A usable local signal

OBSERVATION / COMMUNITY / PRACTICE

The two-week test

A compact report designed for the space between a bulletin and a magazine feature.

Volunteers placed a movable shade marker at three waiting areas and recorded arrival time, approximate queue length, and whether people stayed or walked on. The measure is modest by design: it supports a next decision without claiming to be a complete evaluation.

What we noticed. People paused longest where shade and a seat were separated by more than a few steps. A clear route marker prompted more questions than a dense map. The busiest crossing was also the place where the queue moved slowest.

The next experiment. Repeat the observation after rain. Bring one unanswered question and one idea small enough to try before the following issue. The frame definitions above can be adjusted without changing the article content.

QUICK READ

Three signals

- **Shade changes how long people stay.**
- **A clear marker beats a dense map.**
- **Small trials make better next questions.**

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