

Transportation Equity & Mobility Justice

All too often traditionally underserved communities* are cut off from the planning and implementation of active transportation infrastructure. More specifically, it is often the more affluent areas of a community that are the first to enjoy bike lanes, bike paths, bike boxes, etc. Widening the socioeconomic gap, bicycle infrastructure further improves overall property value over time. Increasing property values therefore engrains mobility injustice by pricing lower income residents out of their neighborhood, forcing them to live even farther from their place of work.

Realizing the unintended disparaging effects of well-intentioned bicycle advocates, new efforts are being made to address mobility injustice across the country. In the early 2000s, many bicycle advocates believed that building better bicycle infrastructure was at the heart of getting more bikes on the street; "Build it and they will come". This approach to active transportation did not take into account the needs, perspectives and experiences for ALL community members. In recent years many organizations have sprouted across the country to address this very issue and community engagement is at the core of these efforts.

Bike Fort Collins has used these practices in recent programs such as the Active Living Program and we look forward to implementing more innovative solutions to transportation equity and mobility justice through community engagement in our Paint the Pavement projects. The Design Justice Network has provided a collection of key principles to follow when designing with transportation equity and mobility justice in mind:

Transportation Equity & Mobility Justice

Design Principles Provided by the Design Justice Network:

- We use design to sustain, heal, and empower our communities, as well as to seek liberation from exploitative and oppressive systems.
- We center the voices of those who are directly impacted by the outcomes of the design process.
- We prioritize design's impact on the community over the intentions of the designer.
- We view change as emergent from an accountable, accessible, and collaborative process, rather than as a point at the end of a process.*
- We see the role of the designer as a facilitator rather than an expert.
- We believe that everyone is an expert based on their own lived experience, and that we all have unique and brilliant contributions to bring to a design process.
- We share design knowledge and tools with our communities.
- We work towards sustainable, community-led and -controlled outcomes.
- We work towards non-exploitative solutions that reconnect us to the earth and to each other.
- Before seeking new design solutions, we look for what is already working at the community level. We honor and uplift traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge and practices.

Resources:

Design Justice Network - designjustice.org

Untokening - untokening.org

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information - pedbikeinfo.org