How Can we Improve Transportation Equity in Greater Chicago?

Audrey Wennink, Director of Transportation
Metropolitan Planning Council

• Founded in 1934
• Nonprofit
• Nonpartisan

• Research
• Policy
• Advocacy
The Cost of Segregation:
Lost income.
Lost lives.
Lost potential.
The steep costs of all of us in the Chicago region pay by living as separately from each other.

OUR EQUITABLE FUTURE:
A Roadmap for the Chicago Region
A response to The Cost of Segregation
A preamble

- Segregation
- Integration
Driving Research Questions

• What does it cost all of us in metropolitan Chicago to live so separately from each other by race and income?

• Given its negative impact on issues of equity, what can we do to change patterns of racial and economic segregation?
What Does Segregation Cost Us?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lost income</th>
<th>Lost lives</th>
<th>Lost potential</th>
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<td>$4.4 billion in annual regional income</td>
<td>30 percent more homicides</td>
<td>83,000 Bachelor's degrees</td>
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National Findings

Comparing the nation: Ranking of combined racial and economic segregation in 100 largest U.S. metro areas, 2010

What Would It Take to Reduce Segregation in the Chicago Region?

Major drops needed in the Chicago region to reach national median level of segregation

Drop from 1990 to 2000 | Drop from 2000 to 2010 | Drop required to reach 2010 national median

Economic segregation:
-4.6% | -5.3% | -18.5%

African American-white segregation:
-3.0% | -8.3% | -36.1%

Latino-white segregation:
-2.9% | -7.3% | -28.0%

Phase II Overview

MPC has now pivoted to the second question of the project:

What can we do to change patterns of segregation given its negative impact on issues of equity?
Explored Topics:

• Transportation
• Education
• Criminal Justice
• Economic Development
• Housing
• Health
Roadmap to Equity Part 1

Dismantle the institutional barriers that create disparities and inequities by race and income

This is known as a racial equity framework and it is a practice that EVERYONE can adopt: government, private sector, philanthropy, community organizations and individuals.
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Roadmap to Equity Part 2
Pursue policies and programs that can be implemented right now

1. Targeting economic development and inclusive growth
2. Creating jobs and building wealth
3. Building inclusive housing and neighborhoods
4. Creating equity in education
5. Reforming the criminal justice system
Our roadmap to racial equity

Institutional Change

Policy Change & Intentional Investments

+ =

Increased mobility and opportunity

Diminished racial wealth gap

Reduced individual and systemic racism

Improved health and safety
What do communities of color need?

- Focus groups with communities of color
- Identify needs and potential solutions
How can we make transit more affordable?

• Implement Transit Fare Capping
• Study Means-Tested Fares
• Study ways to improve efficiency of paratransit
How can we prioritize investments more equitably?

- Increase Equity in Transportation Performance Measures/ Prioritization Criteria
How is transportation a barrier to employment for vulnerable populations?

- Workforce Boards
  - Counselor focus groups
  - Job seeker focus groups
What new transportation solutions can we try?

- Demand response?
- Public-private partnerships?
Don’t Get Mad, Get Active

Broken-down bus? Don’t get mad. Get active!

Share your story to help us advocate for long-term, reliable funding for Illinois’ transportation system.

Here’s how:

📱 Snap a photo or shoot a video

🐦 Post it on Twitter with the hashtag #BustedCommute

✉️ Or email it to bustedcommute@metroplanning.org

www.metroplanning.org

Meteoropolitan Planning Council