Confessions of a Recovering Engineer: Transportation for a Strong Town

We all want to live in a place where the transportation system serves residents. But with crumbling roads, maddening amounts of congestion, thousands of traffic deaths each year, and unreliable public transit…it feels like the other way around.

So who's serving who?

The costs of the North American transportation system are too high—not just in money, but in time, safety, and quality of life. Most Americans sense the transportation system is working against rather than for them. Yet they also feel powerless because they can’t put their finger on why it’s so bad, or how it can be made better.

It’s unwise and unfair to be wasting precious time and resources on something this bad.

In Confessions of a Recovering Engineer, Charles Marohn, an engineer with more than 20 years of experience, pulls back the curtain on the North American transportation system. He explains how transportation got so bad, and why it keeps getting worse. He writes about the deadly toll of bad design, why the conventional approach puts cities on the road to insolvency, and why public transit is in trouble. He also talks about how transportation can be fixed—and why fixing it will involve not just engineers, but local residents and officials who have become effective and empowered advocates, connected with others to make real change.

No one should be consigned to living in a community where transportation gets worse while costing more. Rather than being a burden, transportation should fit with your life. It is possible to build a transportation system that makes you, your family, and your community safer and more prosperous. This book will show you how.

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