EQUITY MATTERS: CREATING A SAFE, EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM FOR ALL

Charles T. Brown, MPA, CPD, LCI
California Transportation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, June 24, 2020
10:00 am – 10:30 am PST
EQUITY

- Equity involves trying to understand and give people what they need to enjoy full, healthy lives.

- Equity is the presence of justice and fairness within the procedures, processes, and distribution of resources by institutions or systems.

- Facing equity issues requires an understanding of the underlying or root causes of inequalities and oppression within our society.
CONSIDERATION OF SOCIAL IDENTITIES

- Which identities do you think about most often?
- Which identities do you think about least often?
- Which of your own identities would you like to learn more about?
- Which of your identities have the strongest effect on how you perceive yourself?
- Which of your identities have the greatest effect on how others perceive you?
"TRANSPORTATION HAS BEEN WEAPONIZED AS A TOOL OF OPPRESSION WITHIN SOCIETY."
HIGHWAY ROBBERY: HISTORIC Treme, New Orleans, LA
EQUITY: NATIONALLY

- Who is most at risk?:
- “Older adults, people of color, and people walking in low-income communities are disproportionately represented in fatal crashes involving people walking.”
Older adults are disproportionately represented in deaths of people walking. Relative pedestrian danger by age:

- **20**
- **20.7**
- **28**

**U.S. Overall:** 14.8

**50+**

**65+**

**75+**

**EQUITY: NATIONALLY**

- **Older Adults**

  “Relative pedestrian danger for older adults age 50 and above is more than a third higher than the general population.”
EQUITY: NATIONALLY

- **People of color**

- “Between 2008 and 2017, Black/African-Americans were 72% more likely to have been struck and killed by drivers while walking.”
People die while walking at much higher rates in lower-income communities. Based on income of census tracts where fatalities occur.

- **Low-income Neighborhoods**
- “People living in neighborhoods where the median household income is $36,000 or less were killed at much higher rates than their counterparts.”
Hurricane Katrina (August 23 – 25, 2005)
Hurricane Sandy (October 22 – November 2, 2012)
Where we live, block by block

- **Greater than 75% of population**
- **50-75%**
- **Less than 50%**

- **White, non-Hispanic**
- **Black or African American, non-Hispanic**
- **Hispanic**
- **Asian**
- **American Indian or Native Alaskan**
- **Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander**
- **Other**
- **Claiming more than one race**
- **No predominance**
- **Unpopulated**

Regions worth exploring
Where we live, block by block:

What these colors mean:
- Greater than 75% of population: White, non-Hispanic
- 50-75%: Black or African American, non-Hispanic
- Less than 50%: Hispanic
- Other: Asian
- American Indian or Native Alaskan
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Other
- Claiming more than one race
- No predominance
- Unpopulated

Regions worth exploring:

Washington D.C.
Where we live, block by block

Greater than 75% of population
50-75%
Less than 50%

White, non-Hispanic
Black or African American, non-Hispanic
Hispanic
Asian
American Indian or Native Alaskan
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
Other
Claiming more than one race
No predominance
Unpopulated

Portland

Regions worth exploring
EQUITY IMPLICATIONS

Race  
Place  
Health
“HISTORY DOESN’T SAY GOODBYE; HISTORY SAYS SEE YOU LATER.”
CALIFORNIA IS THE 16TH MOST DANGEROUS STATE FOR PEDESTRIANS
How can we create a safe, equitable and inclusive system for all?
1. EQUITY & JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

- Distributive Justice
- Procedural Justice
- Interactional Justice
- Representational Justice
- Care
DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE:
WHO HAS PHYSICAL ACCESS TO THE STREET, PARK OR TRAIL?
MAJOR TAKEAWAYS:

- Most respondents (54%) do not feel that children are safe from traffic when bicycling in their neighborhoods.
MAJOR TAKEAWAYS: Nearly 1 in 4 (22%) feel they can safely bike to local parks or trails from their homes.
PROCEDURAL JUSTICE:
WHO HAS INFLUENCE OVER THE DESIGN, OPERATIONS, AND PROGRAMMING?
MAJOR TAKEAWAYS:

• Minority youth are not including in planning and transportation decision-making processes.
INTERACTIONAL JUSTICE:
WHAT MAKES PEOPLE FEEL WELCOME OR UNWANTED IN THE SPACE?
MAJOR TAKEAWAYS:

- African-Americans are 2.5 times more likely to be killed by law enforcement. Males reported being stopped at a rate 7x than that of females.
Do people feel their experience and history is represented in the space?
MAJOR TAKEAWAYS:

• Think about how often historical and cultural erasure takes place in communities across the country
CARE:
HOW DO PEOPLE DEMONSTRATE THEIR CARE FOR THE SPACE AND OTHER PEOPLE IN IT?
MAJOR TAKEAWAYS:

- Our systems are biased against women and doesn’t protect religious minority groups.
#2. EQUITY STRATEGIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Anti-Racist Values/Culture
- Racial Equity Action Plan
- Equity Trainings
- Equity Performance Measures
- Internal Equity Group
- External Equity Advisory Group
GENTRIFICATION AND DISPLACEMENT:
“TREES PLANTED IN MINORITY COMMUNITIES MATURE JUST IN TIME FOR GENTRIFICATION TO TAKE PLACE”
“NEVER FORGET THAT JUSTICE IS WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE IN PUBLIC.”—CORNEL WEST
 CONTACT INFORMATION

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