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At the Intersection of Safety + Race + Transportation

Charlene McGee
Multnomah County

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**Friday Transportation
Seminar:
At the Intersection of
Safety + Race +
Transportation**

Charlene McGee, MPA
REACH Program Manager

November 6, 2020

We want to **acknowledge** that the data presented in this report represent real people – members of our community. These individuals are sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, and friends in our county.



Where We Are Going | Agenda

Context Setting (i.e. data)

Transportation as a Social Determinant of Health

Health Equity Tools

**Recommendations + Action Item to bridge racial,
health and transportation equity**

Q & A



The Fierce Urgency of Now

“We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with **the fierce urgency of now**. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there 'is' such a thing as being too late. **This is no time for apathy or complacency.** This is a time for vigorous and positive action.”

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King



Montgomery Bus Boycott



BEAUTIFUL
BLACK
PORTLAND.COM

Our Experience. Our Stories. Our Time.



African Americans/Blacks in Multnomah County experience numerous inequities

1 in 2 children live in poverty

1 in 4 adults report physical symptoms from treatment based on race

2 in 5 adults report emotional distress from treatment based on race



These **toxic stressors** are associated with poorer health for African American/Black adults compared to White adults

Diabetes 17% vs. 7%

Obesity 43% vs. 22%

High Blood Pressure 41% vs. 25%

Data source: Oregon BRFSS 2015-16 Race Oversample preliminary results



Cost of Health Inequalities in Multnomah County

\$442 million Estimated annual economic burden of health inequalities

\$332 million in cost of premature mortality

\$92 million in cost of premature mortality

\$18 million in indirect costs of illness



For the African American/Black community

\$291 million

Estimated annual economic burden of health inequalities

\$236 million

in cost of premature mortality

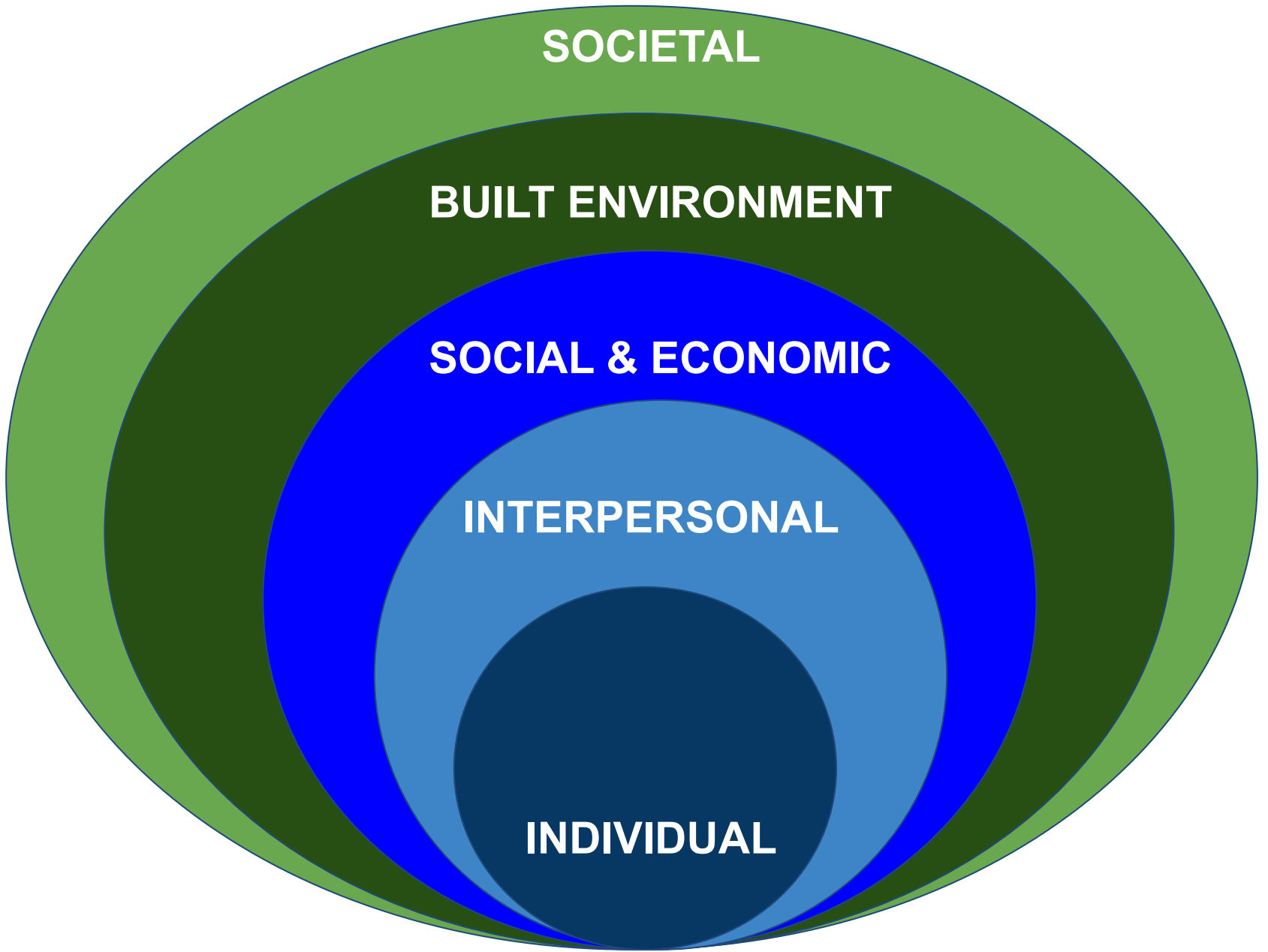
\$44 million

in cost of premature mortality

\$12 million

in indirect costs of illness





REACH
Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health

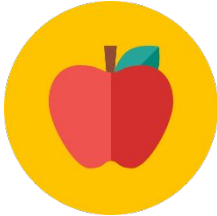


Multnomah County REACH

Works towards health equity by grounding culturally tailored strategies in community-based participatory and evidence-based approaches that mesh public health, multi-sectoral partners, and community voice and resiliency



Strategy Areas + Cross Cutting Themes



Nutrition

- Breastfeeding
- SUN School
- Culturally Specific CSA
- Healthy Nutrition Standards
- Healthy Food Procurement



Community Clinical Linkage

- Access to health care + Safety Net Resources
- Tobacco Cessation
- Leveraging CHWs & Healthcare Providers



Physical Activity + Build Environment

- improve pedestrian, bicycle, or transit transportation systems
- Safe Routes to Everyday Destination
- Reduced traffic-related injuries and fatalities in the project area.



Economic Development

- Equitable Food Oriented Development
- Black Farmers
- Vocational Training
- Farmer's Market
- Culturally Specific Contracted Partners



Social Cohesion

- ACHIEVE Coalition
- Culture Preservation
- Community Engagement



Bridging Public Health & Transportation

Leading Causes of Death
among the Non-Hispanic Black
population in the United States

- 1 Heart Disease
- 2 Cancer
- 3 Accidents*
- 4 Cerebrovascular Diseases
- 5 Diabetes

*unintentional injuries



Physical Activity & The Build Environment

Transportation

Walkability

Safety

Housing

Parks

Access to healthy foods

Safe Routes to School, Park,
Church etc.



Our Voices. Our Truths.

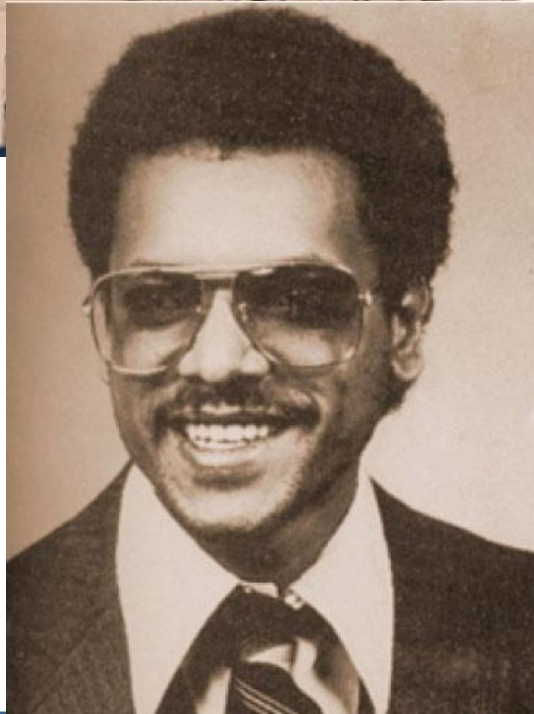
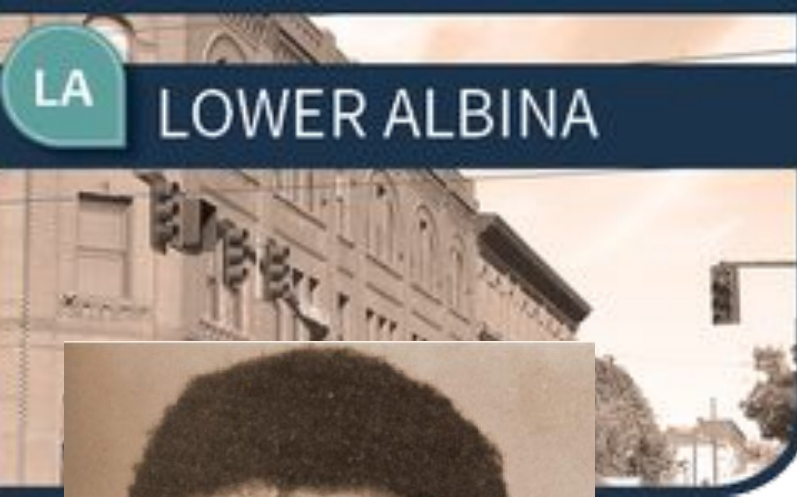
“White people not sharing the sidewalk, expecting Black people to step out of their way instead of moving right to make space mutually, respectfully.”

“Crosswalk White girl magic - where cars stop for White women, not for Black people.”

“When you’re Black [anywhere in Portland], you have to make sure that you are extra careful when crossing the street or using the crosswalk.”



Transportation Impacts on Black Portland

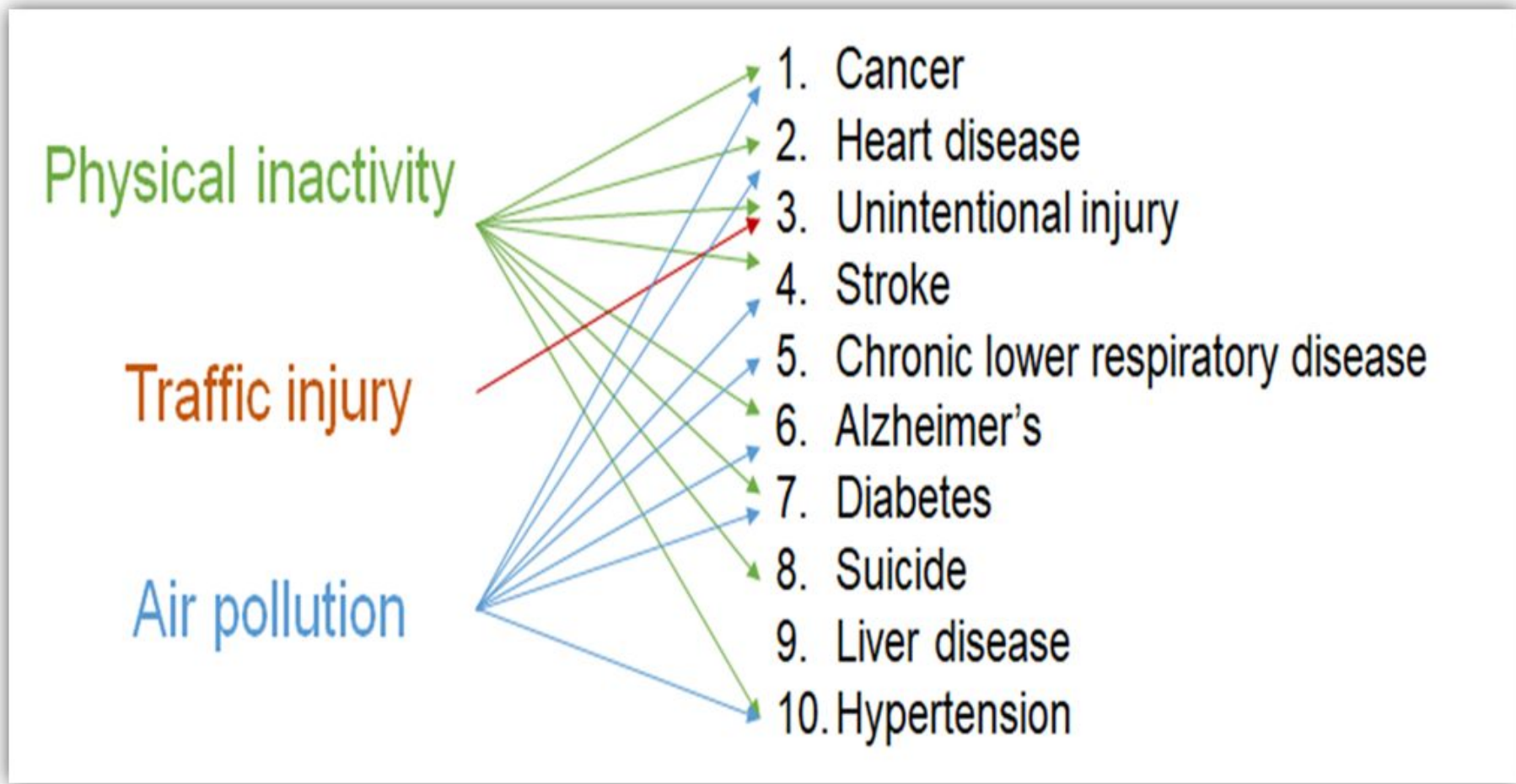


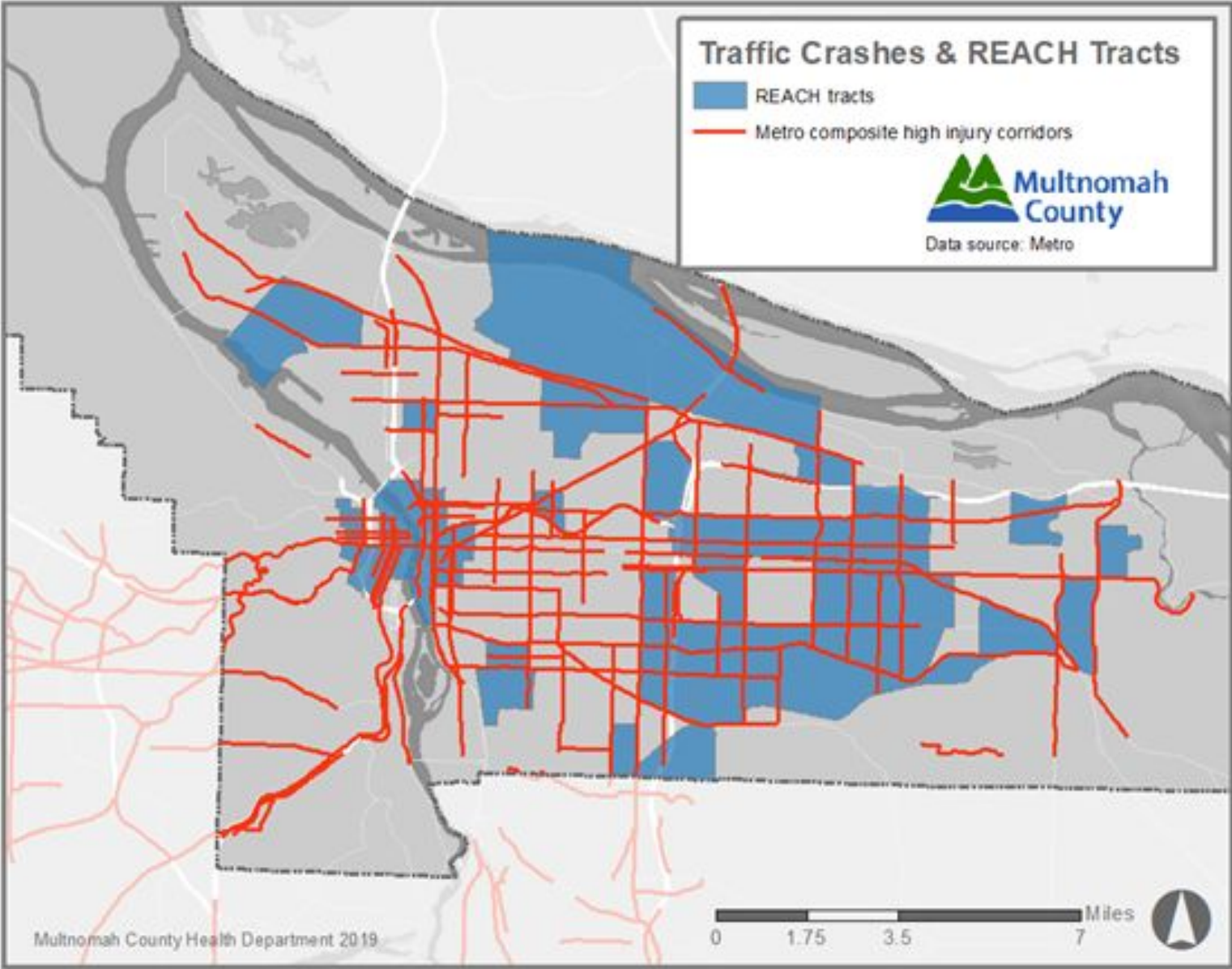
**DRIVE SAFE
WALK SAFE**
THURS APR 4
2:30 - 4PM *JK*
**SE 130TH &
DIVISION**
IN MEMORY OF JAMES MCCREE
Please Join Us



Leading Causes of Death in

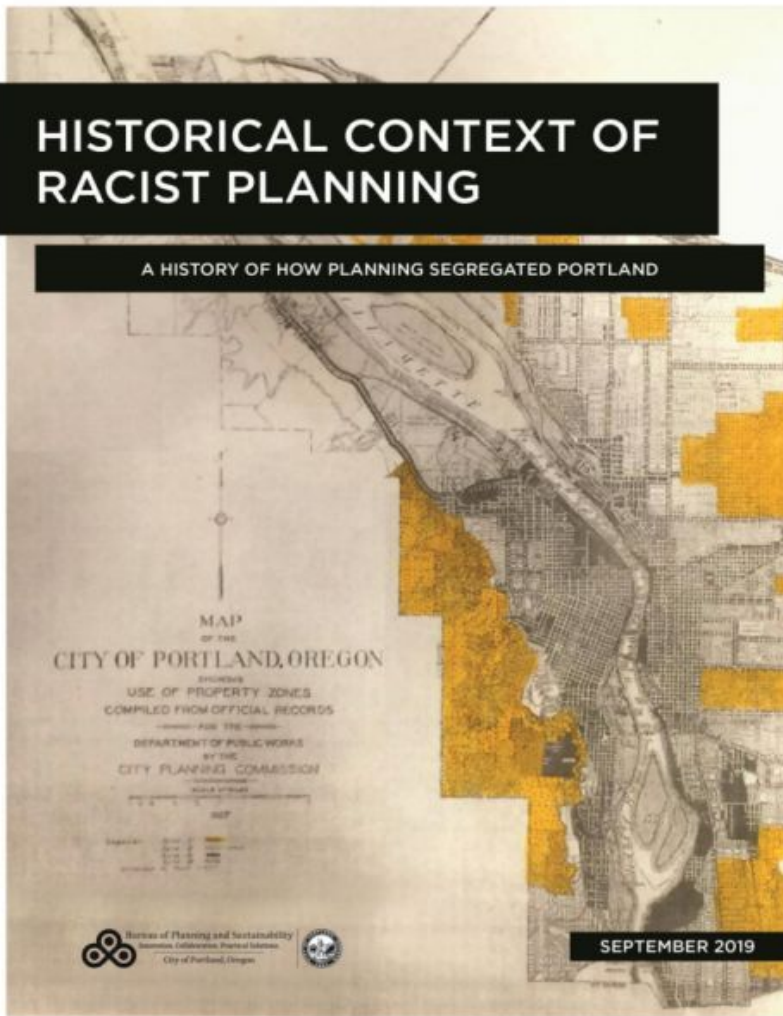
Multnomah County Connection to **Physical Activity**





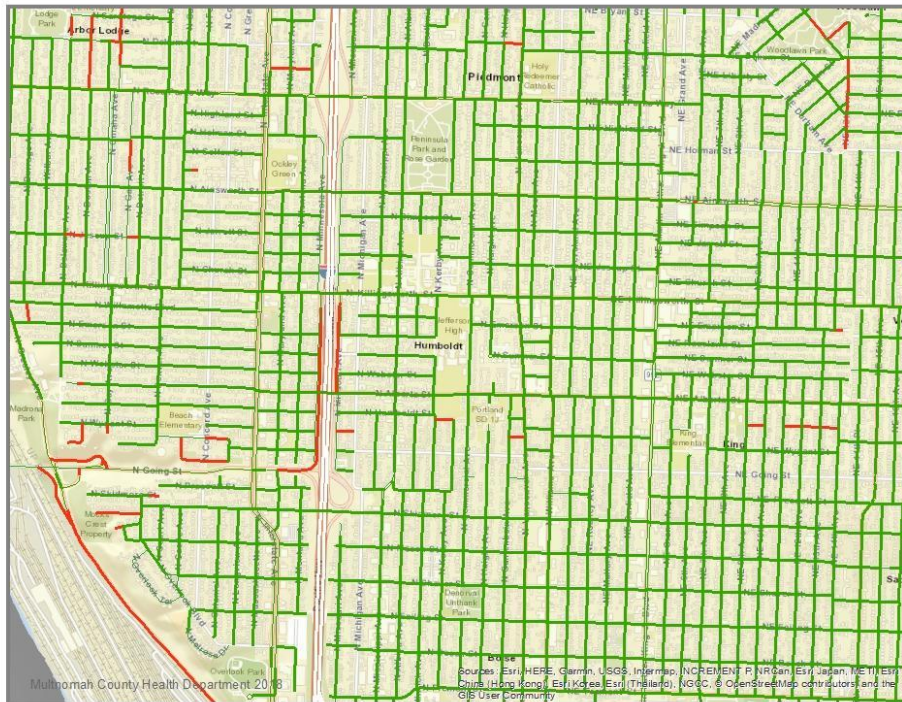
HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF RACIST PLANNING

A HISTORY OF HOW PLANNING SEGREGATED PORTLAND



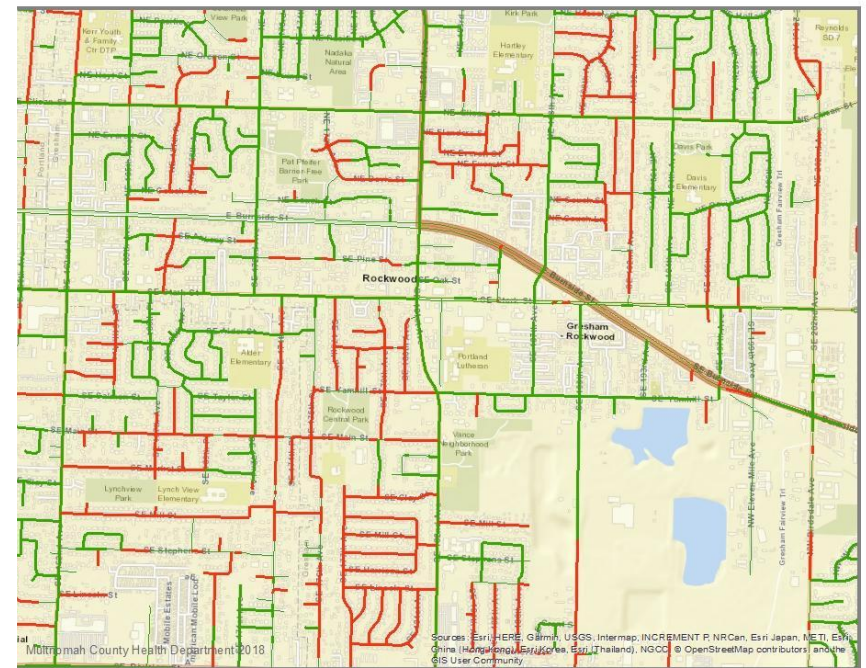
- Exclusion laws
- Redlining
- Urban renewal
- Unfair lending
- Restrictive zoning
- Displacement

Humboldt



~233 intersections per square mile

Rockwood



~80 intersections per square mile

Equality



Equity



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5 Ps: A Tool for Advancing Health Equity

PURPOSE TOWARD RACIAL EQUITY

In a purpose-driven system, all partners at all levels align around transformative values, relationships and goals moving towards racial equity, integrating an emphasis on doing less harm and supporting actions that heal and transform.

- What is our institution's purpose towards racial equity?
- How are we clearly defining that purpose, and where and how do we communicate that?
- How can we ensure that our purpose toward racial equity is integrated into our policies, procedures, and practices?
- How can we give our employees a greater sense of meaning in what they do around racial equity, so they feel more enthusiastic and hopeful about their work?
- In what practical ways can our institution add more value around racial equity and do less harm?
- Is racial equity the central theme in your recruitment and retention efforts?
- Do you have the right people around you to achieve your purpose toward racial equity? If not, how can you move towards this reality?
- How do you ensure individuals work together with leaders to align to the institution's purpose towards racial equity?



5 Ps

PEOPLE

- Which communities of color are affected by this issue? How are they positively and negatively affected?
- How are communities of color differently situated in terms of the barriers they experience?
- How might communities of color be traumatized/retraumatized by this issue/decision area?
- Consider physical, spiritual, emotional, contextual and cultural effects

PLACE

- How is this issue or decision accounting for communities of color emotional and physical safety, and their need to be productive and feel valued?
- How are you considering environmental impacts as well as environmental justice?
- How are public resources and investments distributed geographically?

PROCESS

- How are we meaningfully including or excluding people (communities of color) who are affected?
- What policies, processes and social relationships contribute to the exclusion of communities most affected by inequities? Racial and Ethnic communities?
- Are there empowering processes at every human touchpoint?
- What processes are traumatizing, especially for communities of color, and how do we improve them?

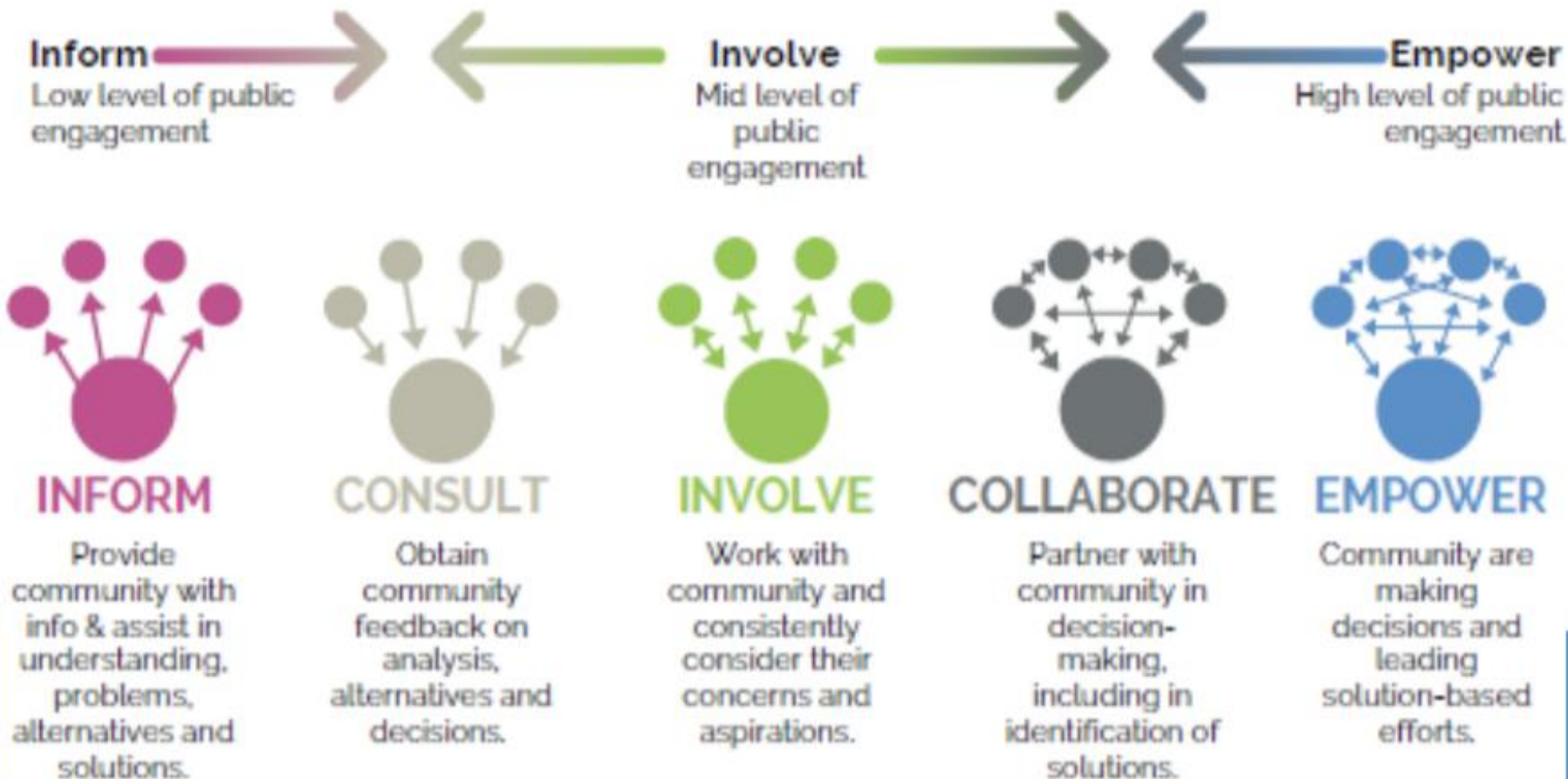
POWER

- What are the barriers to doing equity and racial justice work?
- What are the benefits and burdens that communities of color experience with this issue?
- Who is accountable?
- What is your decision-making structure?
- How is the current issue, policy, or program shifting power dynamics to better integrate voices and priorities of communities of color?



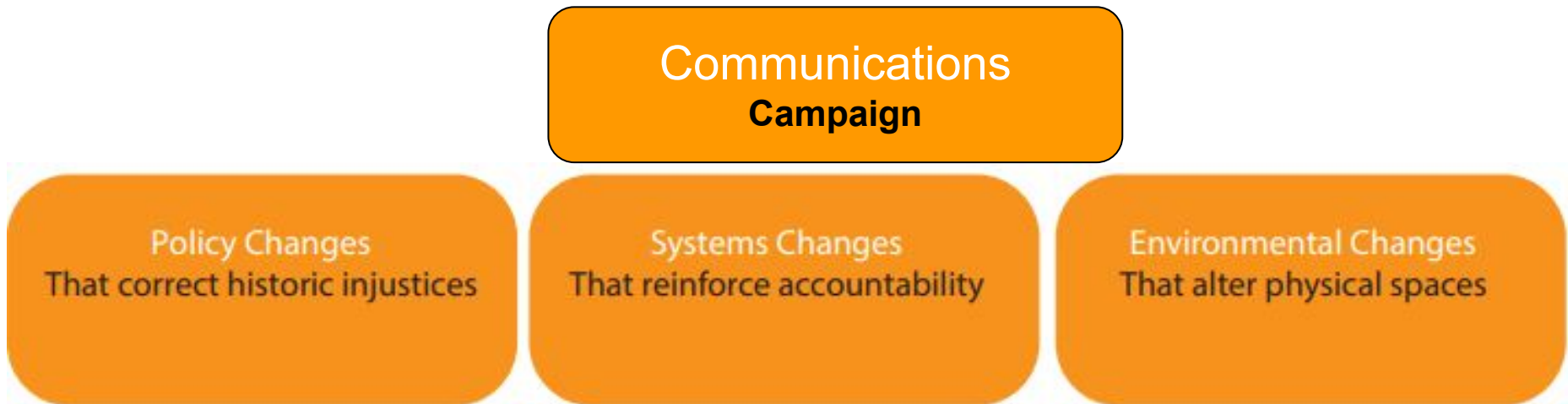
Community Engagement: A Tool For Advancing Health Equity

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPECTRUM

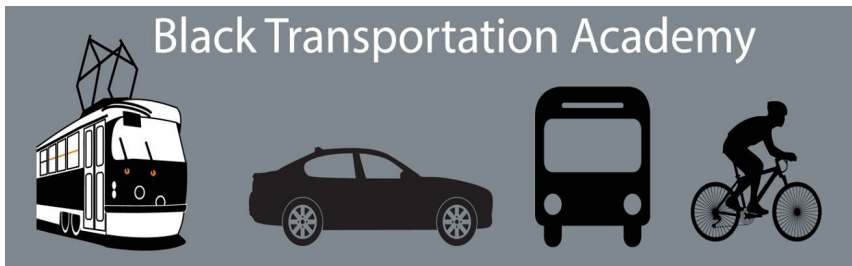


CPSEs Change: Tool for Advancing Health Equity

Communication, policy, system and environmental changes are actions steps that will have sustainable influences that public and private sectors can implement.



Examples

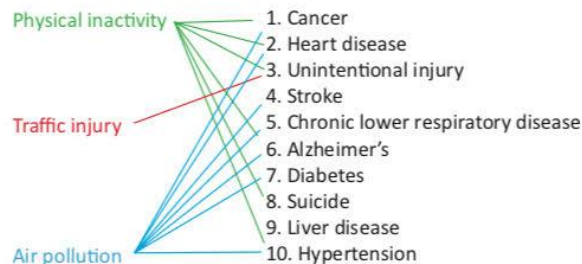


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY'S TRAFFIC SAFETY REPORT

Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health

The purpose of this report is to establish baseline data on transportation safety for the Black/African American and African Immigrant/Refugee populations for use by transportation professionals including engineers, urban planners and transportation advocates to gauge progress toward transportation safety and racial equity goals.

Leading Causes Of Death



Traffic crashes are a contributor to unintentional injuries, the third leading cause of death in Multnomah County during the ten year period of 2007-2016. The mortality rate from unintentional injury for Black/African American residents is 1.17 times the rate for white residents in Multnomah County.

Six Dimensions Of Transportation Safety

Investigating the contributing factors, we examine a wide array of transportation safety outcomes that capture experiences of road users. While similar reports encompass only serious injury and death, this report presents local data on six intersecting concepts.

Fatal Injuries

The death rate from traffic crash injuries among Black Multnomah County residents was almost twice the rate among white residents from 2013-2017.

Non-fatal Injuries

Black Multnomah County residents appear to be over-represented among patients visiting emergency departments for traffic crash injuries.

Biased Behavior Among Road Users

Black males waited 32% longer for cars to yield at a crosswalk in Portland.

Biased Policing

Black or African American adults were four times more likely to enter the criminal justice system compared to white adults.

Harassment

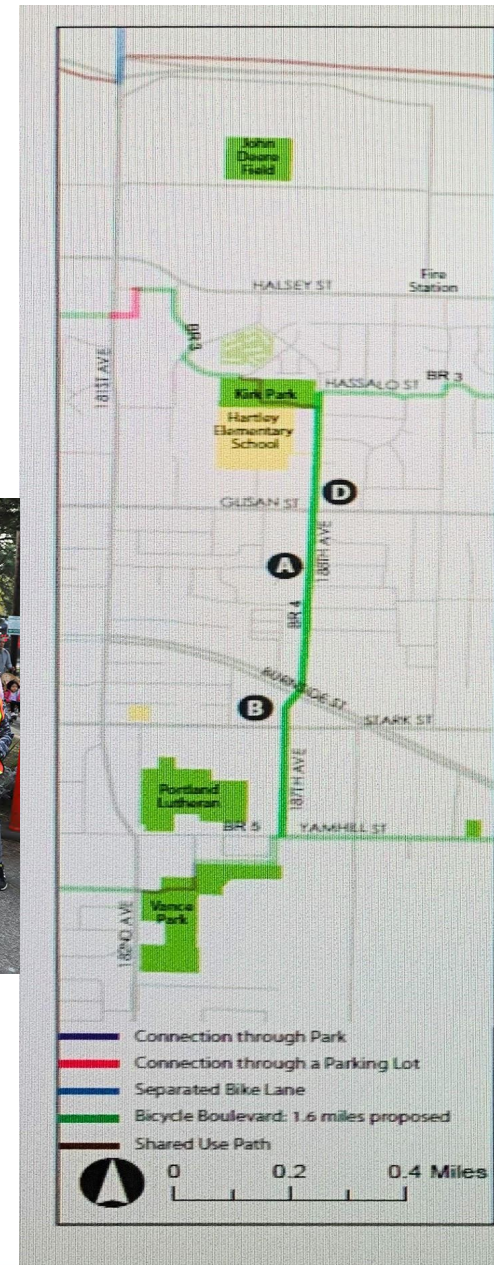
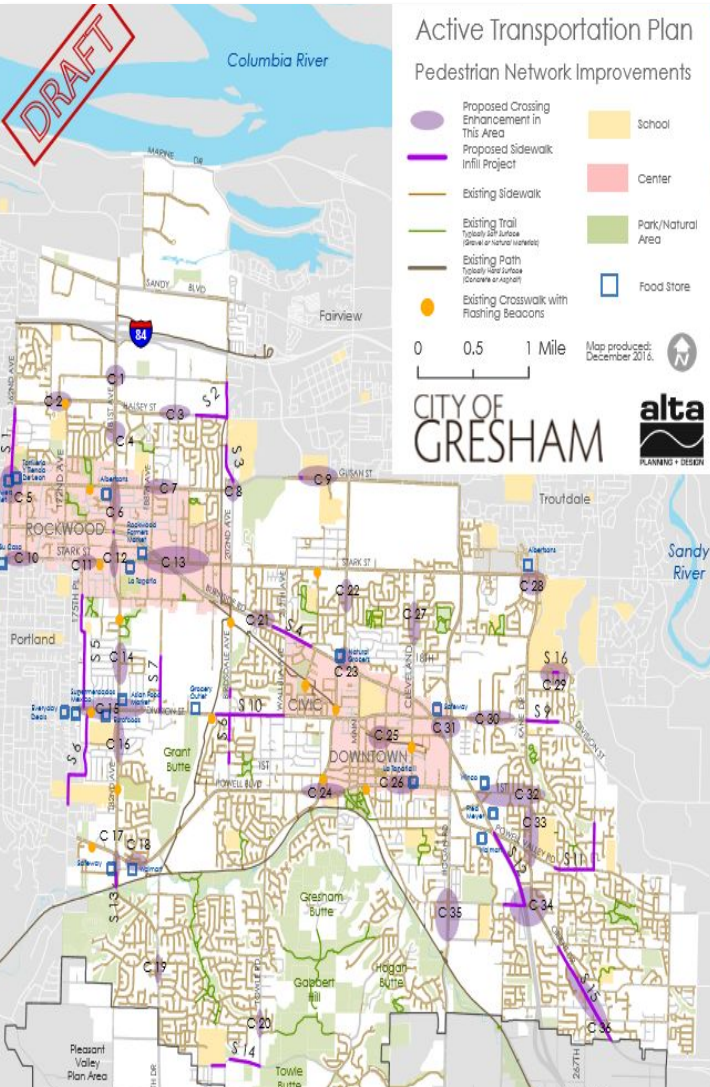
Black or African American adults were the most common targets of racial bias crimes in Portland, 60% of which took place in a public space.

Violent Crimes

Danger from violent crimes influences travel choices in the Black community.



Rockwood Bike Route



Tips for centering the Black experience in active transportation

1. Center Black Voices and Support Black Leadership!
2. Build relationships + organizational capacity
3. Build power; release your own
4. Create space for community to do what they want to be doing within active transportation and with each other
5. Diversifying the pipeline in transportation industry
6. Check yourself and fellow advocates who are problematic for the advancement of racial equity work
7. Know the history of the community and why that matters
8. Know what matters to the community now
9. Acknowledge who is missing vs who is showing up
10. Don't judge people's choices when you have little understanding about their experience
11. Be an activist for equity-focused data and research



Lead From Where You Sit (Recommendations)

- Transportation Justice (i.e. Safety and Equity, the 5 Ps)
- Development without displacement
- Community Engagement is a Participatory Action Approach Towards Health Equity and Justice
- Collect and Disaggregated Data (i.e. Community Based Participatory Research)
- Be flexible and innovative (i.e. walk audits, photovoice, Black Transportation Academy)
- Authentic Engagement + Invest and Build Intentional Relationships
- Representation on boards, committees and commissions
- Formalize and document commitments for Black and Communities of Color (ensure accountability)
- Transportation Campaign that Centers the Black experience and Black men
- Public Health + Transportation + Urban PLanning: Let's Connect



Recommended Tools

- [Multnomah County's Community Health Improvement Plan](#)
- [The THRIVE Toolkit](#)
- [The State of Transportation Health and Equity](#)
- [Healthy, Equitable Transportation Policy: Recommendations and Research](#)
- [2019 Poverty Report in Multnomah County](#)
- [PAALF People Plan](#)
- [History of Racist Planning In Portland](#)
- [Community Engagement Toolkit - A Participatory Action Approach Towards Health Equity and Justice](#)



A stylized graphic on the left side of the slide. It features two dark green mountain peaks with rounded tops. Below the mountains is a dark green wavy band representing a forest or a hillside. At the bottom is a dark blue wavy band representing water. The graphic is composed of solid colors and simple shapes.

Questions & Discussions?

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