

Connecting the Disconnected

## What Makes a

ASIAN MEDIA ACCESS

## **Street Complete!?**

Complete streets is a transportation policy and design approach set up to operate and enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. This policy makes it easy and safer to travel and get around the city whether it's crossing the street, walking to work, or even riding a bike. It's the very thing that allows the buses to run on time, and make it safe to walk from and to train stations.

At AMA the weekly topic is Complete Streets, and to incorporate this weeks topic into our daily lives, we were supposed to take a field trip to the Mall of America on public transportation so that everyone could get the experience of taking the metro and city bus. Sadly, the trip has been outright cancelled but we still conducted interviews about public transportation. To get a broader perspective of this week's topic we interviewed 2 people from each group; one male and one female.

When conducting the interviews the first question I asked was if the interns have ever taken public transportation to which they all responded yes. The second question I asked was if they had bus cards. All participants have bus cards and the follow-up question was, "What type of transportation do you

take to work!?", three of the four had parents who picked them up and dropped them off. Only one of the interns interviewed walked and took the bus.

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Most of them said that they often ride the bus as a way of transportation to places when hanging out with their friends. For the majority, transit is convenient. Not only because it takes up less space and you don't have to pay for crazy overpriced parking, it is also cheap. The metros and buses also have a ventilation system that provides both heating and AC. While not as friendly as riding a bike, using public transportation is eco-friendly and helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The hesitance most feel when taking public transportation is about safety, so I asked for their insight. Andres said that he grew up in New York so he had always taken public transportation since he could walk and went with his mom, then later by himself. He, addressed the question at hand saying, "There's always a feeling of uneasiness at the back of my mind, but I still have to go places." Houaci Vang is another intern answer caught my attention when she said,

"Sometimes, I worry but most times I just try to take precautions and think of my destination."





## STEP-UP INTERNS TRANSPORTATION TIPS

The interns believe that a first time public transportation user should use the following tips:

- Know when the bus arrives
- Know your route (Because this is something they all seemed to laugh about not knowing, but Google Maps & Metro Transit both have trip planning features.)
  - Follow the rules according to the transportation you are taking (Which the author does for the most part, although I have been known to on occasion bring snacks.)