

Statement of the Characteristics - Minute Map

The app lets users compare how different travel modes perform across Toronto and how easily everyday services can be reached. It draws attention to parts of the city where mobility is constrained or where key services are not evenly available. The map shows 15-minute access to entertainment (libraries and community centers), food (grocery stores), healthcare (hospitals), and education (schools). Its main tool displays the service area around each location for walking, cycling, public transit, and driving. Users can also switch between 5, 10, and 15-minute thresholds to see how access expands or drops off depending on the mode.

The second feature tab shows a choropleth map of Toronto neighbourhoods. Each neighbourhood is colored according to its average sustainable accessibility score, where darker colours represent higher scores. A higher score means the neighbourhood has a greater mix of amenities and stronger 15-minute access by sustainable modes (walking, cycling, and public transit), while lighter colours indicate lower scores and weaker access. Among the feature layers, there is also a raster that visualizes the overall spread of accessibility across the city without being normalized to neighbourhood boundaries, so we can directly see which areas are lacking.

Our app is designed to be easy to access and use for a wide range of users. The colour palette is chosen with colour-blind accessibility in mind, using high-contrast tones and clear differences in lightness so information is not communicated by colour alone. The interface is kept clean and consistent, with a simple layout that makes the map and results easy to read at a glance. Users can customize what they see through filters, zoom controls, and layer toggles that turn datasets on and off depending on what they want to compare. This flexibility lets users focus on specific modes of travel, cutoff times, or amenity types without cluttering the map.