The Hidden Networks of Mothers with Young Children on Stockholm's Metro



Workbook

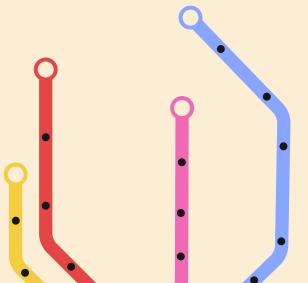
Group 1

Contents

1. Discovering

2. Defining

3. Developing



4. Delivering





Framing of the Design Brief

- Every-day hidden ecology of care
- Interdependence in commuting
 - 1. Physical Space and Bodies
 - 2. Sensory Landscape
 - 3. Reacting to an Emergency
- Initial target group: Commuters (too broad)
- **Final target group**: Mothers with children under 3 commuting by metro in Stockholm



Discovering Methods



Discovering Literature Review

Literature 7

Everyday Travel for Families with Children Using Wheelchairs: Parents' Perceptions of Constraints and Adaptation Strategies



Literature 6

Motherhood, mobility and materiality: Material entanglements, journey-making and the process of 'becoming mother'



Literature 5

An Interdependence Analysis of Commuting Decisions



Literature 1

Creating Resources for Designing with and for Care Ecologies in HCl



Literature 2

What Drives Them to
Drive?—Parents' Reasons for
Choosing the Car to Take
Their Children to School



Literature 3

Examining Transit
Accessibility for Families
with Young Children in
San Francisco



Literature 3

Travel Time as Quality Time: Parental Attitudes to long distance travel with Young Children

Interdependence and Care

transition to motherhood occurs in part through entanglements with the more than human in the course of becoming mobile (Boyer et al.)

The limited space for prams ... illustrate how urban form is stratified for particular kinds of bodies...favouring those with the most immediate link to wage labour (Boyer et al.)

Such encounters highlight the extent to which built form anticipates bodies that are not only able-bodied...but also individuated. (Boyer et al.)

a number of participants expressed the worry of disturbing other passengers with their children

(Price et al.)

A	API	ENI	JIX.	A

Day 1	Right now, when I think about care I think
Day 2	I give care to these people
Day 3	These people give care to me
Day 4	Ways I care for myself are
Day 5	Can you tell me three words you associate with care today?
Day 6	A caring thing you have done this week
Day 7	A care routine I have is
Day 8	A person who cared today
Day 9	This is how I show care
Day 10	A place that I care for is
Day 11	Yesterday I experienced care when
Day 12	This thing facilitates care in my life
Day 13	Which places do you feel care in?
Day 14	This is a strong care relationship
Day 15	Which three items in your home bring you care
Day 16	This is an act of care
Day 17	When I need care, I
Day 18	This item brings me care
Day 19	I care for this thing
Day 20	What are the different forms of care you see in your life?
Day 21	Where have you found care this week that surprised you?
Day 22	Tell me about a time you cared for something that is not another person
Day 23	When someone needs care from me they
Day 24	What is a caring environment for you?
Day 25	Have you seen any acts of care in your neighbourhood?
Day 26	When I think about care and the future, I think
Day 27	Tell me about a time in your life where care was very important to you
Day 28	I went out of my way to care when
Day 29	I didn't expect that care could mean
Day 30	Right now, when I think about care I think

Card Type	Card Example	Number of cards	
Person Card	Neighbour	1	
	Family Member	1	
	Doctor	1	
	Care Giver	1	
	Friend	1	
	Community	1	
	DIY	6	
Place Card	At Home	1	
	In Nature	1	
	In Private	1	
	In Public	1	
	In the Community	1	
	At the Doctor	1	
	DIY	6	
Thing Card	Physical Object	1	
	Technology	1	
	Money	1	
	Internet	1	
	Data	1	
	Artificial Intelligence	1	
	DIY	6	
Time Card	Today	1	
	Often	1	
	Never	1	
	Sometimes	1	
	In the Near Future	1	
	In the Far Future	1	
	Recently	1	
	In the Past	1	
	DIY	4	
Quality Card	Positive	1	
	Negative	1	
	Presumptive	1	
	Inclusive	1	
	Isolating	1	
	Simple	1	
	Complex	1	
	Unexpected	1	
	DIY	4	
Care Activity Cards	Care Stories Activity	1	
	Randomised Care Stories	1	
	Connecting Care	1	
	Spectrums		
	Freestyle Spectrum	1	
	Mapping		
	Focused Spectrum Mapping	1	
Introduction Cards	50 (5)	1	



Discovering In The Wild Observations (16 Instances)

	Space (the physical place or places)	Actor (the people involved)	Activity (a set of related acts people do)	Object (the physical things which are present)	Act (single actions that people do)	Event (a set of related activities that people carry out)	Time (the sequencing that takes place over time)	Goal (the things people are trying to accomplish)	Feelings (the emotions felt and expressed)
1	Metro: pram section (empty)	Mother and Father and baby	?	Pram	Talking, hushing, crying, screaming	The baby crying -> people looking	10:30?	Navigating to a good space, Calming down the baby	Parents: Stress, frustration Surroundings: Annoyance
2	(empty)	Father and baby	?	Pram, baby food	Talking, playing, crying	Navigating to pram section -> picking up baby from pram and sitting down in a seat -> baby crying -> people staring -> getting some baby food for the baby -> exiting the metro with baby in one arm and pram in the other	10:50?	Navigating to a good space, calming down the baby, feeding the baby	Parents: Happiness, unease Surroundings: Curiosity
3		Mother and Father and toddlers + baby	?	Pram, baby-carrier shirt, other baby equipment	Talking, laughing, jumping, disciplining	Navigating to pram section -> two people giving up their seats for the family -> one child crawling up and down the floor in a burst of energy -> all children sitting down on their parents laps on the seats -> the energetic child calms down	18:00?	Navigating to a good space, calming down the children, making sure they all sit down	Parents: Contentment, relief Surroundings: Curiosity, contentment
4	Metro: corner section (moderate)	Mother and baby	?	Double pram	Frowning	Navigating to the corner since the pram section was blocked -> frowning after seemingly being ignored -> exiting the metro after some logistical manoeuvring	09:15?	Navigating to a good space	Parents: Frustration, annoyance Surroundings: Obliviousness
	(empty)	Mother and baby	?	Pram	Leaning back, closing eyes	Navigating to the pram section -> leaning back on the support railing -> closing her eyes -> swiftly exiting the metro	09:35?	Navigating to a good space	Parents: Calmness, contentment Surroundings: Obliviousness
	empty, crowd around the doors	Mother, pre-schooler (around 5), and baby	Managing the baby's belongings and behaviour while waiting for the right stop	Stroller, baby backpack, pre-schooler backpack	Pre-schooler sitting on an empty chair, mother facing the Pre-schooler from a chair, baby sleeping in the stroller	Pre-schooler was impatient -> A few people glanced over -> Mom was trying to calm down the boy while making sure the baby was not waking up -> Takes backpack from pre-schooler -> Pre-schooler calms down a bit -> When the stopped approached, the mother struggled to keep both the stroller safe and the pre-schooler calm	Sept	Keeping the child calm, making sure the baby was asleep, trying to get out of the crowd safe	Mother. Mild frustration, embarrassment Pre-schooler. Impatience, a lot of energy Surroundings: Mostly indifference, some looks were given
5	Metro: crowded all over	Grandmother and school-aged child (around 8)	Keeping the child close, navigating crowded space	Child's school bag, grandmother's purse, shopping bags	Grandmother holding the child's hand, balancing shopping bags while the child shifts uncomfortably and fidgets around, wants to leave grandmother's hand to go around the metro	Child tries to move toward the door -> Grandmother pulls the child closer -> Other passengers block their way -> Grandmother asks the child to stay still -> Child fidgets, pulling at school bag straps	around 16:30 (rush hour), on 9th of Sept		Crandmother. Cautious, slightly stressed Child: Restless, bored, curious about the surroundings Surroundings: Impatience, indifference
	Metro : moderately crowded	Mother, child (around 4)	Child sitting on a seat, using the mother's phone to play TikTok videos loudly	Phone, toys , candy	The child is loudly playing TikTok videos, while the mother attempts to divert the child's attention by offering toys/candy or engaging in conversation. The child resists and grabs	Child playing TikTok video loudly -> mother tries to take back phone -> child resists and kicks nearby passenger -> passengers frown or glance over -> nearby passenger expresses mild annoyance but remains silent	09/08 6:45:00 PM	Calm the child, stop the loud video	Parent: Embarrassment, frustration Surroundings: Disturbance, mild annoyance, curiosity



Sept. 8, 11:55

(moderately crowded metro)

A dad with a stroller is waiting for the metro, his toddler eating Cheerios. As they board, the dad tickles the child, and gives him a water bottle. The woman across from them watches and smiles. As more people board, the dad adjusts the stroller, and he shifts when older women enter, giving them space. He eventually prepares to exit the train, adjusting the stroller and looking for the right stop.

Interviews

We role-played as our target users in mock interviews to test and refine our questions for better insights.

Before

01



After

Problem only applies to mothers.

03

02

During

We conducted 12 interviews with parents that use metros as a way of commuting with their young children in various environments, including parks, store queues, and on the street.

Discovering Interviews (12 Interviews)

What is your **experience** with **other passengers** on the metro?

What is your general experience with traveling on the metro **with Kids**?



66

I mean I generally feel that people are quite indifferent and oblivious about strollers..there have been so many times now where people don't let us enter first on the cart and so on.

I mean I think it's been better than what I expected, but there are definitely problems with lack of respect from others...Other people often stand or sit there taking up the space instead. This makes it hard to get on and navigate to a comfortable space on the metro.

If you could dream big and imagine your ideal metro ride with your child, how would that look?





I think that maybe it would be nice to have it marked somehow where the pram sections are on the metros before entering, cause otherwise I often have to like run on the platform or in the cart to make sure I get into the right door.



Some sort of display that shows that a section is empty or full, so that I can plan ahead for that.



Defining



01

02

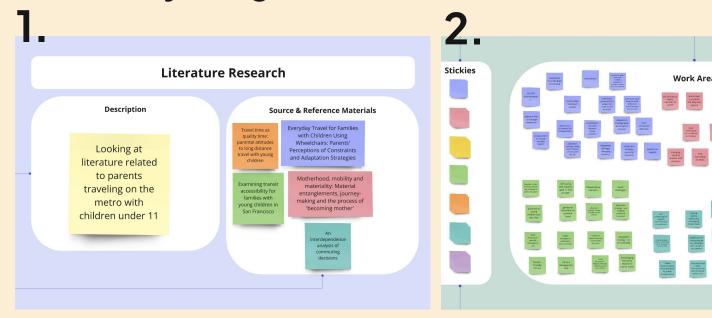
Personas & Scenarios

PMW + HMW

03

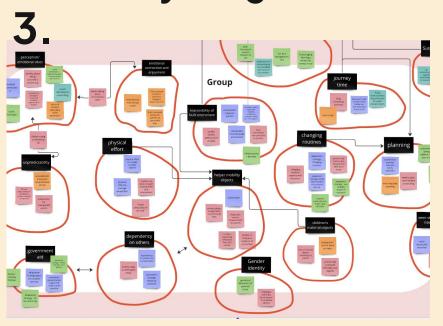


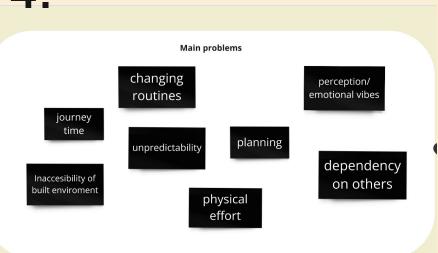
DefiningAffinity Diagrams: Literature Review



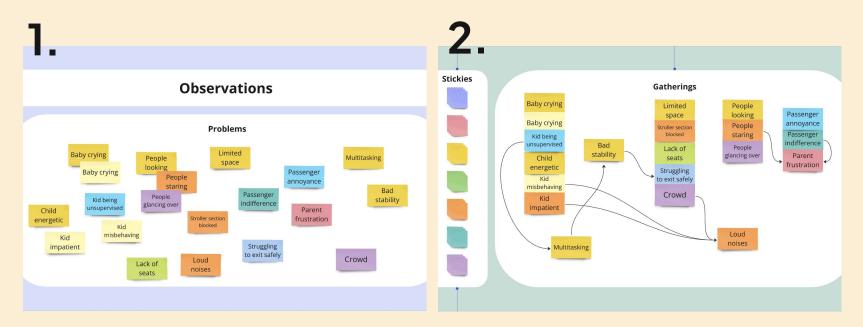
Defining

Affinity Diagrams: Literature Review





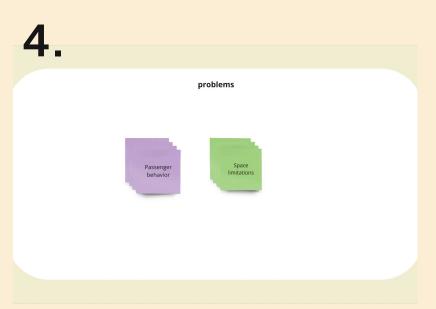
DefiningAffinity Diagrams: Observations



DefiningAffinity Diagrams: Observations

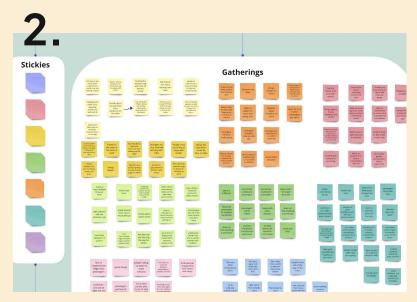
Categories

Child Passenger Space Imitations Sensory landscape



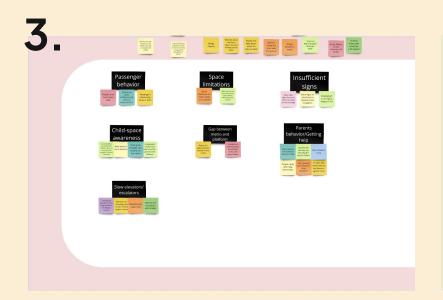
DefiningAffinity Diagrams: Interviews

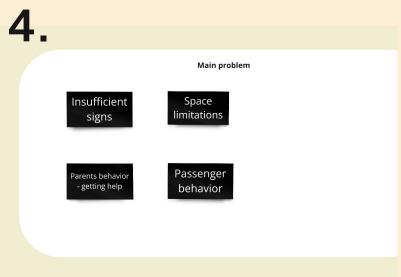




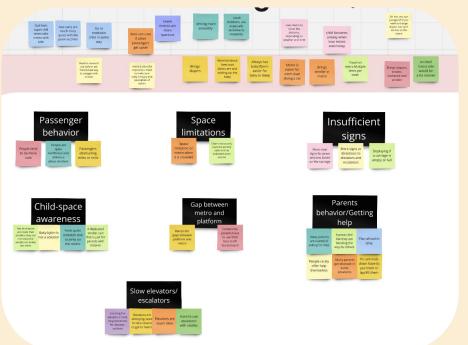
Defining

Affinity Diagrams: Interviews



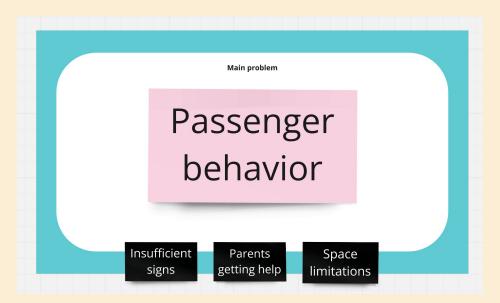


DefiningClassifying from the Affinity Diagrams



Defining Affinity Diagrams: Conclusion

We concluded that the three subcategories are actually side effects stemming from the main problem: passenger behavior.



DefiningPersonas

Anna Lindgren

Södermalm, Stockholm Married, with a 4-month-old daughter, Emilia



Not used



Daniel Lindqvist

Solna, Stockholm Not married, with a 2-year-old son, Hugo

DefiningScenarios

Scene:

Tuesday, 10 am, relatively calm metro station Anna with her 4-month-old baby, Emilia Struggles to find pram section

Events:

Finds space on train but passengers fill in around her Concerned about space when exiting

Obstacles:

Passengers unaware of her need for space Has to ask others to move aside

Need:

Need for clearer pram section signs and passenger awareness

Scene:

Thursday, 3:30 p.m., quiet metro station Returning from yoga with baby, Emilia

Events:

Easily finds pram section, fellow passenger helps Peaceful and relaxed ride

Obstacles:

Minimal due to off-peak time

Need:

Stress-free travel with proper facilities and planning



Defining PMW + HMW

Andreas

HIMM

How might we encourage surrounding passengers to be more considerate of the spatial needs of mothers with young children traveling by metro in Stockholm?

POV

Mothers traveling with young children on the Stockholm metro need passengers to be more considerate of the space necessary for strollers and the mother-baby-assemblage since passenger indifference and inaction lead to stressful and uncomfortable journeys for both parties.

Alex

HMI

How might we make use of technology to facilitate more cooperative interactions between regular passengers and mothers with strollers on the Stockholm metro?

POV

For a mother traveling with young children (under 3 years old) using strollers on the Stockholm metro, navigating public transport can be a constant challenge, especially when it comes to managing space. You quickly realize how crucial it is for other passengers to notice the space you and your stroller occupy—not out of rudeness, but simply because they aren't paying attention. They might stand in front of stroller areas or block the doors, unintentionally making an already stressful situation harder. If more passengers made a conscious effort to observe and respond to the practical needs of mothers and others with specific spatial requirements, the journey would be smoother for everyone. This isn't about asking for special treatment but about encouraging mindfulness—seeing the stroller, recognizing the space needed, and stepping aside. A little more spatial awareness could make the experience far less stressful, creating a more comfortable and efficient environment for all.

Hannah

HMV

How might we empower mothers traveling with small children to communicate their real-time spatial needs to other passengers effectively, quickly, and easily?

POV

"Mothers traveling with young children on the Stockholm metro need passengers to be more considerate of the space necessary for strollers and the mother-baby-assemblage since passenger indifference and inaction lead to stressful and uncomfortable journeys for both parties."

Zoe

HMV

How might we promote mutual awareness and communication between mothers traveling with young children and other passengers, ensuring that spatial needs are recognized and respected on the metro?

POV

Mothers traveling with young children need to effectively communicate their spatial needs to surrounding passengers because they often face challenges in finding enough space and support on the metro, while passengers are generally unaware of these specific needs, leading to discomfort and stress for both parties.

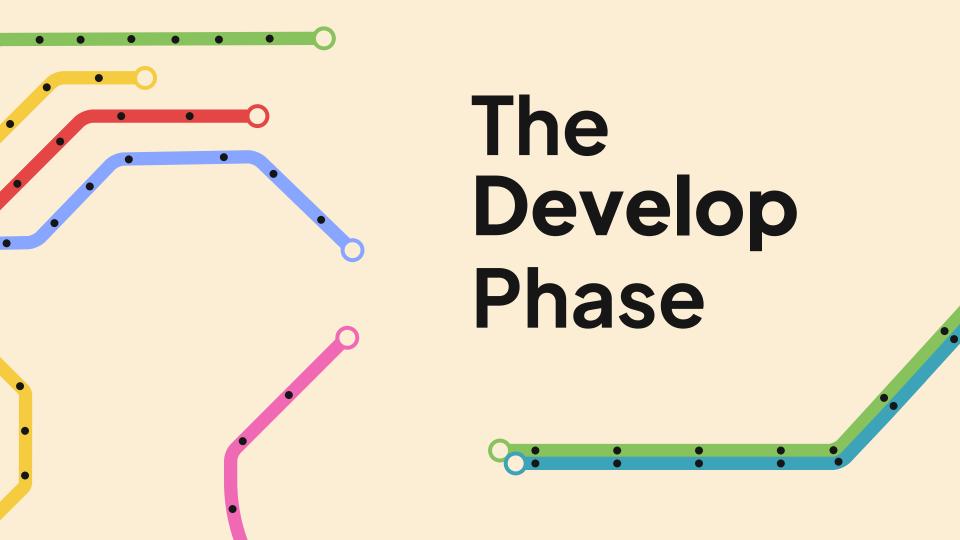
Final Problem Statement

POV

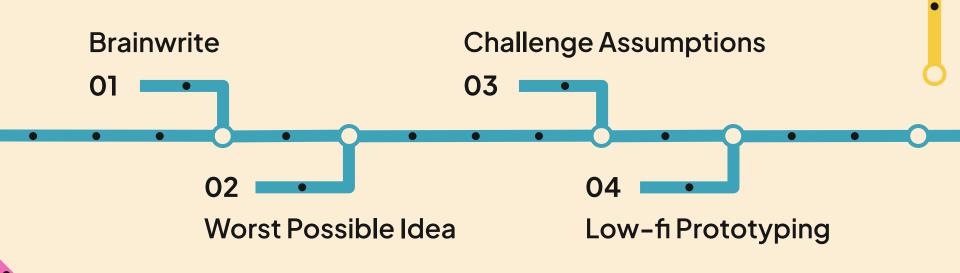
Mothers traveling with young children on the Stockholm metro need passengers to be more considerate of the **space necessary** for strollers and the mother-baby-assemblage since **passenger indifference and inaction** lead to stressful and uncomfortable journeys for both parties.

HMW

How might we encourage surrounding passengers to be more considerate of the spatial needs of mothers with young children traveling by metro in Stockholm?



Developing



Ideation

Brainwrite

Procedure

- 4 participants: our group members
- 3 rounds, lasting 5 minutes each
- Aim to generate 3 ideas in each round
- After each round we came together to discuss the solutions



Ideas

- 1. SL app-extensions
 - a. Crowdsourcing information
 - b. Gamification
 - c. Chat rooms
- 2. Sensors and feedback
 - a. Phones vibrate based on distance
 - b. Project location on to ceiling
- Restructuring metro interior to aid passenger-mother spatial collaboration

Ideation

Worst possible idea

Procedure

- Write down ideas that are really silly, cumbersome, or stupid
- Define the attributes that make them terrible
- Try to flip bad ideas into good ones

Bad Idea

Public database to shame rude passengers



Attributes

- Isolating mothers
- Victim blaming
- Limiting access
- Negative reinforcement
- Privacy

Good Idea

Send appreciation to people who do acts of kindness

IdeationChallenge Assumptions

Procedure

- Write down assumptions that we have about our target group or that our solutions from other methods implied
- Answer "Why could the assumption be false?"
- Then brainstorm solutions that address these reasons and make the assumption false

Assumption

Rewards are an effective incentive to do good

Solution

Rewards that are inherently good, such as charity

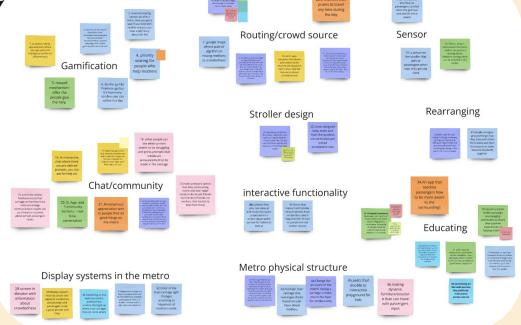
An app is the best way to solve our problem

Added device/screen to stroller



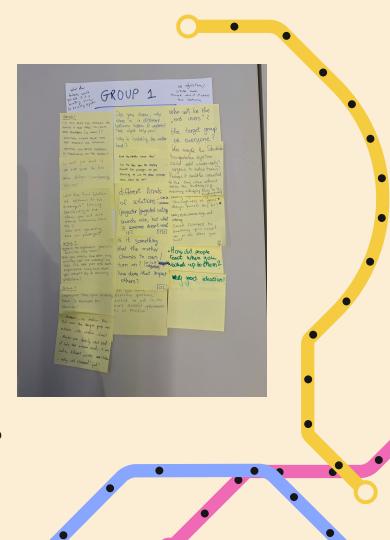
Another Affinity

Diag



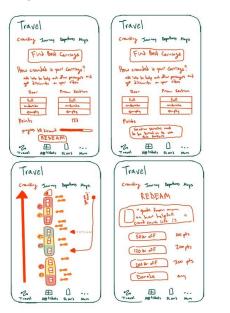
Our Solution

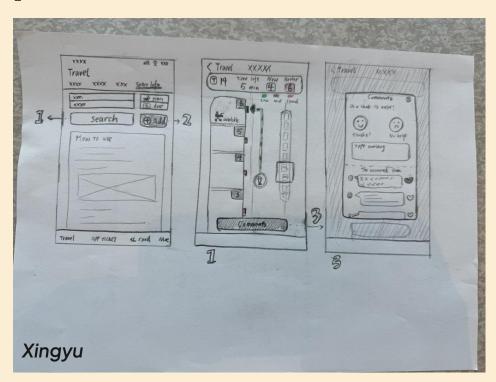
An extension to the SL app that crowdsources information about how full the metro is and rewards passengers with discounts on their tickets. The information is then displayed to mothers so they can find an empty pram section real-time.



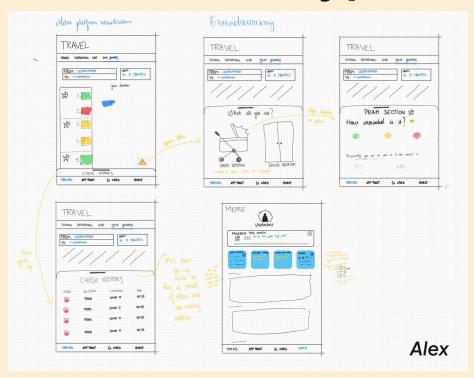
Low-fi Prototype (Parallel)

Hannah





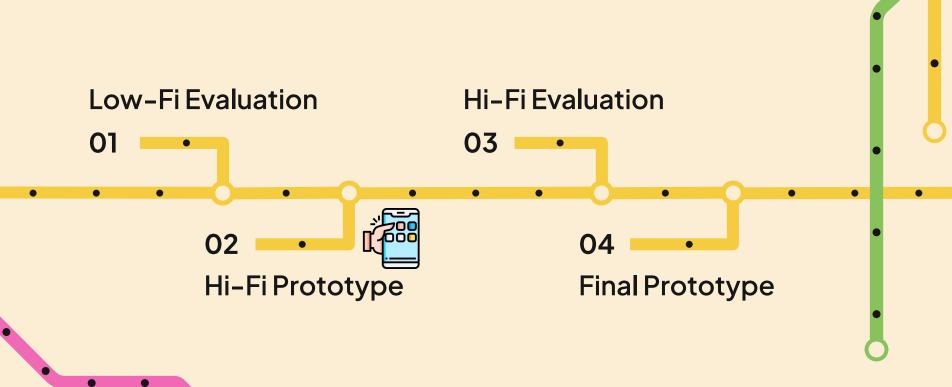
Low-fi Prototype







Delivering



Iterative Prototyping: From Low-Fi to Hi-Fi



Hand-drawn prototype on Figjam

Printed out

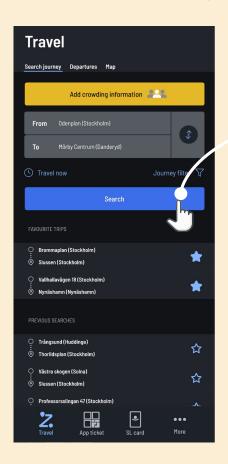
Talk out loud Lo-Fi evaluation

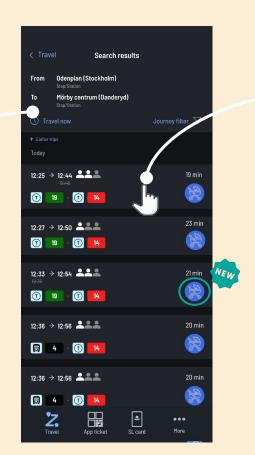
Figma Hi-Fi prototype



Hi-Fi Prototype (Mother flow)

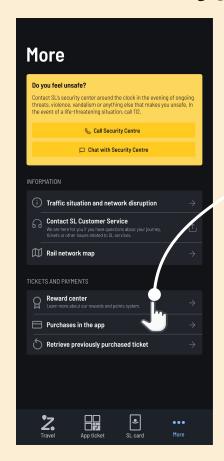


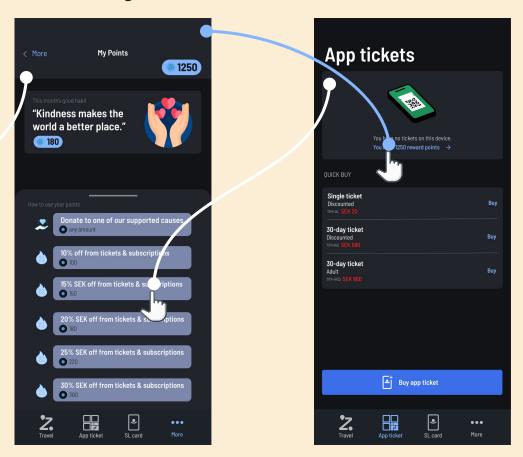




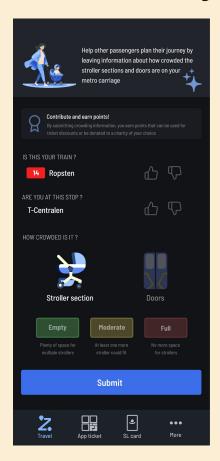


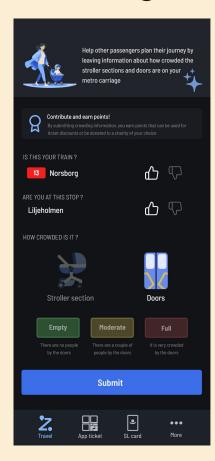
Hi-Fi Prototype (Reward system flow)





Hi-Fi Prototype (Passenger flow)





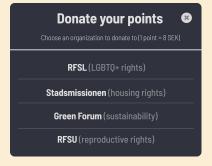
When adding crowding information we created both a happy and unhappy flow for our design to account for situations where the system may not correctly detect your travel line.

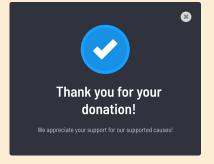
Hi-Fi Prototype (Pop-ups)















User Testing on the Hi-Fi Prototype

Mothers

Confusion about how to initiate the flow

The crowdsourcing button on the travel page stood out more

Metro
visualization
was not
intuitive

Did not
realize you
can scroll

Confident navigation, familiar with SL interface Enjoyed quick metro access visualization

Train is not

the same

color as in

real life

Helps solve the problem

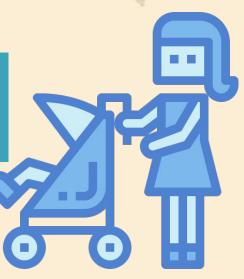
Convenient to

use while

pushing a

stroller

Cooperative Evaluation



User Testing on the Hi-Fi Prototype

Passengers

Design and Navigation

- + Easy to navigate
- + Intuitive design
- + Seamless integration
- Skipped some steps in the flow

Flow improvements

- Missed the "door" icon and pressed submit prematurely
- Crowdsourcing button placement seemed out of place

Icons and Visual Separation

- Suggested clearer separation between stroller and door icons;
- Confusion when seeing stroller and door icons simultaneously;
- Suggested showing door selection first as it's the first thing users see.

Point System

+ Liked the reward center

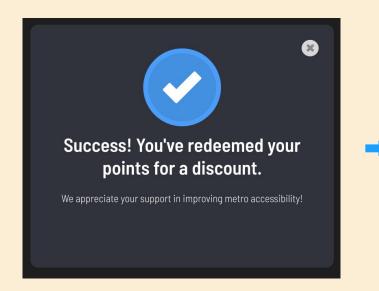
Text Fields and Location Info

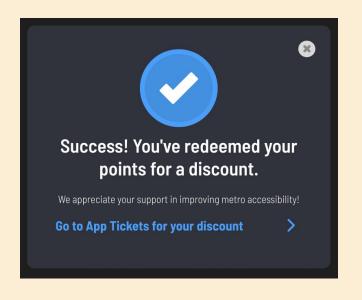
- Confusion with search text fields



Changes after User Testing

The popup in the Reward Center view now includes a navigation option to the App Tickets view after applying discount points.





Changes after User Testing

Converted the discounts from fixed amounts (50 SEK) to percentage values (10%).







Future Work

Reward Center

Redesign to ensure fairness for all tickets and plans. Use cognitive psychology methods to motivate people

Crowdsourcing Flow

Redesign layout based on user feedback to scroll

Crowdsourcing Validation

Build a better system that can accurately validate crowdsourced information

Metro Visualization

Revamp of colors and structure

Summary: Key Design Decisions

Focus on parents with children on the metro rather than any public transit user

Designing an app extension rather than a physical interface in the metros for mothers

Reduce our target group even further to just mothers after interviews revealed that fathers don't feel they experience issues

Visualizing a long metro with the help of scrolling

Fin

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Check out our prototype!

