



**Soren Jensen,
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Coalition**

**Equity and Bike/Walk
Trails: Building trails is Not
Enough**



Midtown Greenway

- 5.5 Mile Biking and Walking Trail
- Called the best urban bike trail in the nation, but also a major walking trail
- Commuters and recreational users
- Open 24/7, lit at night, plowed in winter
- More than 1 million trips per year
- Goes through high and low income neighborhoods; high diversity and low diversity neighborhoods.

Midtown Greenway Coalition

- Had the idea for the Greenway; now works to protect and improve it
- Small NGO, operates like a “friends” group
- Trail Watch Bike Patrol; helped plant more than 5,000 trees and shrubs; runs Adopt-A-Greenway trash clean-up program; works to get more gardens and art into corridor

Biking/Walking and Equity

- The Minnesota Healthy Kids Coalition Transportation Equity Research Project
 - Safety key concern: better facilities, lighting
 - Community engagement and seat at the planning table
- Citylab: How Low-Income Commuters View Cycling. Infrastructure alone cannot address the many barriers our respondents cite
- Anthony Taylor from Slow Roll MPLS and Major Taylor Cycling Club: It's not infrastructure first. It's relationships first, understanding the culture and motivations first

Biking/Walking and Equity

- Cycles for Change Equity Study: Barriers to biking for communities of color
 - Not knowing how to bike and/or rules of the road
 - Not having a good bike and proper equipment and clothing
- Midtown Greenway Coalition / Hennepin County Study: Not feeling welcome in the Greenway; not seeing people from my community or culture represented

Non-infrastructure Approaches to increasing equity

- Staffing: Hiring experts on outreach to communities of color; having volunteers and board members with expertise
- Program Partners (Unpaid): Andersen School (bike skills), Slow Roll (new riders)
- Program Partners (Paid/Stipends):
 - Community leaders from communities of color
 - Shared Street/Woonerf Demonstration
 - Equity through Art

13th Ave Mural by Little Earth and MCAD



10th Ave Mural by Jordan Hamilton



Resources

Our Streets MPLS:

[http://www.ourstreetsmpls.org/
reading_list_equity_and_biking](http://www.ourstreetsmpls.org/reading_list_equity_and_biking)

The League of American Bicyclists:

[http://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/
The_New_Movement_Report_Web.pdf](http://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/The_New_Movement_Report_Web.pdf)