

Mobility Hubs: Not Your Grandma's Park and Ride

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Nora Daley-Peng tours a mobility hub with Johanna Nyberg in Espoo, Finland.

Slide over park and rides and make some room for a variety of transportation options. The prevalent concept of a parking lot where you can leave your personal vehicle behind for the day while you complete your commute by bus or train, is giving way to a new model called mobility hubs. These hubs are located near major transit centers – like rail and bus stations or ferry terminals – and provide a convenient way for people to make that first or last mile connection to or from home without needing to drive. They can include things like shared-use fleets of e-bikes, e-scooters, and cars as well as creature comforts like public bathrooms, information kiosks, outdoor seating, bike parking, public art, and cell-phone recharging stations.

During my 2019 Jennings Randolph study tour of Finland, I met with Johanna Nyberg, Traffic Engineer for the City of Espoo, to learn more about mobility hubs up close. Johanna's winning formula to get the most out of mobility hubs is to prioritize the order of transportation modes at transit stations. The first priority is to make easy pedestrian and bicycle connections to the mobility hub from every direction, then accommodate quick curbside connections to buses, street cars, and shuttles; followed by curb space for kiss and ride, carshare, and taxis; and finally provide park and ride facilities as space allows.