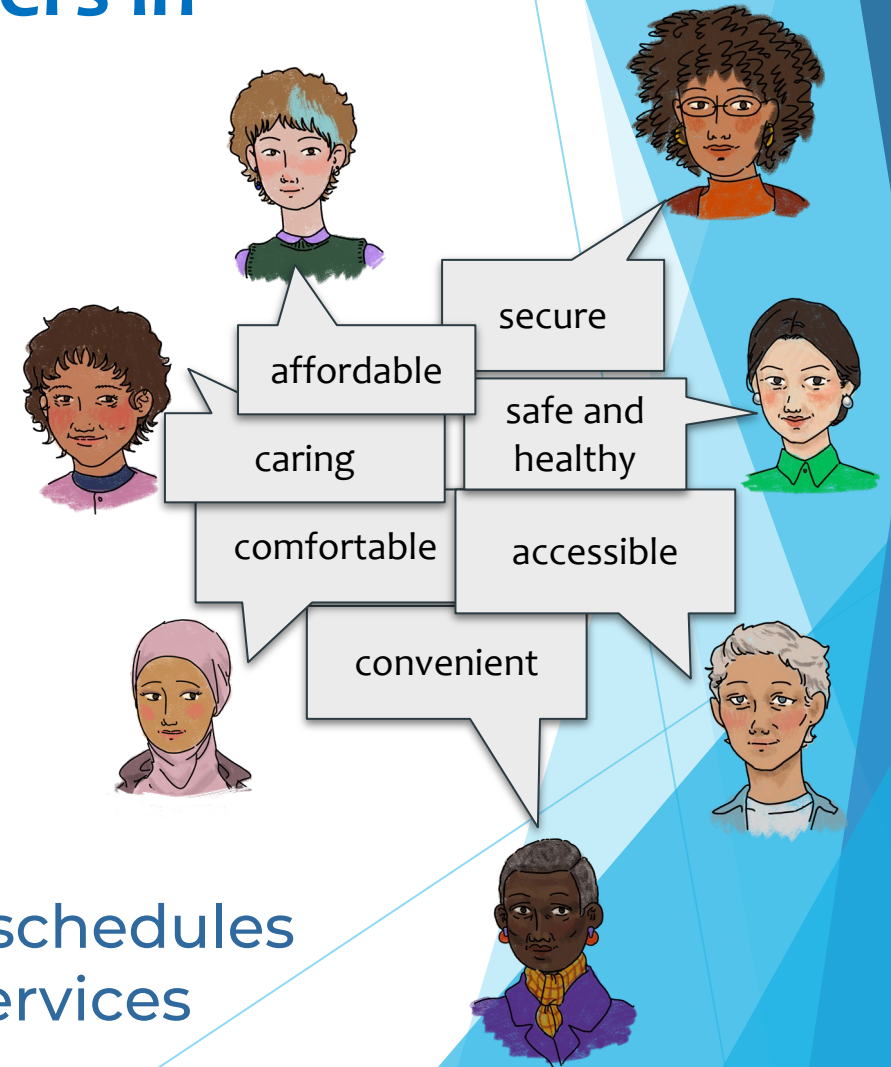
Woman Moving Free
and Safe



Woman with Disabilities

We listened to women and caregivers in suburbs, 2024

- We particularly heard concerns about personal safety and security
- They worried about accessibility - especially for people who use walking aid, or are aging
- They want information on bus and train schedules and guidance on how to use the other services



Planning a Mobility Hub - Seven Principles

1. Is a trusted place and feels like a trusted place (Trust and Personal Security)
2. It is reliable and works well. It is simple to use and makes it easier to travel (Convenience)
3. Make them places where it is pleasant to wait and easy to transfer from one mode to another (Comfort)
4. Make it a place where it is easy to move around, especially for people with physical challenges (Access & Ease of use)

Cont.

5. Make it a place where it is easy to move around especially for people with physical challenges and bags (Care and Belonging)
6. Make it a clean and healthy place where children, elderly, and the people who care for them can be safe (Health and Safety)
7. Make it a place with different and flexible travel options, as well as for food, shopping, and enjoyment (Services and Affordability)

How we think about Mobility Hubs

- ▶ What we heard from women and caregivers made us rethink the role of hubs as transportation nodes with several connecting services. The informants wanted hubs as places for gathering, shopping, eating out, and other everyday errands.
- ▶ We began understanding mobility hubs as places to meet, and as *civic and community places*.
- ▶ We also see them as *adaptable and responsive spaces*. Services and amenities at the hub should adapt and respond to the changing needs of people.
- ▶ A mobility hub is a **human place and shared community space**.

The main message

When we centre the needs of women and caregivers when we design, build and operate mobility hubs, we can make the systems of transportation system work better for everyone, including the vast vulnerable people in our cities.

A nice urban place is like a good party: guests stay because they are enjoying themselves (Gehl, Cities for People 2010: 147)

Thank you!

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**Living Cities and
Communities**

Findings

- ▶ A Mobility Hub is a shared community space that help people to get access to qualities and services in the surrounding city.
- ▶ Furthermore, it facilitates different forms of connectivity, to other persons as well as their communities.
- ▶ A hub that centres on the travel needs of women and caregivers responds to their requirements needs and makes it easy to travel with a variety of transportation services. It is also a place for resting, gathering, shopping, eating and other everyday errands.
- ▶ A mobility hub is a recognizable and attractive place in a local community. It is designed space that facilitates safe, accessible, and convenient transportation by seamlessly integrating multiple modes of transportation: bus, rail, bikeshare, carshare, scooter share, and enhanced pedestrian amenities both in a physical space and digitally. The services and amenities at the mobility hub should adapt and respond to the changing needs of its users (variety of services, quality, reliability).