

Sustainability | Individual communication

IC - (21096) - CHILDREN'S RECREATIONAL MOBILITIES IN A DENSIFYING COMMUNITY

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Background and objectives

Access to urban open space is of large importance for the recreation of children in built environments, and might also play an important role in their sustainable recreational mobilities. Yet, little is known about how children's everyday recreation and associated mobilities are affected by planning projects and densification processes, where ideas of sustainable mobilities often focus on a transit-oriented development (TOD) based on densification in areas around transport nodes.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

In this project, we examine the current rapid development of a south-Swedish community, highly affected by TOD ideals. The case is studied through the perspectives of local children, their recreational mobilities and views on the current development of the community, using walking interviews with groups of children aged 10-11.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

The children described the current projects as happening fast, diminishing their spaces and increasing car traffic without their perspectives being included. Compared to a study conducted in the community five years earlier, the children appeared to find less places to use. A number of factors that limit or support their sustainable recreational mobilities were identified.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

The study shows that there are reasons to criticise the realisation of TOD for sustainable recreational mobilities and point at the importance in having close access to sufficient and varied spaces to allow children's recreational use. It also shows the importance of including children in both research and practice in order to strive for sustainability.

Palavras-chave : children's perspectives, independent mobility, transit-oriented development, informal spaces