ASSESSING BIKE EQUITY
AN OBSERVATIONAL BLOCK TOOL
PROJECT AIMS

1) **DEVELOP** a tool (Bike Equity Block Tool) & guidelines to assess equity in bicycling opportunities

2) **PILOT** the tool from a cyclist perspective
Several barriers have inhibited the creation of safe, comfortable bicycling environments.
TAKEAWAYS

different perceptions of cars & bikes depend on the culture and experiences of individuals and communities
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validate perspectives & lived experiences
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different perceptions of cars & bikes depend on the culture and experiences of individuals and communities

validate perspectives & lived experiences

value community voices as essential data
How can “we” collect lived experiences?
Dimensions of Access

Bike Equity Framework

- Awareness
- Acceptability
- Affordability
- Accessibility
- Accommodation
- Availability

Penchansky & Thomas
### Block Tool Instructions
- Identify a route to observe
- For each block, answer the following tool
- Select one response per question
- For any questions, please refer to the Guidelines
- After you complete your observations, calculate your Block Scores
- Upload your scores to <<web>> to see how your block(s) compare!

### Accessibility
3. **Is there a bus stop on or near this block?**
   - No nearby stops (> 1 mile, 20+ min walk)
   - Yes, between 1/2 - 1 mile (10-20 min walk)
   - Yes, < 1/2 mile (<10 min walk)
   - Yes, on this block

4. **Is there a train stop on or near this block?**
   - No nearby stops (> 1 mile, 20+ min walk)
   - Yes, between 1/2 - 1 mile (10-20 min walk)
   - Yes, < 1/2 mile (<10 min walk)
   - Yes, on this block

### Awareness
8. **Do you see bicycle-related signage?** (e.g. bike route, share the road, wayfinding signage)
   - No
   - Yes

9. **Is there any paint, signals, or signage to help guide bicycles through the intersection?**
   - No
   - Yes, signage
   - Yes, paint
   - Yes, signal

10. **Do you see people riding bicycles on the street?**
    - No (if so, skip to Question 11)
    - Yes, one
    - Yes, 2-3
    - Yes, > 4

11. **Do you see people (other than children) riding bicycles on the sidewalk on this block?**
    - Yes, many (4+)
    - Yes, a few (2 to 3)
    - Yes, one
    - No

12. **Do you see people riding down the block in the opposite direction?**
    - Yes, many (4+)
    - Yes, a few (2 to 3)
    - Yes, one
    - No

### Availability
1. **Is there a Bike Share station on or near this block?** (e.g. Divvy station)
   - No
   - Yes, < 1/4 mile (about 2-3 blocks, 5 min walk)
   - Across street/corner, but separate block
   - Yes

2. **Are there available bike racks/parking?** (excludes sign posts, gates, fences)
   - No (if so, skip to Question 3)
   - Yes, one rack
   - Yes, a few racks (2 to 3)
   - Yes, many (4+)

2a. **If there are bike racks/parking, are bikes locked to them?**
   - No, there are no bikes locked
   - Yes, but there are no available spaces
   - Yes, and there are available spaces
### ACCOMMODATION

**13 Is there bicycle infrastructure on the street?**
- (e.g. painted bicycle lanes, barrier-protected bike lanes, “sharrow” image)
  - There is no bicycle infrastructure
  - Yes, a shared lane (e.g. “sharrow”)
  - Yes, a bike lane (e.g. painted bicycle lanes)
  - Yes, a protected lane (e.g. barrier protected or separated lane)

**14 What is the condition of the bicycle infrastructure?**
- There is no bicycle infrastructure
- It is blocked
- It is faded or needs some maintenance
- It is well-maintained

**15 Is the bicycle infrastructure clear of any obstacles?**
- There is no bicycle infrastructure
- No, cars or other large obstructions
- No, there is glass, trash, or small debris
- Yes, the lane is clear

**16 Is there parking next to the bicycle infrastructure or where people would ride a bike?**
- Yes, right next to the bicycle way
- Yes, but there is a striped barrier
- Yes, but there is a physical barrier
- No there is not

**17 How many total road lanes are there?** (Include turning lanes & ignore parking or loading zones)
- 4+ lanes
- 3 lanes
- 2 lanes
- 1 lane

**18 How fast are the people driving appear to be going?**
- Over 30 mph (fast)
- About 30 mph
- 20 - 30 mph
- < 20 mph

**19 Are there alleys or driveways?**
- Multiple (4+)
- A few (2 to 3)
- One
- None

### ACCEPTABILITY

**22 Is the condition of the road surface safe for bicycling?**
- No, it needs to be resurfaced/ dangerous
- It depends (grates, metal or construction plates)
- It depends (potholes, cracks, bumpy)
- Yes, street is well paved & in good condition

**23 How comfortable would you feel riding a bicycle on this street with children?**
- Not comfortable at all
- I would have safety concerns
- It would be manageable
- I would feel comfortable

**24 How comfortable would you feel riding a bicycle on this street?**
- Not comfortable at all
- I would have safety concerns
- It would be manageable
- I would feel comfortable

**25 How comfortable would you feel turning at the intersection at the end of the block?**
- Not comfortable at all
- I would have safety concerns
- It would be manageable
- I would feel comfortable

### AFFORDABILITY

**20 Is there any messaging about affordability of bicycling, bicycle resources, etc.?**
- No
- Yes

**21 Are there non-bike share bikes parked along the block?** (e.g. bikes locked to fences, gates, sign posts)
- No
- Yes

### Additional Notes:
### Bike Equity Block Tool Scores

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<tr>
<th>DIMENSION</th>
<th>BRIDGEPORT</th>
<th>LINCOLN PARK</th>
<th>UPTOWN</th>
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<td>5.6</td>
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<td>1.2</td>
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Observational data informs where attention is needed.
NEXT STEPS

1) **FURTHER** qualitative input

2) **BETTER UNDERSTAND** the subjective dimension

3) **CREATE** a collaborative way to participate
**Guidelines**

**Glossary**

**Bicycle Parking**
- Bicycle Corral
- Bicycle Rack
- Old parking meters

**Bicycle Infrastructure**
- Bike Lane
- Protected Bike Lane
- Shared Lane
- Two Way Cycle Track
- Cycle Lane

**Bicycle Related Signage**

There are various types of bicycle-related signage and wayfinding in the city of Chicago. Here are some examples of signs we've come across:

- Do you see any in your community??

**Examples of Messaging About Affordability**

**Resources**

Here are some resources to learn more about your community and bicycling in Chicago.

**About Your Community**
- Find Your Ward & Alderman
- Bike, Walk and Drive Smart

**Community Health Data**
- [www.ChicagoCompleteStreets.org/BikeCorral](http://www.ChicagoCompleteStreets.org/BikeCorral)
- [www.ChicagoCompleteStreets.org/BikeCorral](http://www.ChicagoCompleteStreets.org/BikeCorral)

**Biking Near You**
- Request Bike Parking
  - [www.housing.com/chicago](http://www.housing.com/chicago)
- Report Vehicles in the Bike Lane
  - [www.bikewayspolicies.com/chicago](http://www.bikewayspolicies.com/chicago)

**Bike Share**
- Divvy Bikes
  - [www.divvycycles.com](http://www.divvycycles.com)

**Bike Maps**
- [www.divvycycles.com/chicago/divvy-bike-map](http://www.divvycycles.com/chicago/divvy-bike-map/
- Content/Shared/557779251)
- [www.chicagostreetside.com/chicago/mellow-chic-bike-map](http://www.chicagostreetside.com/chicago/mellow-chic-bike-map)

**Additional Resources**
- Safe Cycling Chicago
  - [www.chicagostreetside.com/chicago/safe-cycling-chicago](http://www.chicagostreetside.com/chicago/safe-cycling-chicago)
- Complete Streets Bike Map
  - [www.chicagostreetside.com/chicago/complete-streets-bike-map](http://www.chicagostreetside.com/chicago/complete-streets-bike-map)

**Community Bike Shops**
- The Recyclery
  - 606 W. 12th St., Chicago, IL 60607 (773) 262-5900
- Working Bikes
  - 724 S. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60607 (773) 247-3340
- West Town Bikes
  - 607 W. Brion St., Chicago, IL 60622 (773) 772-6523
- Blackstone Bicycle Works
  - 1305 N. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60614 (773) 247-3340
Thank you!
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