Road to Zero
Equity in Transportation Safety
Session #1
An Opportunity to Learn, Engage and Act
September 17, 2020
Thank You to Our Sponsor

Uber
Road to Zero Coalition

Getting to Zero by 2050

• Addressing nearly 40,000 roadway fatalities each year

• Three-pillar approach:
  • Doubling Down on What Works
  • Advancing Technology
  • Prioritizing Safety

1555 Coalition Members

- Advocacy organization
- Association
- Automotive
- Business
- Education
- Government
- Insurer
- Media
- Public Health
- Rand
- Survivor/Advocate
Equity in Transportation Safety

Upcoming Sessions

Connecting Prioritizing Safety with Transportation Equity (September 22, 2020 at 1pm Eastern, 10am Pacific)

The Safety Premium: Designing for Equity in Vehicles and Beyond (September 30, 2020 at 2pm Eastern, 11am Pacific)
National Safety Council

Focusing our efforts where we can make the biggest impact

- workplace
- roadway
- impairment

Save lives, from the workplace to anyplace.
Road Safety

- 20% Jump in Motor Vehicle Death Rates in First Six Months of 2020, Despite Quarantines
- Car Crashes #1 Cause of Workplace Death
Disparities in Transportation Safety

People of color are disproportionately represented in fatal crashes involving people walking.
Relative pedestrian danger by race and ethnicity, 2008-2017

- Asian or Pacific Islander: 8.1
- White, Non-Hispanic: 12.4
- Hispanic or Latino: 13.9
- Black or African American: 18.3
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 33

U.S. Overall: 14.8
Disparities in Transportation Safety

• Drivers are less likely to yield to Black people walking and biking (Racial Bias in Driver Yielding Behavior at Crosswalks, Portland State University, 2014)

• Policies such as jaywalking disproportionately burden communities of color (Walking While Black, ProPublica, 2017)

• A recent study showed bus drivers are twice as willing to let white people ride free than black people (The Colour of a Free Ride, The Economic Journal, 2020)
Disparities in Transportation Safety

Source: San Francisco Department of Public Health
Los Angeles
Racial Map

White
Black
Hispanic
Asian

High Injury Network Map

VS.

Source: Map by Eric Fisher. Data from Census 2010
Source: Vision Zero LA DOT Livable Streets
Disparities in Transportation Safety: Solutions for Safety and Equity
Overview - Beavercreek, Ohio 2011

• Existing bus route failed to provide service through African-American section of town, effectively disallowing these residents access to public transportation

• Bus route completes at local shopping mall where local residents work, shop, and commune with neighbors

• Local residents appealed to city council at least three times for application to install bus stops

• Residents coalesced and filed a Title VI complaint to FHWA
Overview – Harbor Bridge Project, Corpus Christi, Texas, 2015

• New bridge project failed to contemplate impact of African-American/Hispanic Community along Southern approach

• Texas DOT was unaware of Title VI requirements

• DOJ ordered project delay until completion of Title VI investigation
Impact of Beavercreek and Corpus Christi Title VI Cases

- Enforcement of Title VI did not effectively address discrimination and access for citizens, particularly communities of color and low income residents
- ADA Transition Plans 18 years overdue
- New enforcement protocols clarified disparate impacts for under-represented communities
- Internal review of Civil Rights program mandated
- Increased incident reporting and external training
- New data on disparate impacts
Useful Links

• Federal Highway Administration’s Office of Civil Rights Title VI Team: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/programs/title_vi/

• YouTube Video “Beavercreek Route Addition”: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIVvoxOHjq0&t=212s

• Kirwan Institute documentary “Free to Ride” on the Beavercreek, Ohio Title VI Case: http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/watchfreetoride/

• FHWA Technical Assistance: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/programs/title_vi/tech_assistance.cfm


• FHWA Title VI Forms: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/programs/title_vi/forms.cfm

• FHWA Title VI Presentations: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/programs/title_vi/presentations.cfm
How can the transportation safety sector begin to address some of the disparities that exist within roadway fatalities?
What are some of the barriers to people being able to move freely without risk and how can our work address these barriers?
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