Examining Emerging Trends in Active Transportation Through An Equity & Social Justice Lens

WARNING: May Include Side Effects

Charles T. Brown, MPA
New Era of Shared, Self-Driving Transportation: Trends and Implications for Traditional Transit
2018 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference
Friday, February 2, 2018, 10:30 AM – 12:00PM
San Francisco, California
Trend #1: Bike Share Systems (Docked and Dockless)

Side Effects May Include:

- Majority (54%) were not aware of bike share systems in NYC and Philly
- Majority (85%) stated they would use bike share, if they could
- The stigmatizing of dockless bike share systems
- Docked Bikeshare = White, Dockless Bikeshare = Minority
Trend #2: Vision Zero Action Plans

Side Effects May Include:

- State sanctioned stop & frisk of minority and low-income pedestrians
- Police harassment of minority bicyclists (e.g., 10% unfairly stopped)
- Disproportionate stop and search of American-American motorists
- Death of Black and Brown Bodies Across America
Trend #3: Open Streets/Ciclovia Programs

Side Effects May Include:

• Lack of Diversity and Inclusion

• Open Streets 704 is minority-majority city but 80% of participants are non-minority

• Grasstoppers advocacy versus grassroots advocacy

• Power imbalance: Share power at all levels

• Assuming proximity is access
Trend #4: Walkable and Bikeable Communities Without Addressing Crime

Side Effects May Include:

- Half of Newark participants have been robbed and half assaulted
- Newark women take unsafe routes to avoid harassment
- Almost half of Newark men stated that these events impacted their walking habits
- Black & Hispanic cyclists number #2 concern was fear of robbery and assault
Trend #5: Neighborhood Delivery Robots

Side Effects May Include:

- Battle between private and public sectors over limited public space on sidewalks
- Battle between robots and other users of the sidewalk (can’t we just all get along?)
- Loss of delivery jobs for humans
- Liabilities, Liabilities, Liabilities
Trend #5: Lack of Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Transportation [Planning]

Side Effects May Include:

- Distrust between targeted communities and service providers
- Poor public engagement and outreach practices
- Lack of cultural awareness and erasure of history and culture
- Disconnect between projects and community needs
Trend #6: Protests without Policies
THANK YOU

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