

# **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



# Metropolitan **Planning** Council



# A preamble

- Segregation
- Integration



## Chicago Isn't Just Segregated, It Basically Invented Modern Segregation

BY WHET MOSER



The view across the former Cabrini-Green housing project site toward downtown Chicago in 2007. Public housing was one way the city became so segregated. PHOTO: CHUCK BIRMAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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The significance of the [Metropolitan Planning Council/Urban Institute report](#) I wrote about yesterday is that it puts new numbers to an old truth: that Chicago is one of the most segregated cities in the country. If

# 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?

## Lost income

\$4.4 billion in annual regional income



## Lost lives

30 percent more homicides



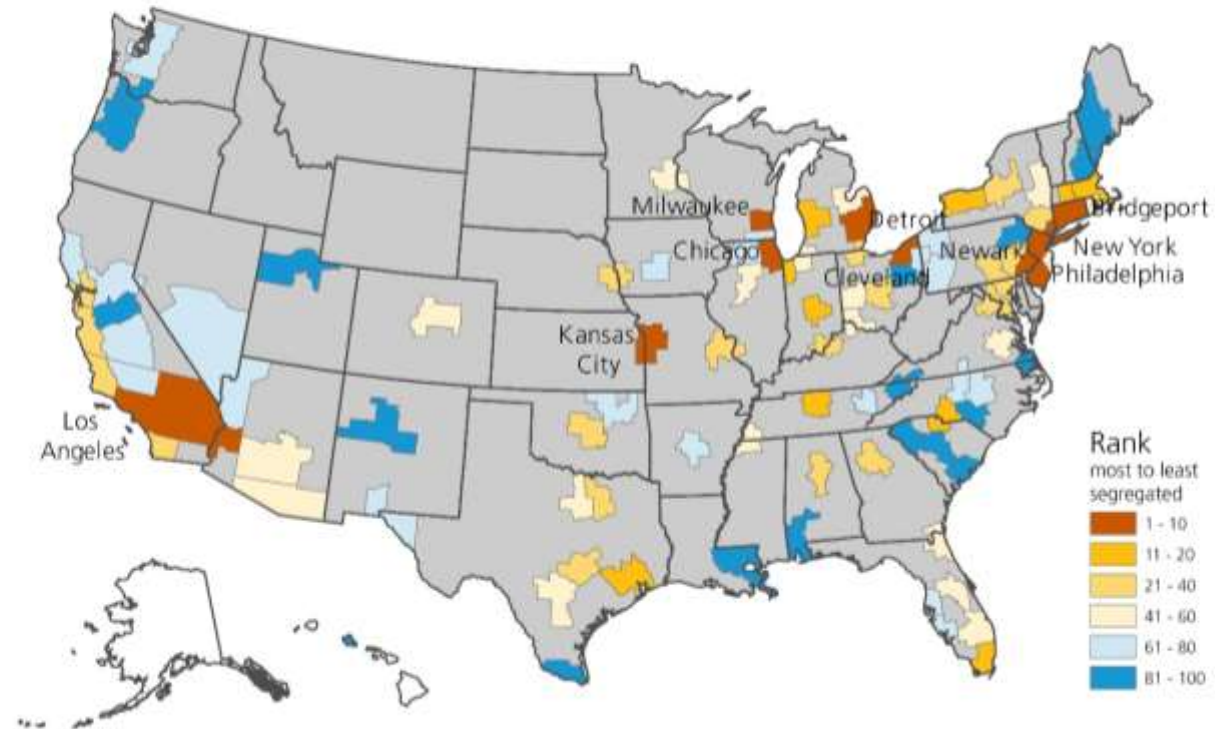
## Lost potential

83,000 Bachelor's degrees



# National Findings

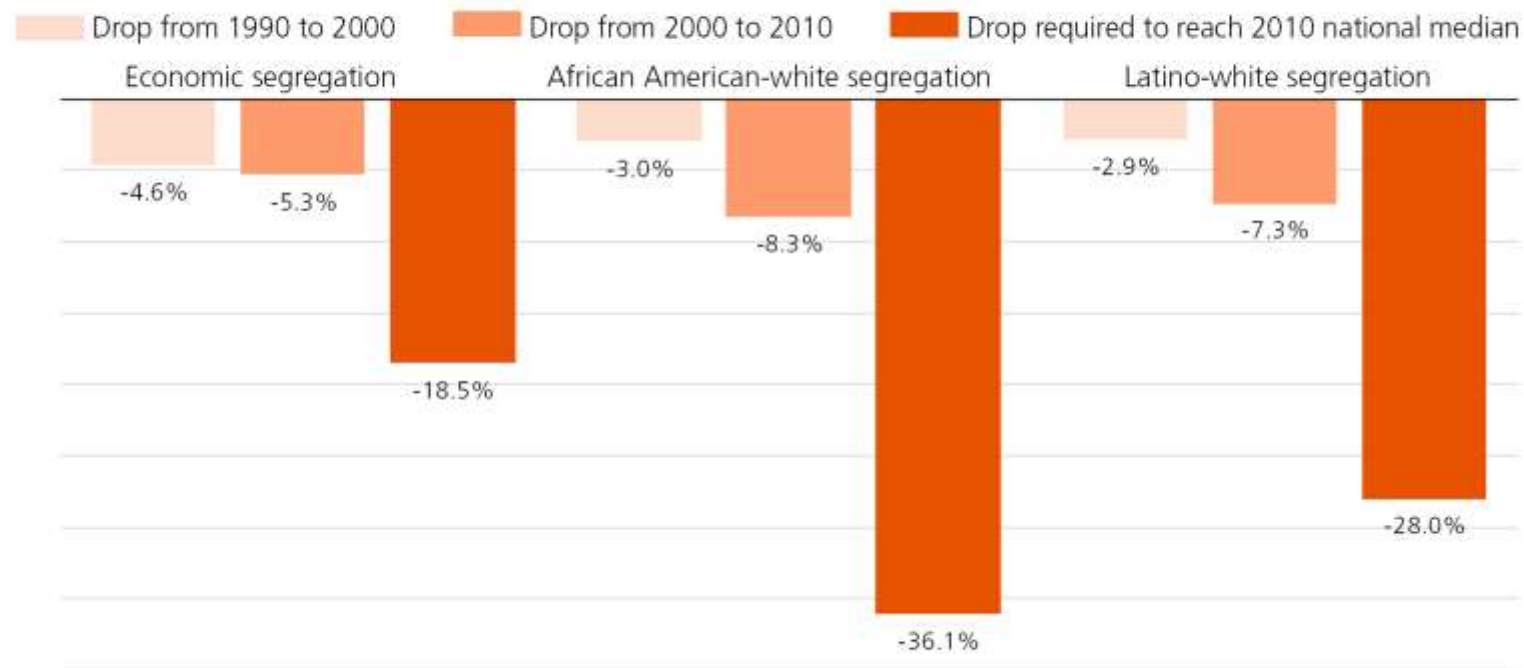
Comparing the nation:  
Ranking of combined racial and economic segregation in 100 largest U.S. metro areas, 2010



Source: Acs, Gregory, Rolf Pendall, Mark Treskon, and Amy Khare. 2017. *The Cost of Segregation: National Trends and the Case of Chicago: 1990-2010*. Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute.

# 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



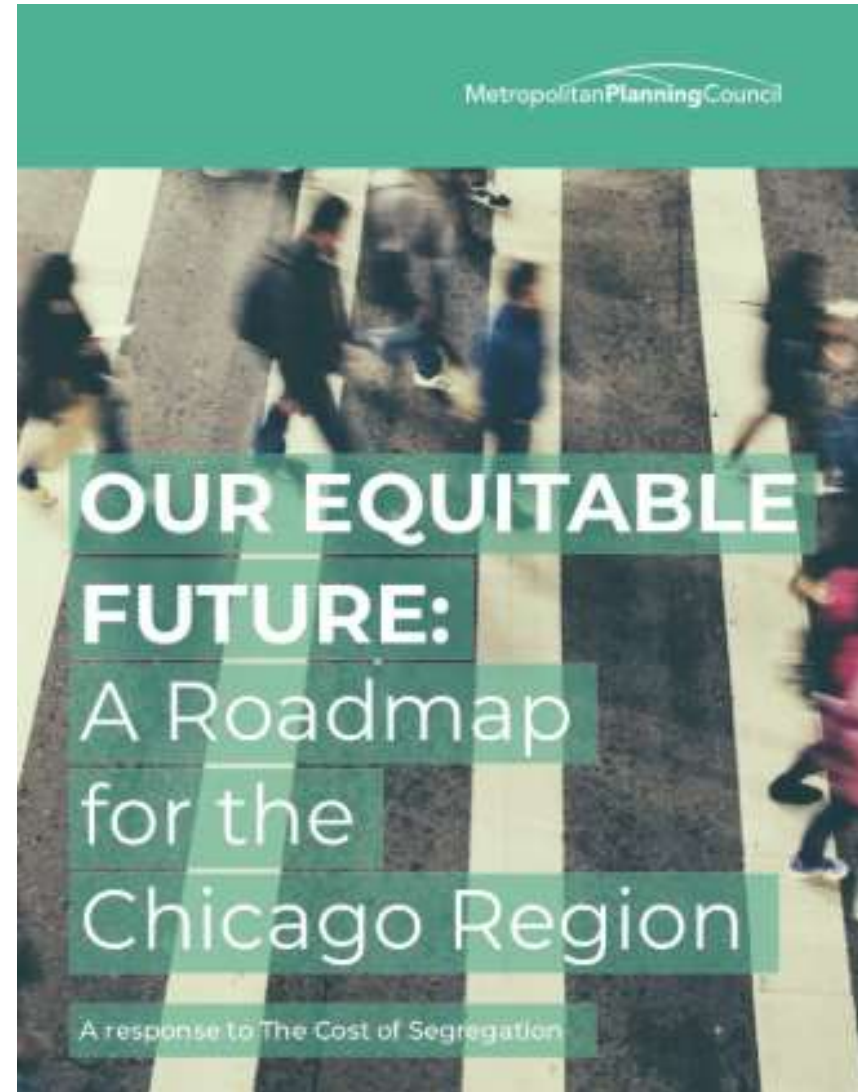
Source: Acs, Gregory, Rolf Pendall, Mark Treskon, and Amy Khare. 2017. *The Cost of Segregation: National Trends and the Case of Chicago: 1990-2010*. Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute.



# 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**

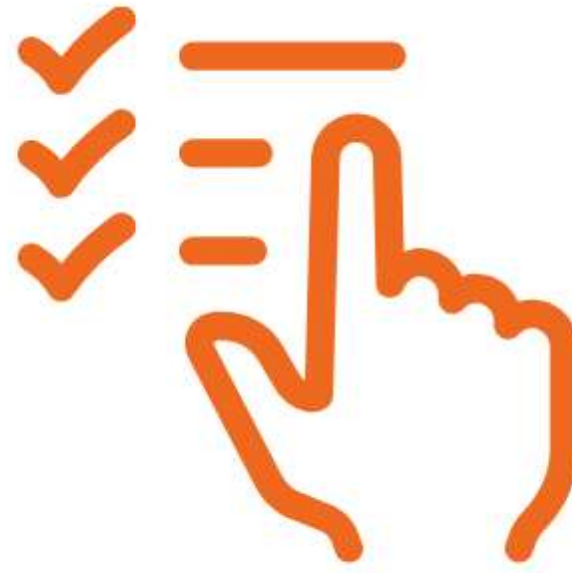
This is known as a racial equity framework and it is a practice that EVERYONE can adopt: government, private sector, philanthropy, community organizations and individuals.



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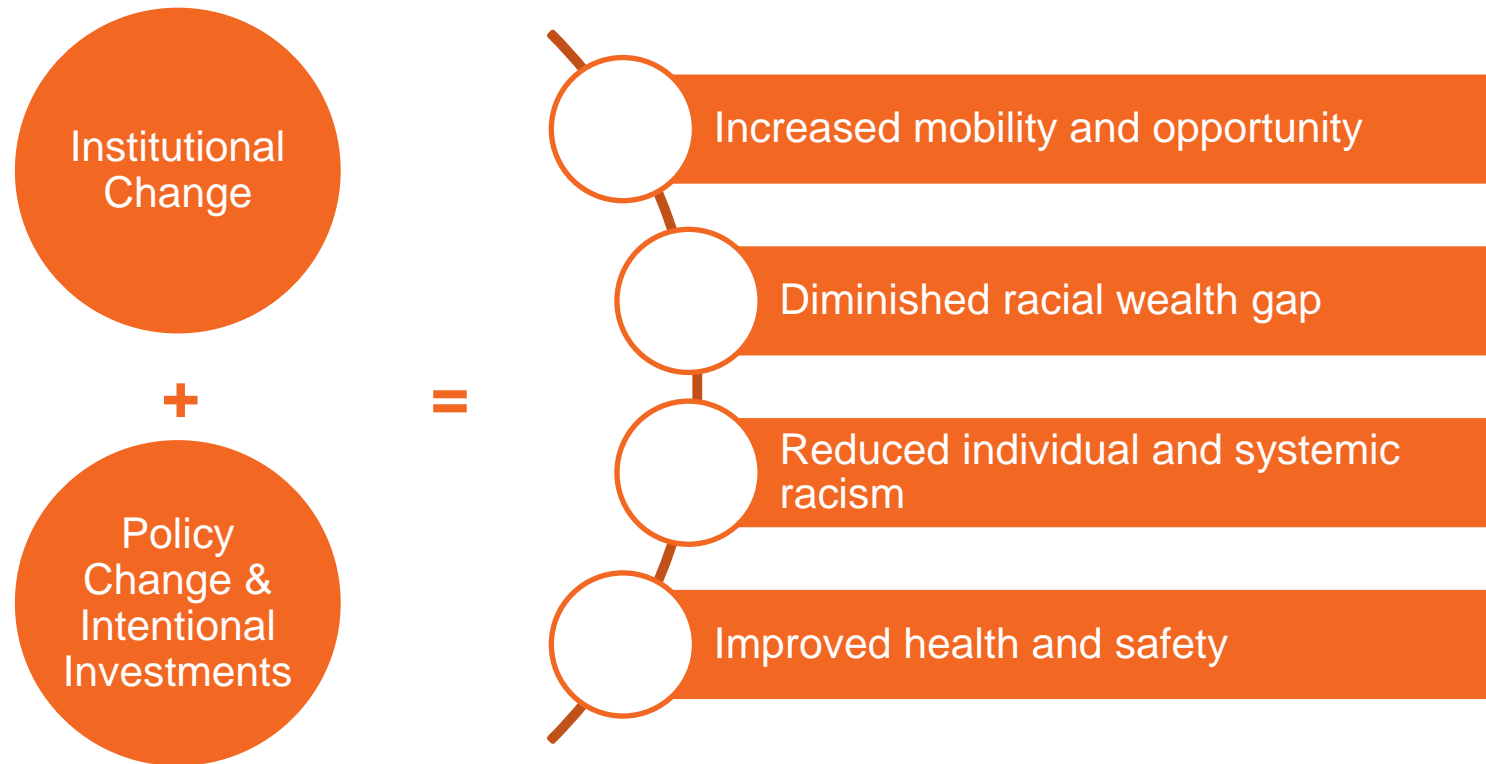


## Roadmap to Equity Part 2

**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



# What do communities of color need?



- Focus groups with communities of color
- Identify needs and potential solutions

**EQUITICITY**  
POWER + EQUITY >

# 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

USDOT Performance Planning and Programming Guidebook



# 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?

chariot



- Demand response?
- Public-private partnerships?



# Don't Get Mad, Get Active

#BUSTEDCOMMUTE



## 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](mailto:bustedcommute@metroplanning.org)

[www.metroplanning.org](http://www.metroplanning.org)

  
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