

# Welcome to FTA's Transit Renewal Initiative Listening Session 3



**America's Open and Transit's Open**





**Lynda Tran**

Senior Advisor to the Secretary and Director of Public Engagement,  
U.S. Department of Transportation





**Arlando Teller**

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs,  
U.S. Department of Transportation





**Paul Kincaid**

FTA Associate Administrator for Communications and  
Congressional Affairs





**Pete Butler**  
FTA Region I  
Administrator



**Linda Gehrke**  
FTA Region X  
Administrator



# Panel 1: Transit Organization Leaders



**Gerry Hope**

Intertribal Transportation  
Association



**Jim Derwinski**

Commuter Rail Coalition



**Alva Carrasco**

WSP USA  
Latinos In Transit

# FTA Listening Session #3 – Building Partnerships for Transit Renewal

Intertribal Transportation Association (ITA)

Gerry Hope, Vice President

Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Building Partnerships:

- ITA Strategic Plan; adopted February 26, 2021
- Officers; MaryBeth Frank-Clark, President (Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho), Gerry Hope, Vice President (Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Alaska), Sara K, Yockey, Treasurer (Organized Village of Kasaan, Alaska), Johah Begay, Secretary (Navajo Nation, Arizona/New Mexico/Utah). With Regional Representatives, 12 regions are eligible to elect one representative and one alternate across the country that have Tribes located in their respective states.



# History & Vision of ITA

- Established in 1993 – Advocacy in Tribal Transportation/Infrastructure and Tribal Transit

## VISION:

- “...ITA is dedicated to enhancing the development of Tribal Transportation in Indian Country, to improving the capabilities of Tribal Transportation and Tribal Transit Programs and assisting the member Tribes and their governments in dealing effectively with Tribal Transportation policy issues and in serving the broad needs of Tribal Nation Citizens.”

# Building Effective Partnerships:

- Opportunities to grow the knowledge and expertise within the organization are key strategies to further enhance the effectiveness of the ITA organization...
- ITA has monthly virtual meetings. In addition, ITA has two committees, 1) Operations and 2) Governance.
- Along with the Federal Highway Administration and Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Federal Transit Administration remain very important.



# James M. Derwinski

- Metra CEO/Executive Director
- CRC Chair



# Three examples of partnerships:

- Safe Return to Work Summit
- Commuter Rail Coalition cooperation
- Fair Transit South Cook Pilot





# SAFE

RETURN TO WORK  
SUMMIT



- Conference with more than 1,000 C-Suite leaders and HR execs promoted a plan for Safe Return to Work.
- Hosted by Metra in coordination with business community in March 2021
- Session focused on:
  - Business case need to return
  - Transit safety
  - Office safety best practices
  - Expert medical commentary
- Also surveyed businesses to stay on top of latest decisions and developments



- Association of commuter rail agencies, operators, and other interested parties acting together to engage and educate stakeholders, formed in April 2019.
- During pandemic, members shared information, innovations and insights to ensure all our systems were safe and healthy and assure customers they can commute with confidence
- Sharing best practices and lessons learned helped us all do better for our riders
- Worked with National Association of Realtors

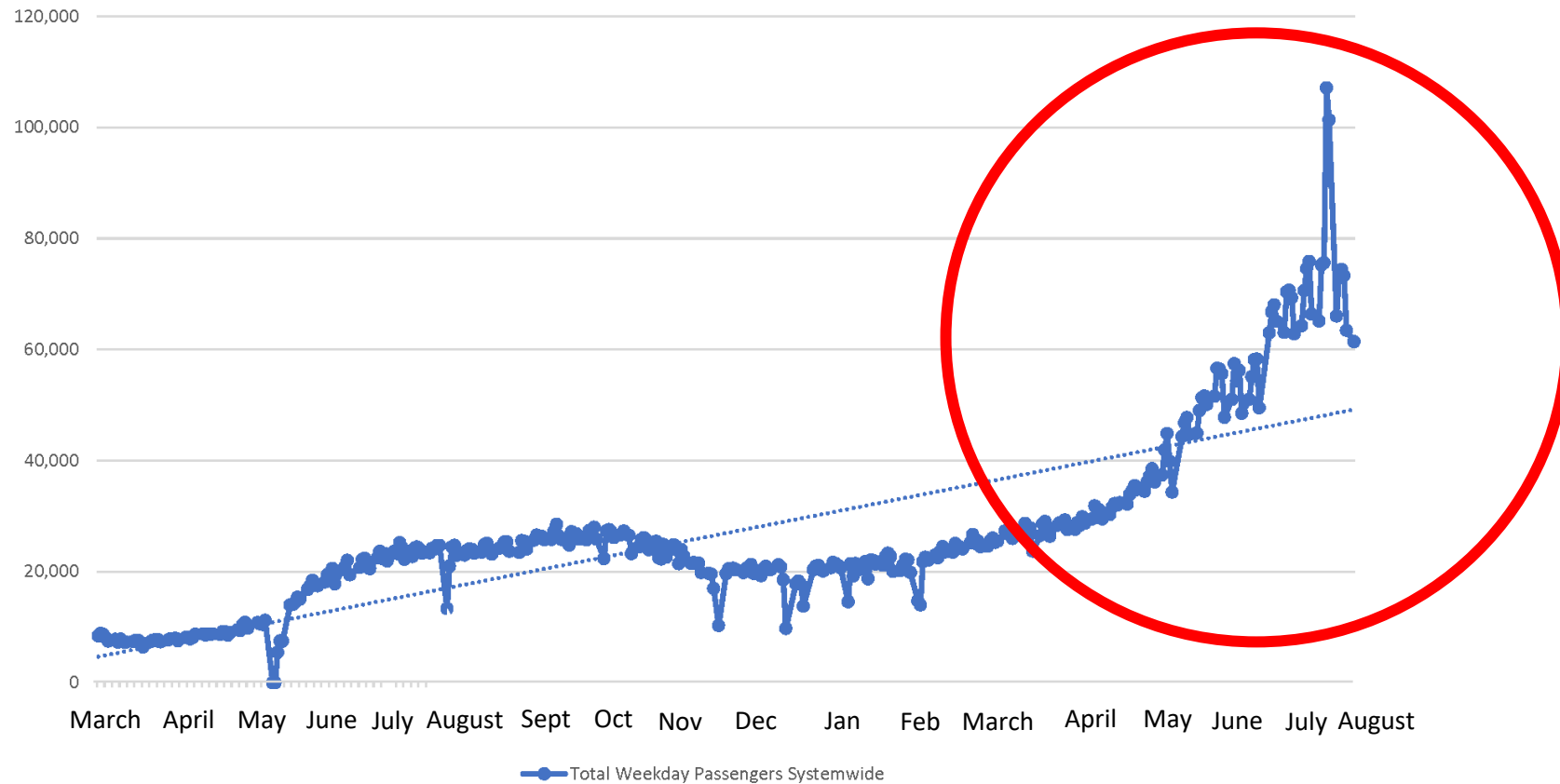
# FAIR TRANSIT SOUTH COOK



- Partnership with Cook County and Pace promotes equity in a region that is more transit-dependent and economically disadvantaged than other parts of the county
- Three-year pilot started in January 2021 has lowered fares on two lines that predominantly serve this region
- Provides residents with greater opportunities to make transit their choice for work, school, shopping and other trips

# METRA Ridership trends

Since start of pandemic





# Ridership trends

- Off-peak trips coming back faster than peak trips
- Monday-Friday, 9-5 commute no longer as common
- Responded with new pilot schedules on four lines that offer better off-peak options
- Launched ongoing, onboard survey to continue conversation with riders



**TELL US HOW WE'RE DOING**  
Please take our short survey.

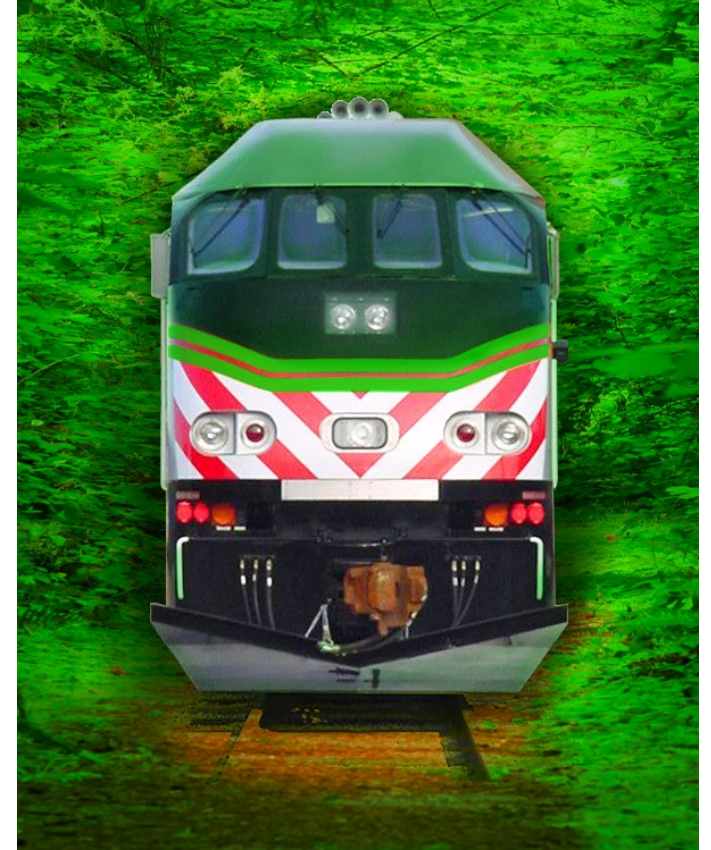


aytm.com/r/Metra



# Maintaining momentum

- Continue to stress message that transit is safe anywhere and everywhere to riders and regions: it's a good economic value and a regional economic engine
- Continue push for green energy
  - Metra searching for low-emission and zero-emission locomotives
- Funding is critical – local, state and federal



# Building Community Partnerships

*Construyendo Sociedades Comunitarias*



**Alva Carrasco**

*AVP - Transit & Rail National Business Line, WSP USA*  
**President of the Board of Directors, Latinos In Transit**

# Latinos Face Transportation Inequities

**12%**

of Latinos more likely to not own a vehicle (vs. 6.5% of Whites)

datos

**27%**

of Latinos rely on public transit daily/weekly usage (vs. 14% of Whites)

**57%**

of Latinos are "Housing Cost Burdened"

## Transportation Inequities include

- Greater distances to essential destinations
- Unsafe streets
- Unsafe walking and biking environments
- Limited access to public transportation

## Housing Inequities

- Cause Latinos migration from urban to suburban and rural areas, exacerbating transportation inequities

Source: UT Health San Antonio, Salud America!

# Latinos Face Transportation Inequities

## Existing Inequities

- Land-use, planning, transportation and transit policies, practices, regulations, plans, and investments promoting auto use
- Transit service funding prioritizes peak transit services for white collar workers
- Performance measures are misaligned
- Displacement
- Structural racism
- Lack of decision maker diversity
- Public agencies silos

**67%**

US Hispanic population grew from 2000 - 2018 (vs. 9% non-Hispanics)



datos

**Top 1%**

Polluted Communities in Ca from Air Pollutants

**40%**

of the year unhealthy air quality

**56%**

above Federal Health Threshold

Federal Transit Administration

Source: Legacy LA - <https://www.legacyla.org/>

# Building Community Partnerships

## *Construyendo Sociedades Comunitarias*

### Community Outreach & Engagement

Use community outreach and engagement best practices specific to Latino populations and communities

When planning meetings, consider:

- Language (Dialects)
- Time of Day
- Childcare (family-friendly meetings)
- Food/refreshments
- Reimbursements/stipends
- Location! Location! Location!
- Spanish outreach and engagement tools such as surveys, fliers, apps, and wayfinding, Spanish-language radio stations
- Partner with community organizations, leaders and activists

*Increase Latino representation in planning and decision-making. Create board/commission/committees and appoint community Latinos.*



# Building Community Partnerships

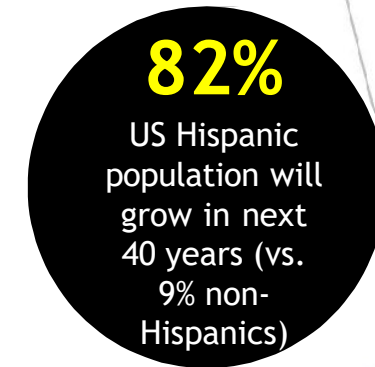
## *Construyendo Sociedades Comunitarias*

### Funding/Investment

- Need better data collection regarding existing inequities and Latino travel patterns, preferences, and needs
- Prioritize access over mobility, people over vehicles, and pedestrian over vehicle
- Address projects that separated and/or harmed communities
- Encourage compact, mixed-income, walkable development with diverse housing options and frequent transit access
- Address gaps in where affordable housing and transportation coexist
- Establish performance-based planning and project evaluation informed by diverse social, environmental, and health outcomes
- Invest in projects that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Partner with local minority-owned small businesses

*When considering types of impacts to be assessed, include vehicle miles traveled, access to transit, traffic injuries/fatalities, transportation-cost burden, job-housing balance, social isolation, displacement, various health metrics, and other Latino-specific needs.*

Federal Transit Administration



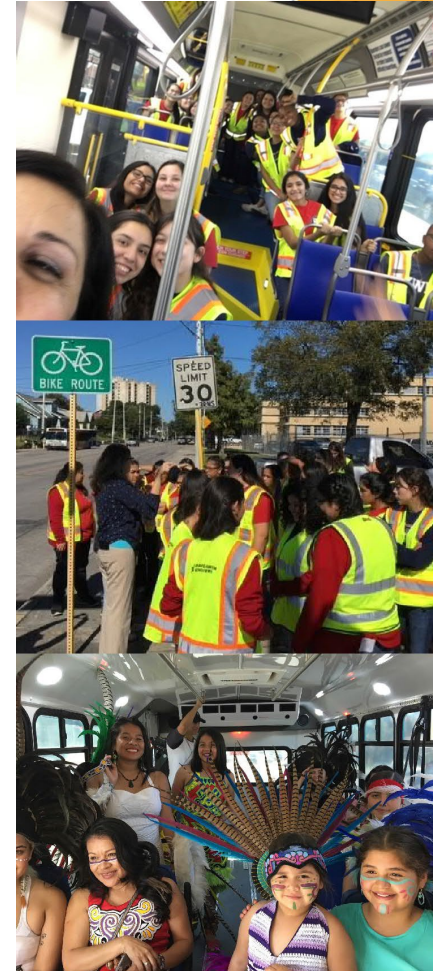
# Building Community Partnerships

## *Construyendo Sociedades Comunitarias*

### Diversity and Inclusion

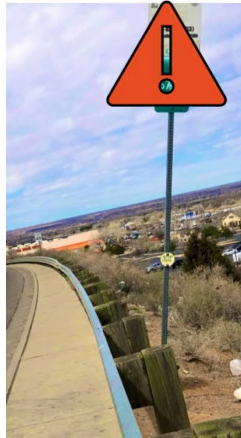
- Transportation planners and decision makers lack racial and gender diversity
- Need more diverse hiring practices
- Need relevant regular staff training on equity, implicit bias, and cultural sensitivity, past & present discriminatory planning practices and the impacts of an auto-centric status quo
- Hire Latinos with backgrounds in public health, social justice, community engagement, housing, transit, and transportation
- Invest in Latino employees to attain leadership positions (succession planning, mentorships, tuition reimbursement...)
- Build a network of Latino community advocates
- Appoint Latinos to serve on planning and zoning boards/commissions/committees

*Create a pipeline for Latinos and low-income high school & college students.*





# Planned for the Choice Rider or Transit Dependent?



Source: StreetsBlog, Sorriest Bus Stops

*All Passengers Deserve Safe, Comfortable, Reliable,  
and Courteous Transit Services*



5 Points Bus Stop, San Antonio, Tx



“Salud America! How to Address Transportation Equity for Latino Communities Report”

<https://xrv281o3wvu1d29sd405vdf6-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Salud-America-How-to-Address-Transportation-Equity-for-Latino-Communities-Report-2.pdf>

**66%**  
of the US  
population will  
be made up of  
Hispanics by  
2058

*Muchisimas Gracias*  
*Many thanks!*

# Panel 2: National Advocacy Organizations



**Tanya Adams**  
Conference on Minority  
Transportation Officials  
(COMTO)



**Harriet Tregoning**  
New Urban Mobility  
Alliance (NUMO)



**Benjamin de la Peña**  
Shared Use Mobility Center  
(SUMC)



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# 50 Years of Moving the Nation



# FTA Listening Session #3

## Devoted to Building Partnerships for Transit Renewal

Tanya Adams, VP, Inclusion & Diversity, WSP USA  
Chair, National Board of Directors  
Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO)

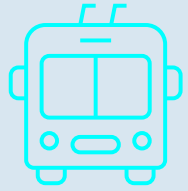
Friday, August 13, 2021

# Community Engagement

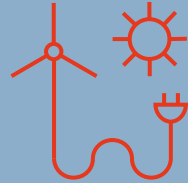
- COVID Related Partnerships
- Employment opportunities
- Mentor/Protégé



# Transit Trends



BUS RAPID  
TRANSIT



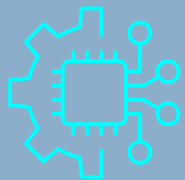
ZERO  
EMISSIONS



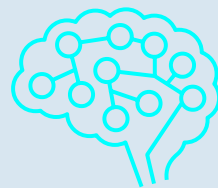
COMMUTER &  
FREIGHT RAIL  
EXPANSION



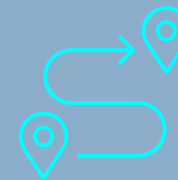
AUTONOMOUS/  
CONNECTED  
VEHICLES



MOBILITY  
AS A SERVICE  
(MAAS)



MOBILITY  
SOLUTIONS



MILEAGE BASED  
USER FEES (MBUF)



DIGITAL INNOVATION  
& TECHNOLOGY



# Creating an Equitable Transit System

- Provide Convenient, reliable, accessible and safe
- Equitable transportation options and infrastructure investment/funding
- Bolster DBE participation and community involvement
- Promote Workforce Development Strategies with local schools and universities
- Engage HBCUs as part of diversity hiring strategies





NUMO is a global alliance that channels disruptions in urban transport to create joyful cities where sustainable and just mobility is the new normal.

# GREEN RECOVERY IS A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

## Levels of Involvement



Invest in quality mass transit

High

High

Low ↑

Low ↑

Co-invest: Land Use, Housing, Equity

High

High

High

Medium

# Expanding the transit shed with mobility hubs



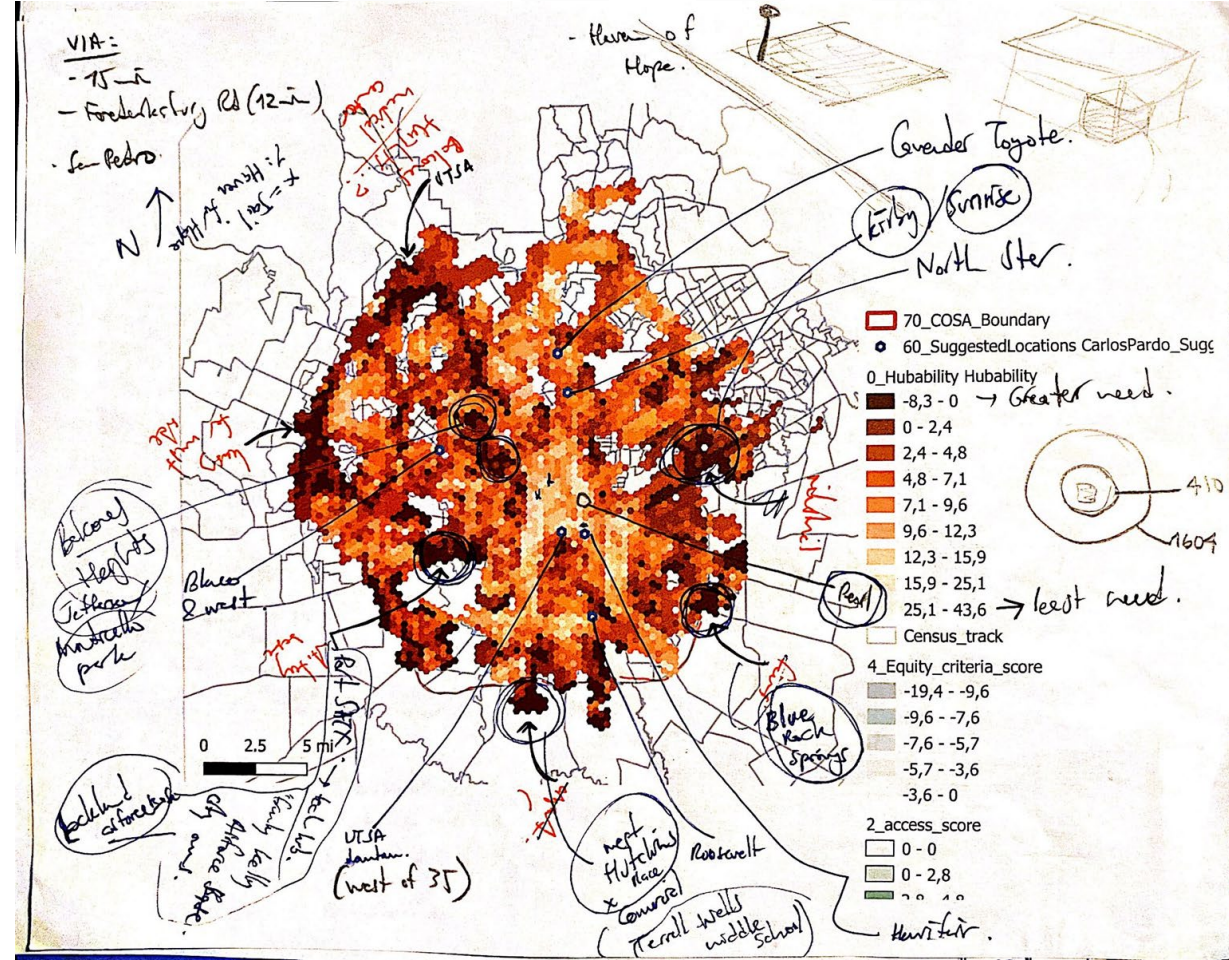
Social: @wemovePGH  
Web: move-pgh.com



# Move PGH launches in Pittsburgh to transform transportation access with mobility hubs




# Mobility hubs with the City of San Antonio, Urban Land Institute & VIA Metropolitan Transit





# Connecting Detroiters to transit & jobs with bikes





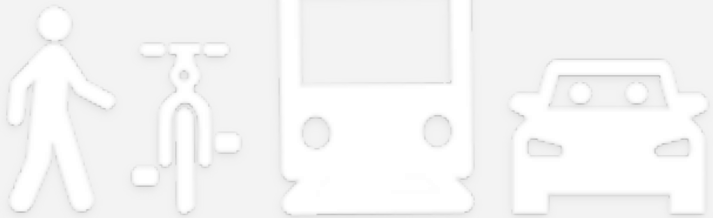
# Climate + Equity = Shared Mobility

Benjamin de la Peña, CEO, Shared-Use Mobility Center



## Who we are

- The Shared-Use Mobility Center is a **public-interest nonprofit** dedicated to creating a multimodal transportation system that works for all.
- We study and help shape shared mobility services and infrastructure. We convene the key stakeholders (including transit) in this rapidly evolving and growing sector.
- We work with the FTA on helping transit agencies and cities innovate and learn from each other through the **Accelerating Innovative Mobility** program, a project of FTA's *Office of Research, Demonstration and Innovation*.
- We work with the California Air Resources Board's **Clean Mobility Options** program that provides funding for zero-emission carsharing, carpooling/vanpooling, bikesharing/scooter-sharing, innovative transit services, and ride-on-demand services in underserved (historically neglected, BIPOC) communities.

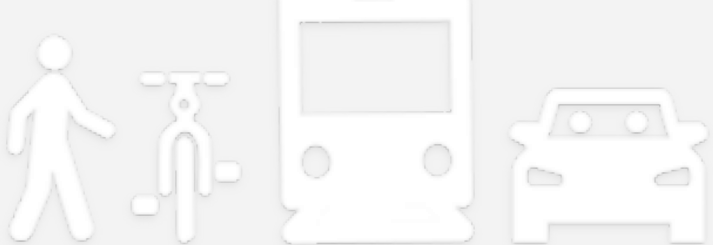


# Climate + Equity = Shared Mobility

- Shared mobility can address **equity goals** (serving historically neglected/discriminated communities) **and climate goals**
- **Mobility is a critical utility** in cities, towns and rural areas.  
Lack of mobility = lack of **access to opportunity/community**
- **Shared mobility expands transit's use and reach**  
Transit + innovative mobility services (zero-emission carsharing, carpooling/vanpooling, bikesharing/scooter-sharing, innovative transit services, and ride-on-demand services)
- There is a growing demand for **on-demand transit services**. This requires responsive information infrastructure that matches needs to services.
- The **COVID-19 pandemic accelerated trends already underway**, including telecommuting, deliveries, and information technology. *These trends could exacerbate or challenge inequality and accelerate or slow down carbonization.*

# What the FTA should work on

- Help agencies **co-create services with communities = listen** to what communities need and want in their neighborhoods outside of traditional objective accessibility metrics. **Pay for community participation!**
- Help agencies innovate and **turn innovations and pilots into permanent programs.** **Dedicate resources, budget, personnel, power.**
- **Connect transit** with shared on-demand services that are easy to use, and pay for, and that is available to all. **Go beyond the downtown commute.**
- **Mobility Hubs** make visible, accessible, spatially recognizable, community-based instances of Mobility-as-a-Service. **Think of Hubs as faster, lighter TOD.**
- **Move with speed and purpose.**  
**We DO NOT have the time or luxury to hesitate.**



# Information is infrastructure

- Shared mobility (including transit) works if **information flows and is available to people who need it when they need it**
- Information is digital, it is also **visual**, it is also **spatial, physical**, it is also **cultural**
- Transit agencies need to manage **information as an asset**, need to manage information as **critical infrastructure** that is ultimately driven by user needs
- Information management (esp. the flow of information) is a **critical organizational capacity** that requires plans and investments
- **Information investments should be driven by climate and equity goals** (*“Technology is neither good nor bad; nor is it neutral.” -Melvin Krazenberg*)



# Panel 3: Community Advocacy Organizations



**John Yi**

Los Angeles Walks



**Hester Serebrin**

Transportation Choices  
Coalition



**Corinne Kisner**

National Association of  
City Transportation Officials  
(NACTO)

# Los Angeles Walks

LA'S PREMIER PEDESTRIAN  
ADVOCACY GROUP

BUILDING COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIPS

A walkable LA  
is a just LA.

Best Start Metro LA Block Party (2019)

According to the City, nearly 40% of our sidewalks have a D or F rating, more than 8,700 miles need rehabilitation.

City of Los Angeles

The leading cause of death for LA's elementary and middle school children are car crashes.

LA Department of Public Health

Of Los Angeles City's 7,900 bus stops, fewer 25% are equipped with shaded structures.

Los Angeles City Bureau of Street Services

Every 36 hours an Angeleno is killed in a car crash.

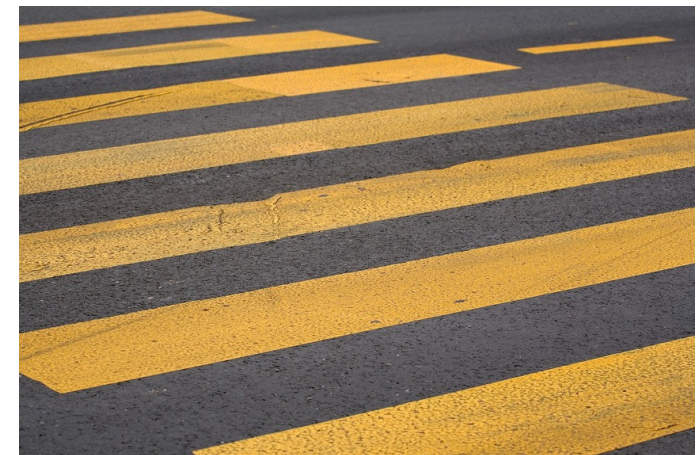
Los Angeles Police Department

# OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

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## STEP 1. WIN SAFE STREET INFRASTRUCTURE

We partner with communities as they engage a broken City bureaucracy to secure life-saving safe street infrastructure.





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## STEP 2. BUILD A MOVEMENT

Through hyper local safe street campaigns, communities build their social and political capital, building a political safe street movement made up of residents impacted most by our failing streets.

# OUR THEORY OF CHANGE



Los Angeles Pedestrian Advisory Committee (2020)



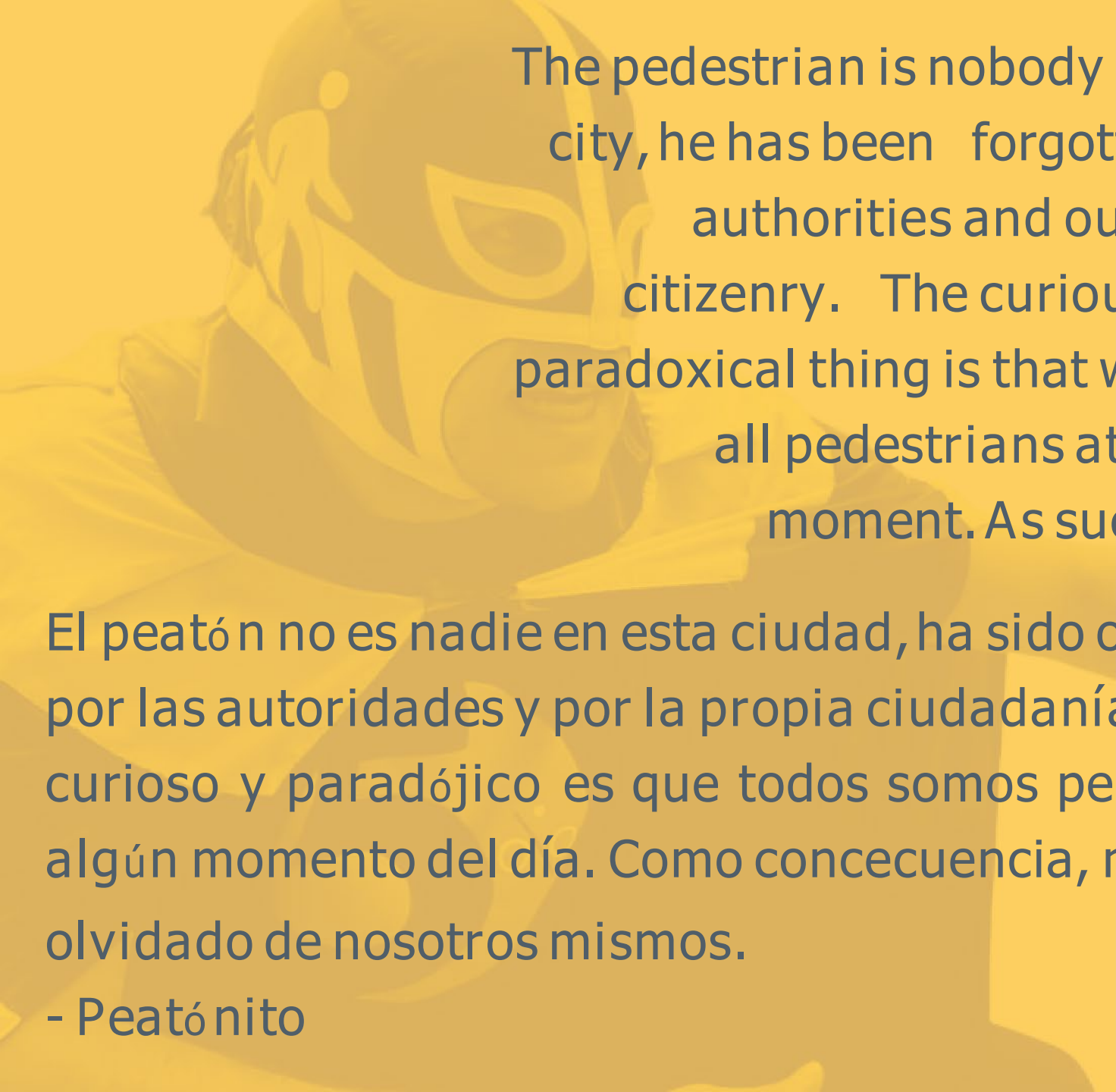
# SAFE STREET PROMOTORAS

- A major shift in our organizing strategy and among peers
- Made for pandemic organizing
- Represents the future of City planning
- Capacity Building, but for whom?

**SAFE STREETS  
COMMUNITY  
PROMOTORA  
EDUCATOR  
GABY  
SEGOVIA**

**SAFE STREETS  
COMMUNITY  
PROMOTORA  
EDUCATOR  
NANCY  
CID**





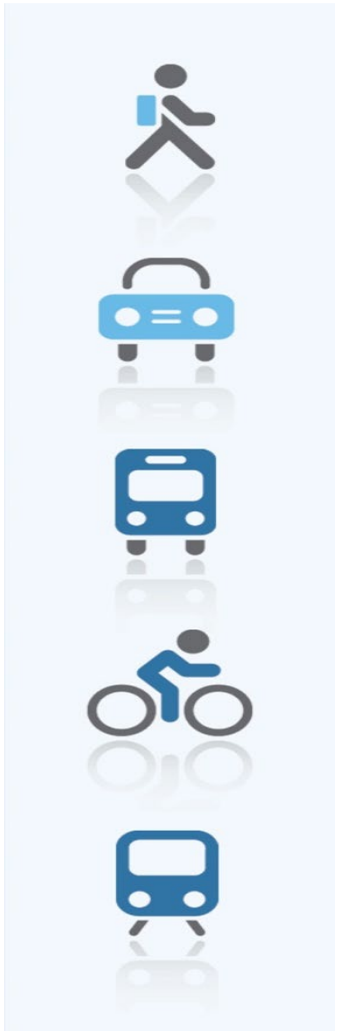
The pedestrian is nobody in this city, he has been forgotten by authorities and our own citizenry. The curious and paradoxical thing is that we are all pedestrians at some moment. As such, we

have forgotten ourselves.  
- Peatónito

El peatón no es nadie en esta ciudad, ha sido olvidado por las autoridades y por la propia ciudadanía. Lo curioso y paradójico es que todos somos peatones en algún momento del día. Como consecuencia, nos hemos olvidado de nosotros mismos.

- Peatónito

Thank you!



# America's Open and Transit's Open Listening Session 3: Building community partnerships

Hester Serebrin, Policy Director  
Transportation Choices Coalition









## Who are we?

[Transportation Choices Coalition](#) is a policy and advocacy nonprofit dedicated to making transportation accessible to all in Washington State. We pass policies that support more and transit, bike, and pedestrian travel at the state, regional, and local levels.



## What do we advocate for?

-  More and better transportation funding
-  Policies that support great transit
-  Investment decisions based on equity, climate, and health/safety
-  Institutionalizing equity
  - Racial equity analysis of policies
  - Community equity advisory bodies
  - Equitable engagement



## How do we do it?

- Policy review & research
- Advocacy & lobbying
- Public & elected education
- Issue-based campaign support
- Coalitions & agency partnerships



## Goals of partnership

- Trust building
- Early policy input
- Avoids public fights
- Share good ideas and expertise
- Cross-sector support
- Cross-agency networking
- Campaign support
- Promotes collaboration
- Builds community among people who care about transportation







# Examples of partnerships

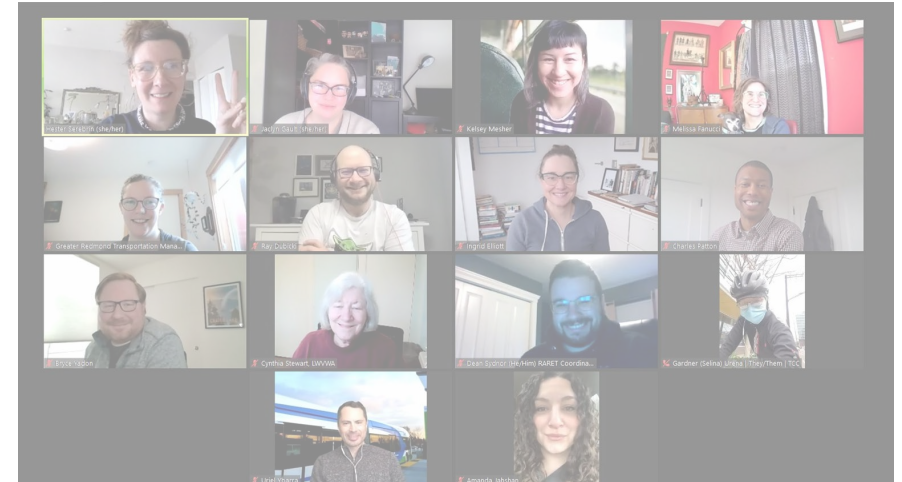
**Open to all:** WA Transportation Advocates call

**Cross-agency:** New mobility & equity table

**Agency-specific:**

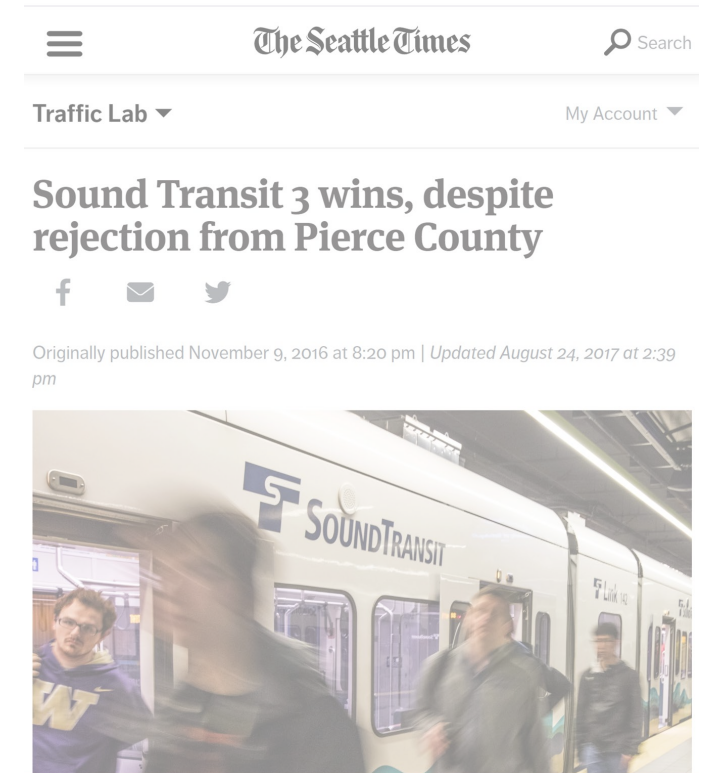
- Sound Transit (Transit Access Stakeholders)
- Puget Sound Regional Council (Community Partners)

**Project-specific:** Fare enforcement coalition



# What have we accomplished?

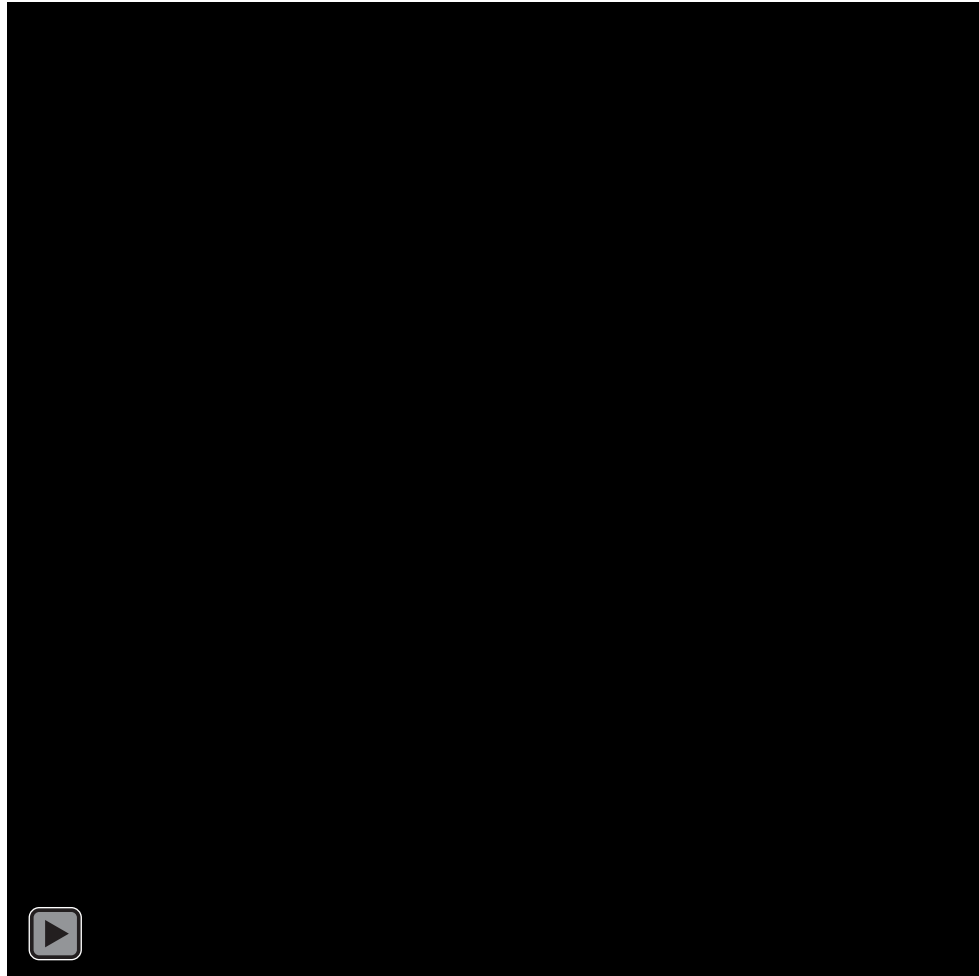
- Sound Transit 3
- Seattle Transportation Benefit District
- Fare enforcement reform
- PSRC Equity Advisory Committee
- ...and lots more!



**Advocates are needed every step of the way!  
How might you bring advocates to the table?**

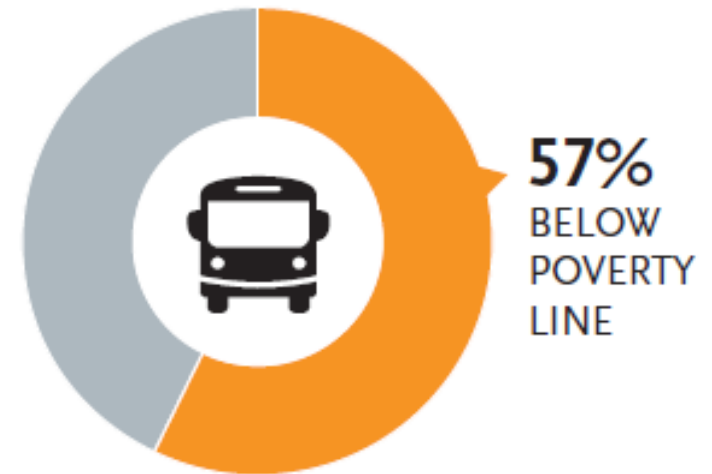


# Transit Priority: A Climate & Equity Strategy



Median Income  
**\$17,975**

Mean Income  
**\$26,961**



LA Metro 2019 Onboard Survey

# Investing in Transit Priority Pays Off

Ridership on Muni Rapid Lines Increased 23% between 2015-2019, even as transit ridership nationally fell

Haight St, San Francisco



# Paint, Posts & Partnerships



Washington St, Boston



# Transit = Access to Opportunities

24-hour service  
means **MORE**  
job options



**RIDING IS  
BELIEVING!**



Reinventing Metro  
means **MORE** ways  
for employees to  
get to work



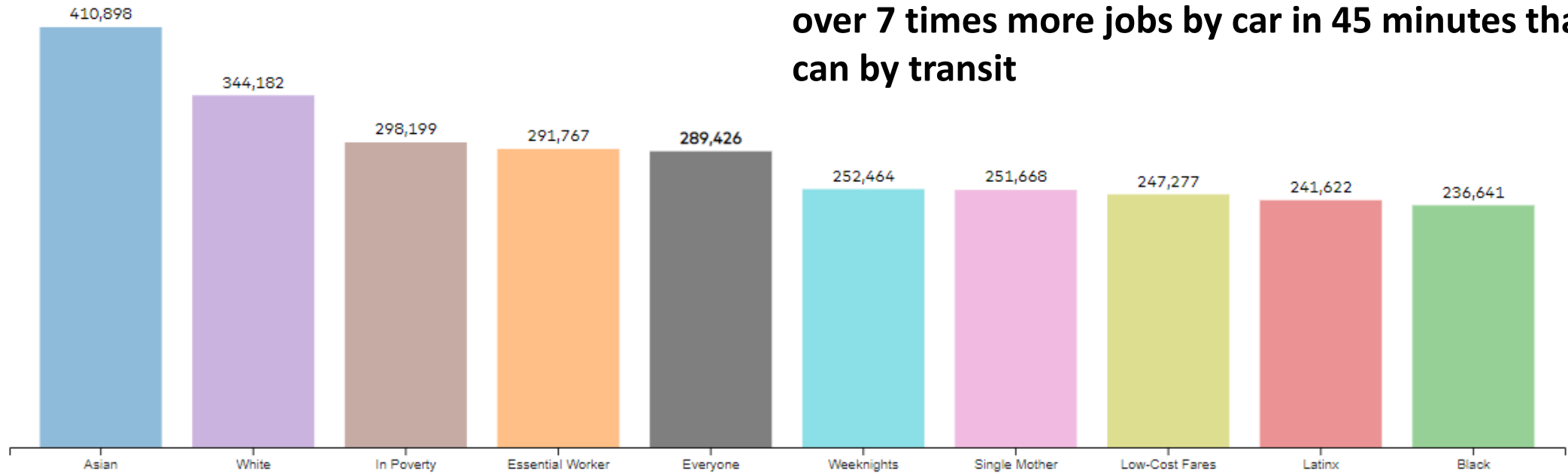
**RIDING IS  
BELIEVING!**





## TransitCenter Equity Dashboard

Jobs Accessible in 45 min by Transit

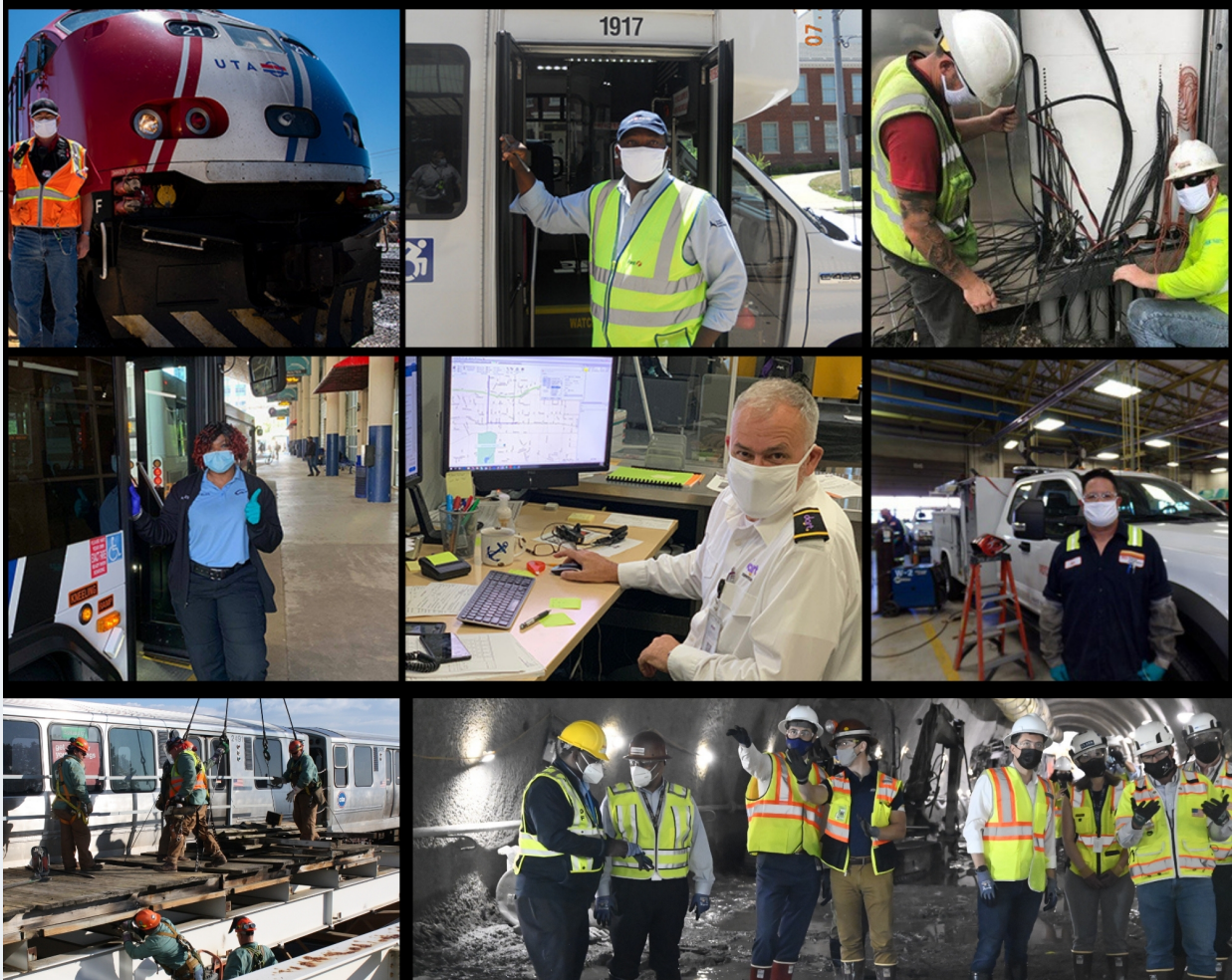


Data for travel in the Chicago Urban Core on weekdays from 7am-9am (except if noted weeknights 10pm-12am) as of the week of February 21, 2021.

**In the Chicago region, the average resident can access over 7 times more jobs by car in 45 minutes than they can by transit**



# Question & Answer Session



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

# Transit Renewal Initiative Events

**National Transit Renewal Summit: 11 a.m. EDT, Friday, August 27**

Register at [transit.dot.gov/transitisopen](https://transit.dot.gov/transitisopen)



# Closing Remarks



**Kelley Brookins**

FTA Region V  
Administrator



# Resource Links

- Intertribal Transportation Association - [tribaltransportation.org](http://tribaltransportation.org)
- Commuter Rail Coalition - [commuterrailcoalition.org](http://commuterrailcoalition.org)
- Latinos In Transit - [latinosintransit.org](http://latinosintransit.org)
- Conference of Minority Transportation Officials - [comtonational.org](http://comtonational.org)
- New Urban Mobility Alliance - [numo.global](http://numo.global)
- Shared Use Mobility Center - [sharedusemobilitycenter.org](http://sharedusemobilitycenter.org)
- Los Angeles Walks - [losangeleswalks.org](http://losangeleswalks.org)
- Transportation Choices Coalition - [transportationchoices.org](http://transportationchoices.org)
  - [hester@transportationchoices.org](mailto:hester@transportationchoices.org)
- National Association of City Transportation Officials - [nacto.org](http://nacto.org)





# America's Open and Transit's Open



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

Contact us at [transitsopen@dot.gov](mailto:transitsopen@dot.gov)  
Or visit [transit.dot.gov/transitisopen](https://transit.dot.gov/transitisopen)