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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)



- 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



Protesters march in New York City against the killing of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling earlier this summer. // Bria Webb/Reuters

Vision Zero's Troubling Blind Spot

- 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



- Lack of Diversity and Inclusion
- Open Streets 704 is minoritymajority city but 80% of participants are non-minority
- Grasstops advocacy versus grassroots advocacy
- Power imbalance: Share power at all levels
- Assuming proximity is access

Trend #4: Walkable and Bikeable Communities Without Addressing Crime



- 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



- 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

The delivery bot zips its way down a Washington, D.C., sidewalk during a demonstration of the autonomous machine.

Trend #5: Lack of Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Transportation [Planning]



- 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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