

Jarrett Walker is an international consultant in public transit planning and policy, including the links between transit and all aspects of community planning and urban structure. His clients include transit authorities, cities, developers, and nonprofits – anyone who wants to make better use of public transit as a tool to support resilient communities, individual liberty, and social inclusion.

In his 20 years of consulting experience he worked on more than 200 projects across North America, Australia, and New Zealand, spanning the range from small towns to major metro areas. His network designs have been implemented successfully in many cities throughout this range. From this core expertise, he has also built a strong track record in a range of transit planning and policy issues, including bus-rail integration, Bus Rapid Transit, flexible services planning, and innovative public consultation. He has written and worked extensively on the integration of public transit into community planning at all scales, from the design of a small development to the structure of an urban region. His work covers the entire spectrum of planning perspectives, from visionary urbanism to operational detail.



He is also known for his work on educating stakeholders about the choices that transit requires, building clear consultation processes, and helping organizations form coherent and implementable transit goals. Since 2009 he has written the popular weblog [HumanTransit.org](http://HumanTransit.org), which has grown into an online collection of articles explaining key transit concepts and issues. In November 2011, Island Press released his book, *Human Transit: How clear thinking about public transit can enrich our communities, and our lives*.

## EDUCATION

PhD, Humanities and Theatre Arts (broad training in literature and history), Stanford University, 1996  
Bachelor of Arts *cum laude*, Mathematics and Computer Science, Pomona College, 1980

## **RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

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*Human Transit: How clearer thinking about public transit can enrich our communities, and our lives*. Island Press, Washington, DC. November 2011.

"Purpose-driven public transport: creating a clear conversation about public transport goals" [Journal of Transport Geography, Volume 16, Issue 6](#), November 2008, Pages 436-442.

Articles at AtlanticCities.com, the urbanism website of *The Atlantic* magazine.

- “Why We Should Stop Talking about Bus Stigma” July 2012.
- “Eerie Truths and Hard Lessons from a 1970s ‘Ecotopia’” May 2013.

Numerous op-ed pieces in major publications, including the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

## **POSITIONS HELD**

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2011 – present:	Founder, Owner, and Principal Consultant, Jarrett Walker + Associates (North America)
2008 – present:	Principal Consultant/Senior Consultant (2006-8), MRCagney
2006 – 2008:	Senior Consultant, McCormick Rankin Cagney Pty Ltd
2005 – 2006:	Policy and Planning Specialist, TransLink (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada), (in-house consultant)
1991 – 2006:	Consulting Associate 2005-06, Partner 1993 - 2005, Senior Associate 1991-93, Nelson Nygaard Consulting Associates (San Francisco and Portland)

## **TRANSIT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSIT CONVERSATIONS**

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Mr. Walker is a recognised innovator in the area of public transit policy. Much of this work is intended to increase the transparency of public transit authorities, by helping stakeholders and citizens understand the real choices involved in transit planning. This high-level policy development work has been an important part of his contribution on various recent projects in Vancouver, Auckland, and Canberra, among other cities.

He has developed tools for helping elected officials and policymakers provide clear, quantitative direction about their public transport goals, including the inevitable tradeoff between productivity and coverage.

He facilitates stakeholder workshops on these issues using a variety of innovative tools, including a range of “planning games” that give participants to experience the challenges of designing a transit system, using a simplified model of geography and costs. He has used these tools to facilitate transit conversations in numerous cities, including Houston, Texas; Omaha, Nebraska; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Mississauga, Ontario; Edmonton, Alberta and Surrey, British Columbia.

## **PROJECT EXPERIENCE: TRANSIT NETWORK DESIGN**

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### MAJOR URBAN AREAS: NORTH AMERICA

Led the network design tasks for large, comprehensive bus service redesigns covering major cities and large suburban areas, all of them successfully implemented except as noted.

- Houston (METRO) (in progress 2013)

- San Antonio, Texas (VIA Metropolitan Transit)
- Boise, Idaho (ValleyRide)
- Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota (Metro Transit)
- Reno, Nevada (Citifare)
- Spokane, Washington (STA)
- Southern California suburban areas, including:
  - San Bernardino-Ontario (Omnitrans)
  - Eastern Los Angeles County (Foothill Transit)
  - Lancaster-Palmdale (Antelope Valley Transit)
  - San Diego north suburban area (NCTD)

### MAJOR URBAN: AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND

Led the network design process for the following major studies:

- **Auckland**
  - A complete redesign of the bus network for the entire Auckland urban region (consolidated as a single city government), to be implemented in 2014-15.
- **Canberra**
  - Bus network redesigns, implemented progressively 2007-11.
  - Strategic Public Transport Network Plan, 2007-9.
  - Assistance in Design and Branding of Rapid Bus Services, 2009-10.
  - Coverage Services Strategy, 2010-11.
- **Sydney**
  - Ministry of Transport Integrated Network Plans for about 2/3 of the outer suburban area of Sydney, including greater Campbelltown, Camden, Liverpool, Blacktown, Penrith, Lower North Shore, and Northern Beaches, 2006-8.

### SMALL-CITY AND RURAL

Mr. Walker designed transit networks for more than 30 small cities and rural areas across the western U.S., and for small cities in Australia and New Zealand. In the 1990s he worked on such plans in a majority of California's counties.

### TRANSIT FOR CAMPUS AND UNIVERSITY-TOWN ENVIRONMENTS

Mr Walker has done extensive planning for the special environments of college and university towns. His work directly for universities includes campus shuttle studies for Stanford University and Washington State University, and for numerous small cities where large universities drive public transport demand, including Fort Collins, Colorado; Davis, California; San Luis Obispo, California; Corvallis, Oregon; Bellingham, Washington; and Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia.

### **BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT)**

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Consulting work on BRT includes:

- **Oakland-Berkeley California.** Operations plan for the Telegraph/International BRT project, for AC Transit.
- **San Antonio, Texas.** Pre-feasibility and network planning for the Fredericksburg Road BRT corridor in mid 2000s (later implemented as Via Primo)

- **Auckland, New Zealand.** Studies on BRT feasibility and options for two BRT corridors, including Auckland-Botany-Manukau and Henderson-Albany.
- **Visakhapatnam, India.** Provided on-site expertise on design and alignment options for a proposed BRT network for the city.

## **CBD (DOWNTOWN) COMPREHENSIVE TRANSIT PLANNING**

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Lead planner on several studies clarifying the role of transit in the constrained, high-demand environment of central business districts (CBDs), including:

- **Seattle** – Numerous projects related to CBD and citywide public transit, including consultation on the Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement project, 2003-6.
- **Minneapolis** – Access Minneapolis, dealing with both CBD and citywide public transit, including an ambitious reconfiguration of CBD streets that was successfully implemented in 2009, creating new double-width bus lanes that decongested bus flows through the city.
- **Vancouver** – Granville Mall redesign project of 2004, on the redesign of the main bus-only street in the CBD. Assistance to transit agency on downtown network concepts, 2013.
- **Brisbane** – Bus Access Capacity study, looking at strategies for managing long-term growth in demand for bus service into the CBD.
- **Sydney** – extensive advice to City of Sydney on bus-rail integration options around planned George St. Light Rail project through the core of the city.

In Minneapolis and Seattle, these studies helped decide which streets should be assigned for transit use, and the degree to which transit lanes, or similar protections, were needed on those streets. These studies were integrated into multi-model plans for downtown access, motivated by the need to support economic development even as density grows beyond what an automobile-based system can support. The projects involved intense facilitation and consensus-building within the complex web of interests in every major CBD.

## **STATION AREA AND TOWN CENTRE PLANNING**

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Served as the transit specialist on several rapid-transit station area plans in the Vancouver area. Worked with urban designers to devise new configurations of streets and other infrastructure that would optimise both transit and dense redevelopment, and thus to design stable and attractive town centres.

## **SERVICE BRANDING**

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Mr Walker has done crucial original work on the definition and branding of Frequent Transit Networks – the subset of a transit agency’s services that run every 15 minutes or better all day. His work in this area aims to integrate efforts in diverse areas – marketing, transit planning, land use planning, and street infrastructure – around a common vision of the future core transit network of a region, including not just rapid transit services but also high-quality local bus services. He has developed similar policies as a long-range planning tool for many agencies, including those in Brisbane, Canberra, Vancouver, Portland, Seattle, Minneapolis, and Reno, among others. He has also helped refine and implement short-term Frequent Service brands for networks in San Antonio and Minneapolis.

In 2012-13, he conducted an extensive project for San Francisco MTA developing ideas for service branding for San Francisco's city bus services. Similar work is integrated into many of his network design projects.

## **BUS-RAIL INTEGRATION**

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Mr Walker was a lead planner on bus-rail integration issues in Seattle, Salt Lake City and Sacramento, and handled bus-rail integration issues for many of the other studies listed above. Planner on studies comparing rail and bus options for corridors in San Francisco, Sacramento, Portland, Salt Lake City and Oakland-Berkeley. He was responsible for bus-rail integration planning in the course of station area redesign plans for TransLink in Vancouver in 2005-6.

## **LONG RANGE PLANNING**

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Mr. Walker has been the lead planner on long range transit network and policy plans for a range of urban areas, including:

- Canberra, Australia (2008)
- Portland, Oregon (1995)
- Riverside, California (2000)
- Boise, Idaho (2002)

He has also been deeply involved in long range network planning and policy in Vancouver, during on-site intensive work in 2005-6 and 2011.

These projects have synthesized short-term political and financial issues with the need to address long-term challenges of growth. All have included recommendations regarding new ways for transit agencies to work together with municipalities to achieve common goals.

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

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Mr. Walker is frequently invited to a city to do a series of events and workshops that can help unlock or simplify a local debate. These typically include some mixture of public lectures, workshops with stakeholders, and meetings with key players in a current transit issue. Recent successful events of this type have occurred in Halifax, Omaha, Houston, Calgary, Edmonton, Long Island (NY), Seattle, Oklahoma City, and Auckland, New Zealand.

His recent conference keynotes include:

- Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) Victoria BC, May 2012
- Place Leaders Association of Australia/New Zealand, Auckland, NZ, March 2013
- Arizona Transit Association
- UITP Australia/New Zealand
- Bus Industry Confederation of Australia

## TEACHING

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- University of California, Berkeley. Graduate course in Public Transportation Systems, Department of Civil Engineering, 2002.
- Numerous Guest Lectures
- Interactive Short Course in Network Design. Mr Walker's one- or two-day short course in network design, a supervised workshop in which students design networks for a range of situations, has been hosted by universities, transit agencies, and professional organizations, and is available to other interested sponsors. (See [jarrettwalker.com/courses/](http://jarrettwalker.com/courses/))