Walkable, Not Unaffordable: Creating Walkable Communities Without Displacement

Charles T. Brown, MPA
National Walking Summit
Intercontinental Saint Paul Riverfront
St. Paul, Minnesota
September 14, 2017
THE ROLE OF Communities IN PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

WALKABLE COMMUNITIES
People who live in walkable neighborhoods are 2 times as likely to get enough physical activity as those who don’t.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
 Teens who live in poor or mostly minority neighborhoods are 50% less likely to have a recreational facility near home.

JOINT USE
The number of children who are physically active outside is 84% higher when schoolyards are kept open for public play.

TRAILS
People who live near trails are 50% more likely to meet physical activity guidelines.

Active Living Research
www.activelivingresearch.org

THE ROLE OF
Transportation
IN PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

SIDEWALKS
People who live in neighborhoods with sidewalks on most streets are
47% more likely to be active at least 30 minutes a day.

BIKE FACILITIES
In Portland, Ore., bicycle commuters ride 49% of their miles on roads with bike facilities, even though these are only 8% of road miles.

TRAFFIC CALMING
Medians, speed bumps and other traffic-calming efforts can reduce the number of automobile crashes with pedestrian injuries by up to 15%.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
Public transit users take 30% more steps per day than people who rely on cars.


Active Living Research
www.activelivingresearch.org
Proximity is NOT Access
Not all communities are built the same!
Characteristics of a Community of Concern:

1. **MinORITY** concentration equal to or exceeding the regional threshold; or,

2. **Low-income** concentration equal to or exceeding the regional threshold; or,

3. **Two or more Non-EJ Disadvantaged populations** equal to or exceeding the regional threshold.

   - Female head of household with children
   - Carless households
   - Persons with limited English proficiency
   - Elderly over 75 years of age
Communities of Concern – Data Analysis

Data/Methodology:

- Pedestrian-Vehicle Crashes, 2008 – 2013;
- Mapped results for each of the 13 Counties in TNJ Region;
- Crashes per 1,000 people;
- Crashes per square mile; and,
- Communities of Concern versus Non-Communities of Concern
Vehicle-Pedestrian Crashes in Communities of Concern & Non-Communities of Concern

Crashes per 1,000 People

Communities of Concern
Non-Communities of Concern

- Sussex: 1.8, 0.4
- Ocean: 2.0, 0.9
- Middlesex: 2.0, 1.4
- Somerset: 2.1, 0.9
- Hunterdon: 2.4, 0.4
- Warren: 2.5, 0.6
- Morris: 2.6, 0.7
- Monmouth: 2.7, 0.9
- Union: 3.7, 1.5
- Bergen: 4.1, 1.7
- Passaic: 4.6, 1.2
- Hudson: 5.0, 3.8
- Essex: 6.0, 2.3

Findings – Crashes per 1,000 people
Findings – Crashes per Square Mile

Vehicle-Pedestrian Crashes in Communities of Concern & Non-Communities of Concern

Crashes per Square Mile

Communities of Concern
Non-Communities of Concern
### Findings – Essex County (Urban)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communities of Concern</th>
<th>Non-Communities of Concern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong># Crashes In Non-Communities of Concern</strong></td>
<td><strong># Crashes in Communities of Concern</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>455 (11%)</td>
<td>3,559 (89%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Non-Communities of Concern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Crashes per 1,000 People</strong></td>
<td><strong>Crashes per Square Mile</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>61.9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Findings – Hunterdon County (Quasi-Rural)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communities of Concern</th>
<th>Crashes per 1,000 People</th>
<th>Crashes per Square Mile</th>
<th>Non-Communities of Concern</th>
<th>Crashes per 1,000 People</th>
<th>Crashes per Square Mile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crashes In Non-Communities of Concern</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>Crashes in Communities of Concern</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Findings – Crash Severity

Crash Severity in Communities of Concern and Non-Communities of Concern

- Communities of Concern
- Non-Communities of Concern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Communities of Concern</th>
<th>Non-Communities of Concern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Killed</td>
<td>64.2%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incapacitated</td>
<td>67.2%</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Injury</td>
<td>74.5%</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaint of Pain</td>
<td>84.8%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Linear(Communities of Concern)  vs  Linear(Non-Communities of Concern)
Can you create an inclusive community without a fully inclusive process?
Who is missing from your definition of everyone?
A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving

Twitter: @ctbrown1911
Discussion: Biking while Black in the Bronx
Can you really engage those whose cultures or languages you don’t fully understand?
Can you truly engage those who you fear?
Urban Planning Can’t Happen Without Black People in the Room—Yet It Does

Charles D. Ellison
Yesterday 9:00am • Filed to: GENTRIFICATION
How do you create walkable communities without displacement?
Figure 2: Neighborhoods divided by Delmar Blvd. in St. Louis City

- Home value: $78,000
- Income: $22,000
- 5% have Bachelor degree
- 99% African American

- Home value: $310,000
- Income: $47,000
- 67% have Bachelor degree
- 70% White

The figures above represent median home values, and median household income. Source: American Community Survey 2007–2011 5 year estimates
Figure 17. Life expectancy at birth by ZIP code

Source: City of St. Louis Department of Health-Center for Health Information, Planning, and Research; Census 2010; MODHSS, Death MICA 2010
Notes: Life expectancies were constructed using a calculator developed by the City of St. Louis Department of Health-Center for Health Information, Planning, and Research; ZIP code life expectancies were derived using population counts from Census 2010 and deaths from Death MICA 2010
Access to Political Power

MAJOR TAKEAWAYS:

• Majority (54%) believe that it is unlikely that government would do so.
Empower the Community
Awareness of the Stage of Gentrification

Before Gentrification:
1. Coalition Building
2. Right to Purchase
3. Community Land Trusts
4. Inclusionary Zoning
5. Limited Equity Co-op Housing
6. Community Benefit Agreements

Mid-Stage Gentrification:
1. Strengthened Rental Protections
2. Tax Abatement Policies
3. Against Condominium Conversion
4. Rehabilitation & Preservation

Late Stage Gentrification
1. Employer Assisted Housing
2. Affordable Housing Trust Fund
3. Housing Levies
4. Dealing with NIMBYism
Case Study: Fairmount Neighborhood, Newark

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Zoned for Displacement

BRENTIN MOCK  SEP 13, 2017

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma may have hit white and non-white families alike, but it will be people of color who will have the toughest time getting their homes back, which is by design.

Hilton Kelley has been sounding off on Facebook Live the past few days about families who evacuated their homes to escape Hurricane Harvey and are now getting eviction notices. The families live in Port Arthur, Texas, the small Gulf Coast city about 90 miles east of Houston, but are currently scattered across Louisiana and Texas. Kelley himself had to evacuate—his fourth time doing so in the last 15 years due to hurricane flooding—but was able to make it back to his home in Port Arthur to find it flooded. He then helped other families out, including a family of seven with six children under the age of 16 who was making its way across Port Arthur to escape the storm.

The Center for Popular Democracy has announced it will be in Port Arthur next week to help families displaced by Hurricane Harvey, but Kelley says the families are being “hounded” by landlords and have had their eviction notices and court dates set. Kelley says he’s noticing a pattern among landlords specifically targeting people of color.

“People of color are disproportionately impacted by natural disasters,” Kelley said. “It’s unfair and inhumane that these families are being hounded like this. It’s not right.”

The Center for Popular Democracy is partnering with seven local Houston-based organizations to provide crisis assistance to families in Port Arthur. The groups will be distributing food cards, providing legal and case management services, and helping displaced families fill out and submit applications for state and federal aid.

Benjamin Jealous, president of the Center for Popular Democracy, said that the group has been invested in housing justice issues for years and that the crisis in Port Arthur “is an opportunity to break some of those cycles and to help the survivors.”

Due to the severity of the situation, the groups are interested in providing emergency aid to displaced families in Port Arthur, and they’re looking for volunteers to help. The Center for Popular Democracy is holding an informational session on October 10th to help families navigate the aid system. The organization is also holding a meeting for volunteers on October 17th to discuss ways to support displaced families in Port Arthur.

The Center for Popular Democracy team is working with local organizations to provide support to families affected by Hurricane Harvey. They are providing legal assistance, emergency aid, and help with state and federal aid applications. They are also working to raise awareness about the need for housing justice.

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Phone: 908-514-9300

THANK YOU