



Arrested Mobility: The Intersection of Active Transportation, Health, and Equity

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LCI**

Meeting/Event: Transportation Research
Board Policy Session

Dates: Monday, June 24, 2024

Time: 1:15pm – 5:00pm

Location: Washington, DC.



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What is Equity?

- **The guarantee of fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement while at the same time striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups.**
- **The principle of equity acknowledges that there are historically underserved and underrepresented populations.**

What is Equity?

- **Equity involves trying to understand and give people what they need to enjoy full, healthy lives.**
- **Equity is the presence of justice and fairness within the procedures, processes, and distribution of resources by institutions or systems.**
- **Facing equity issues requires an understanding of the underlying or root causes of inequalities and oppression within our society.**

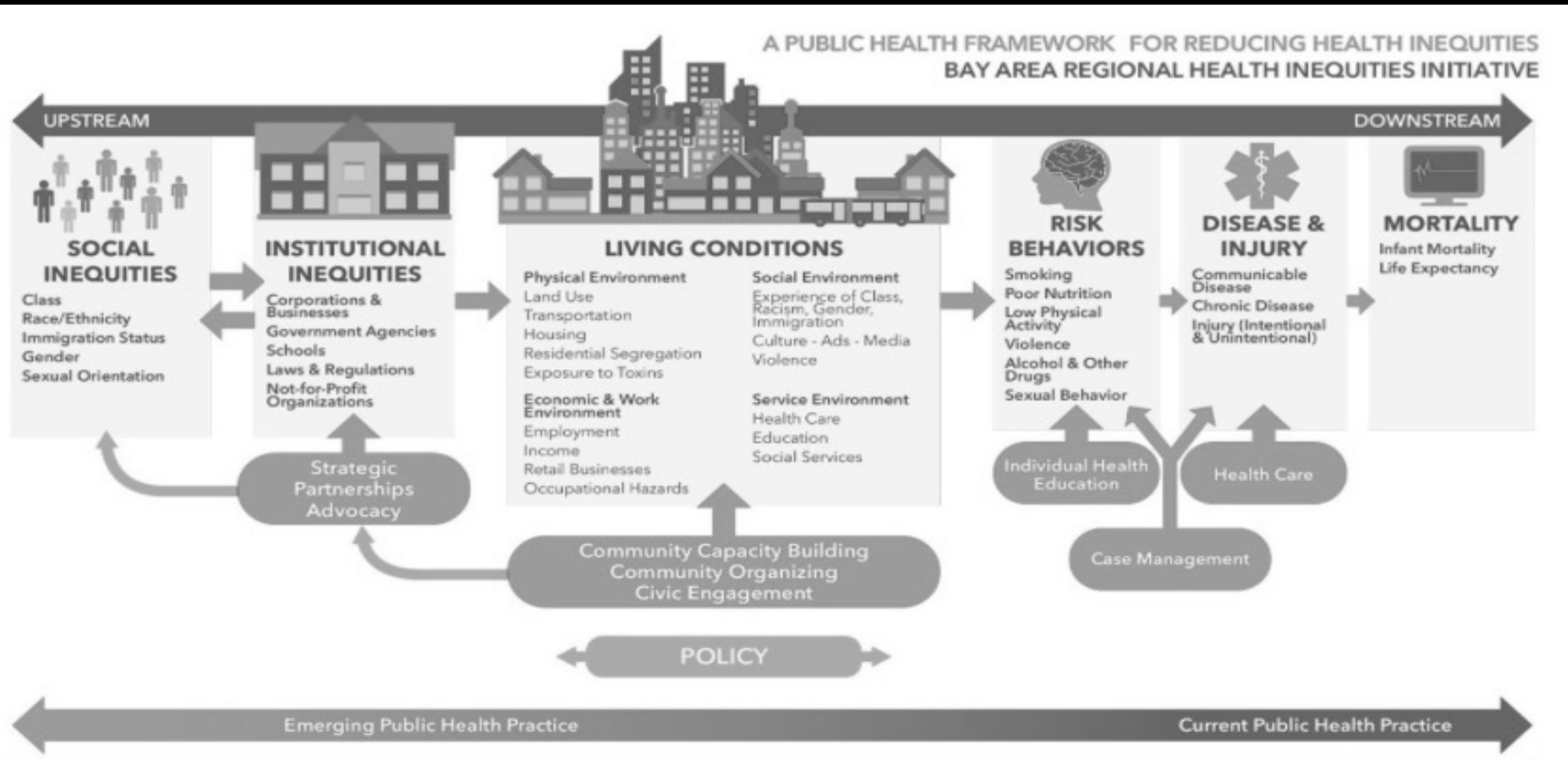
What is Racial Equity?

- Transforming the behaviors, institutions and **systems** that disproportionately harm people of color
- Increasing access to **power**, redistributing and providing additional **resources**, and eliminating barriers
- Encouraging racial equity is not about excluding other **marginalized** groups



**“It’s behavioral. It’s all about
the choices we make.”**

Downstream versus Upstream Thinking



Racial Equity Implications



Race



Place

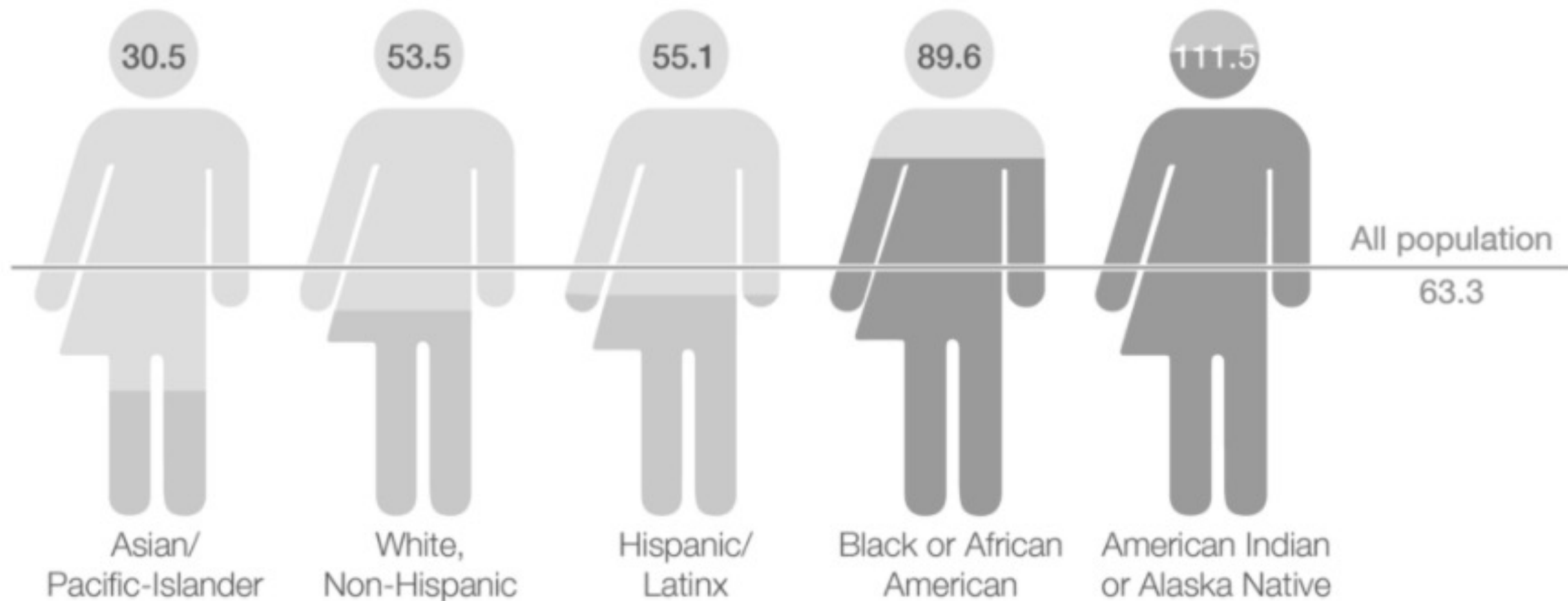


Health

**“History doesn’t say
goodbye. History says see
you later.”**

The burden is not shared equally

Relative pedestrian danger by race and ethnicity
(2010-2019)



What is the response?

- There is a plethora of federal, state, regional, and local initiatives, plans, programs, policies, and research aimed at understanding and increasing **Black** mobility.





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What are the challenges?

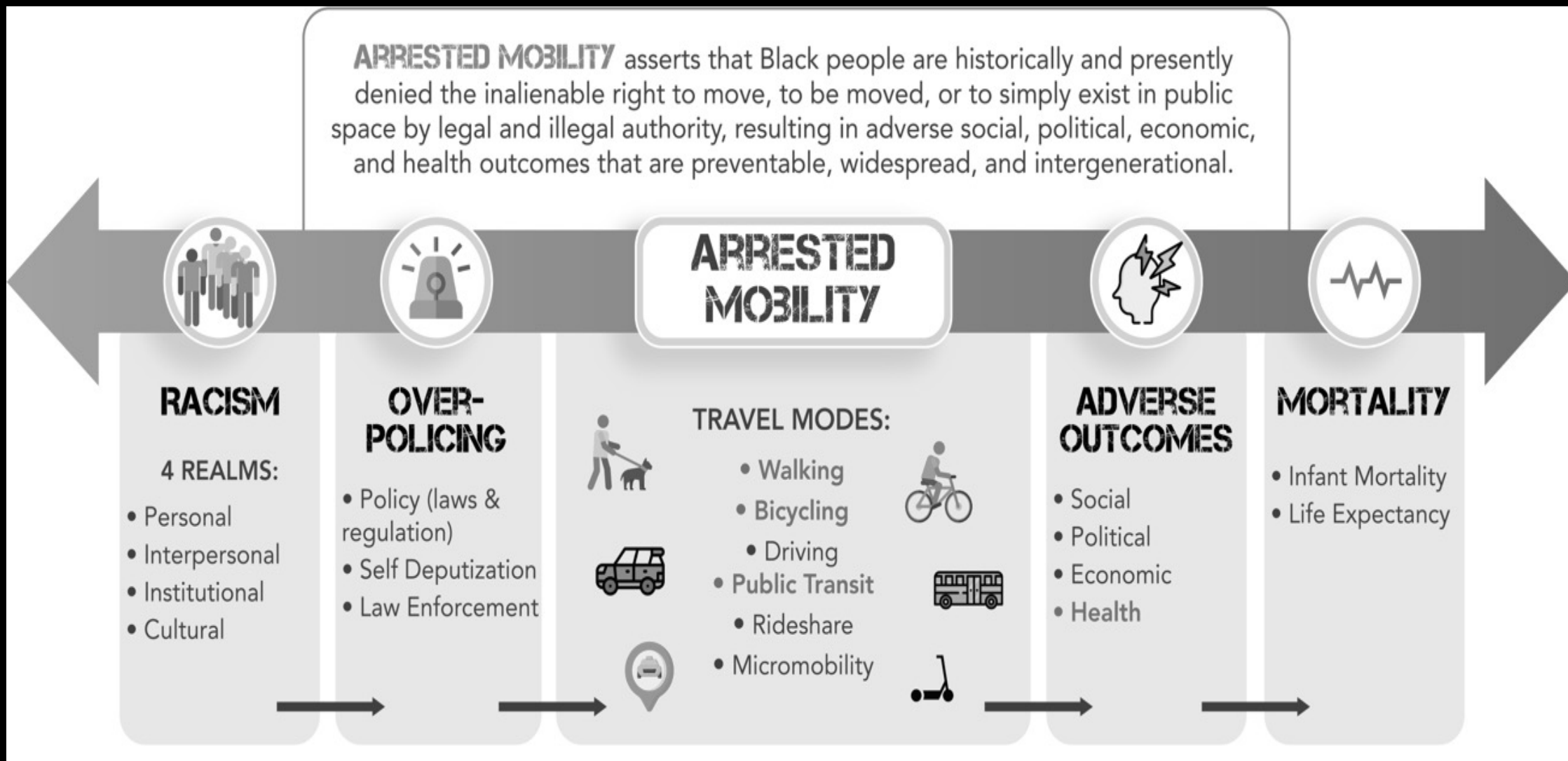
- **Ahistorical** and apolitical
- Discriminatory law enforcement
- Tangible organization commitments
- Unconscious bias & criminalization of Blackness
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)
- **Political** Determinants of Health

DEFINITION:

“Arrested mobility is the assertion that Black people [and other minorities] have been historically and presently denied by legal and illegal authority, the inalienable right to move, to be moved, or to simply exist in public space. This results in adverse social, political, economic, and health effects that are widespread, preventable, and intergenerational.” —Charles T. Brown, MPA, CPD, LCI, 2020



Arrested Mobility



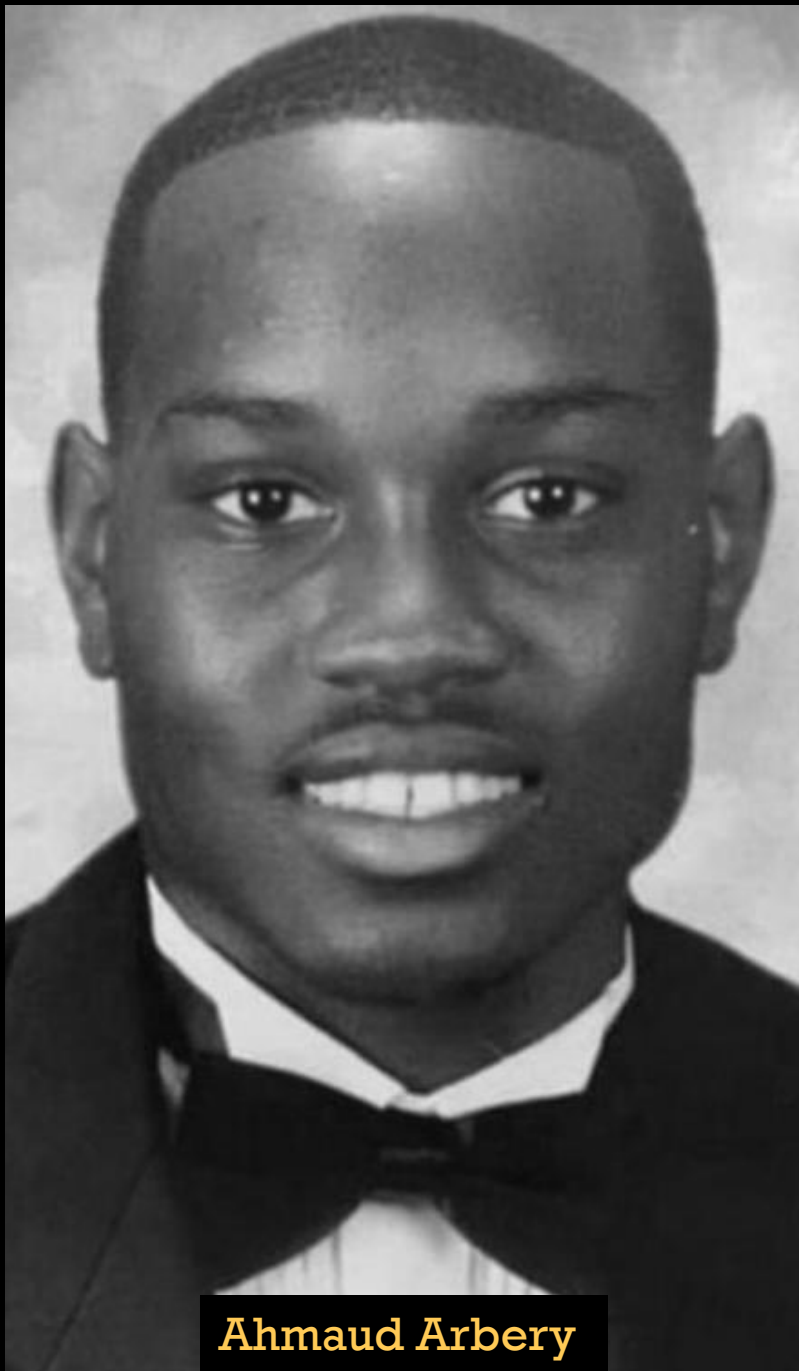


Policy/Planning

Polity

Police

**Is there evidence to support
Arrested Mobility across the
different modes of
transportation?**



Ahmaud Arbery



Trayvon Martin



Mike Brown

Arrested Mobility: Walking and Running

- **55%** of tickets were issued to Black individuals even though only **29%** of the total population identify as Black
- Blacks were **3X** more likely to receive a ticket than Whites
- Residents of the city's 3 poorest zip codes were about **6X** as likely to receive a pedestrian citation





Arrested Mobility: Recreational or Utilitarian Cycling

- Between 2003 and 2015, Tampa police issued over **10,000** bike tickets
- **79%** of them were issued to Blacks
- In Oakland, CA, **60%** of all bicycle stops included Black cyclists
- In Chicago, **twice** as many bike citations are written in majority Black neighborhoods than in majority White or Latino neighborhoods
- **321** bike tickets were issued in Austin, a low-income, majority Black community, whereas only **5** were issued in Lincoln Park, a wealthy, majority White community.



What are the impacts?

- Blacks are 54% less likely to be physically active than Whites regardless of neighborhood or individual income levels (poor vs. non-poor).
- Areas with larger Black populations tend to have lower rates of upward mobility.
- Blacks consistently have less access to important resources and opportunities like healthcare, supermarkets, education, and jobs.

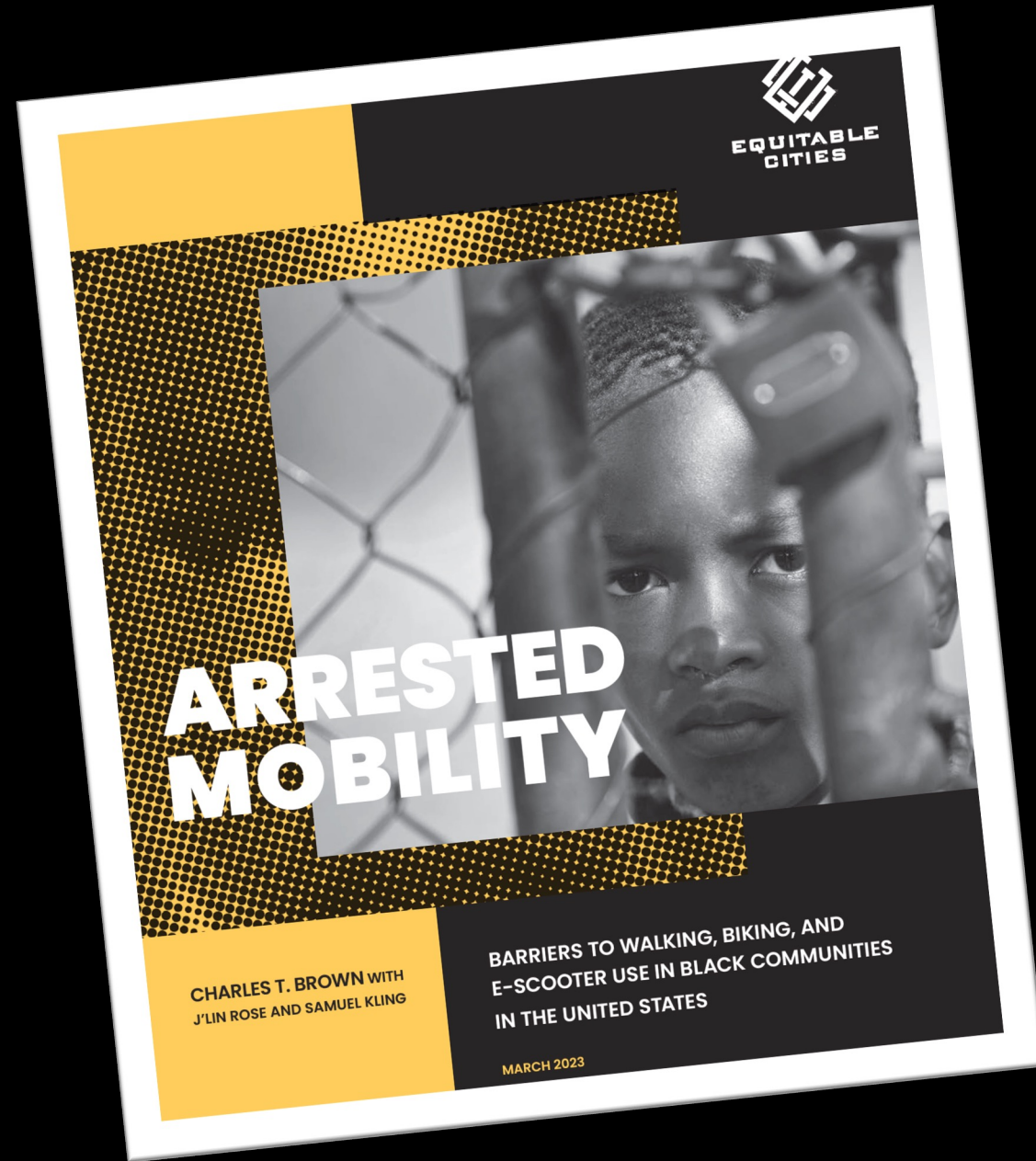
Recent Research on Arrested Mobility

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Let's enjoy today.

What are the facts?

- Nearly one in five Black households lacks access to a car—**three times** the rate of White households.
- Substantially less likely to get around by **walking** and **biking** than White people.
- More likely to face poor infrastructure, **police stops and tickets**, and injury and death while traveling than their White peers.
- More than half of the country's **most dangerous roads** for pedestrians are in predominantly Black or Latino neighborhoods.



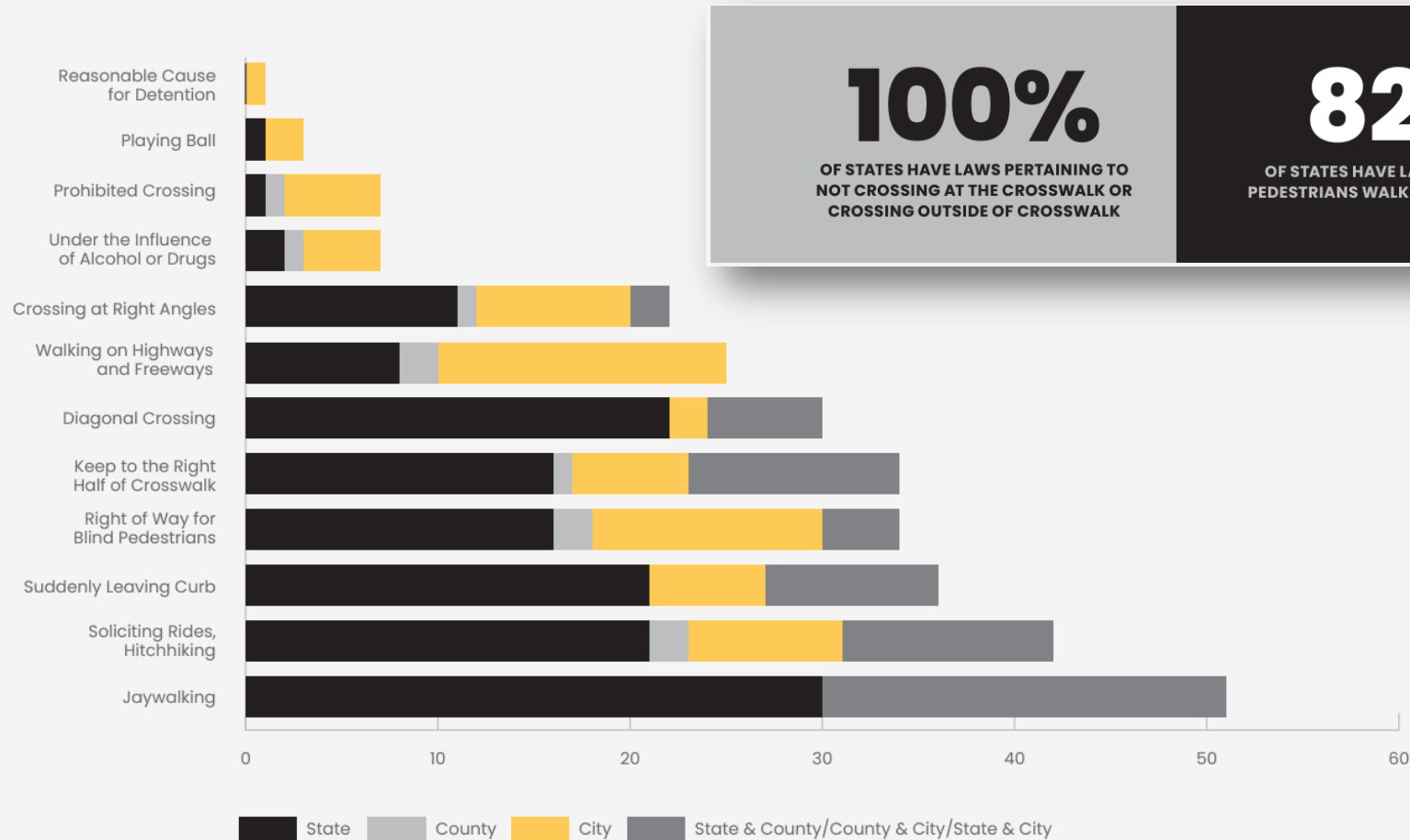
What criteria did we use?

- Research shows **discriminatory** or inequitable enforcement
- Ongoing **advocacy** efforts that speak to the discriminatory enforcement of policies
- Highly **subjective** and confusing laws and policies
- Laws that are almost impossible to **enforce** equitably
- **Absence of evidence**, or inconclusive evidence, that policies improve safety outcomes

Walking: What did we find?

WHAT IS ARRESTED MOBILITY?

FIGURE 1. ARRESTED MOBILITY PEDESTRIAN POLICIES DEFINED AT STATE, COUNTY, AND CITY LEVEL



100%

OF STATES HAVE LAWS PERTAINING TO
NOT CROSSING AT THE CROSSWALK OR
CROSSING OUTSIDE OF CROSSWALK

82%

OF STATES HAVE LAWS PERTAINING
PEDESTRIANS WALKING ON HIGHWAYS

60%

OF STATES HAVE LAWS
PERTAINING TO SUDDENLY
LEAVING THE CURB

Walking: What did we find?

In 2015, a Black truck driver in Jacksonville, Florida, tried to park his truck but was blocked from entering his leased spot by police. When he exited the truck and stepped off the median to get the number of the police officer's vehicle, as the police dispatcher instructed him to do, "the officer aimed a taser at him, ordered him to the ground, and pushed him off the sidewalk onto the sidewalk and into the street."²⁶



In February 2021, Rodney Reese, an 18-year-old high school student, was walking home from work during a winter storm in Plano, Texas. Police officers followed Reese and asked whether he was OK. Although he said he was fine, they continued to follow him and arrested him for being a pedestrian in the roadway. After detaining him, they charged him with public intoxication and possession of a controlled substance.²⁷

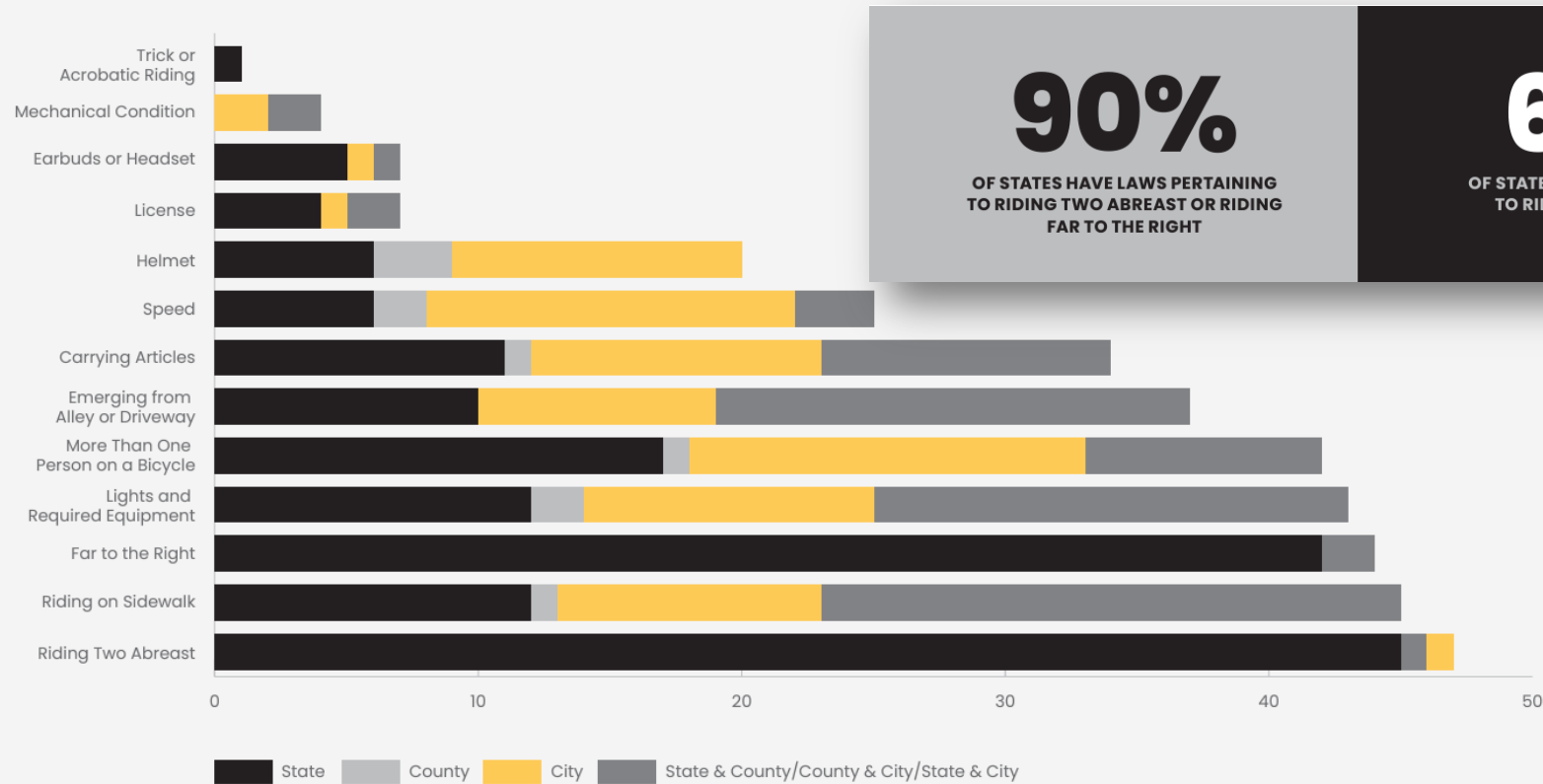


In 2021, Brian Chaney was taking a morning walk in suburban Detroit, Michigan, when a police officer pulled up and said he was going to frisk him because Chaney looked like he had a weapon and was going to break into cars. Chaney claims the officer shoved him, pushed him against the squad car, and called a police dog on him. Even when police backup came, no one explained why he was being detained. He was uncuffed and released only after asking if the officer was going to put a knee on his neck.²⁸



Cycling: What did we find?

FIGURE 2. ARRESTED MOBILITY BICYCLE POLICIES DEFINED AT STATE, COUNTY, AND CITY LEVEL



90%

OF STATES HAVE LAWS PERTAINING
TO RIDING TWO ABBREAST OR RIDING
FAR TO THE RIGHT

64%

OF STATES HAVE LAWS PERTAINING
TO RIDING ON THE SIDEWALK

56%

OF STATES HAVE LAWS
REQUIRING BICYCLE LIGHTS

Cycling: What did we find?

In 2021, in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, a group of predominantly Black and Latino teenagers were stopped for what a responding officer claimed was biking without a license tag. Four bikes were confiscated, and one teen was arrested.³¹



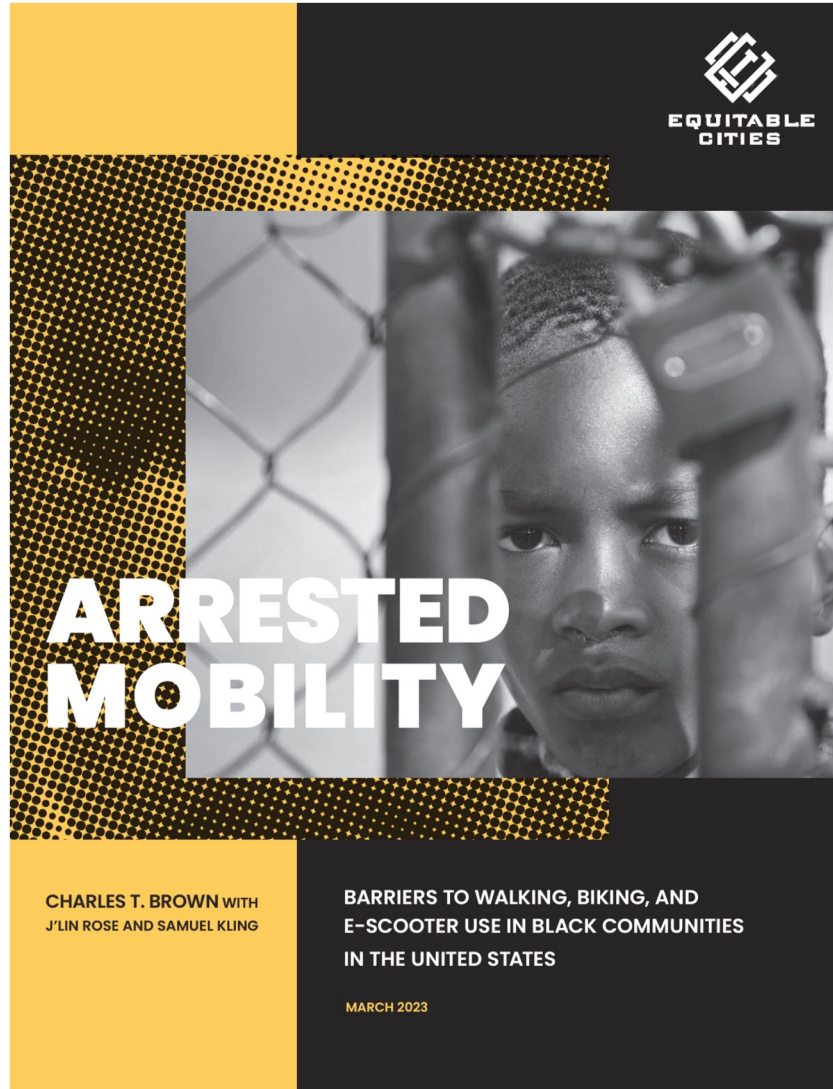
In 2019, in Las Vegas, Nevada, Byron Williams, 50, was arrested for riding without a safety light before sunrise. He was heard telling officers “I can’t breathe” after being arrested. He lost consciousness and later died in the hospital.³³



In Orlando, Florida, two young Black men on bicycles were falsely accused of armed robbery and were forced at gunpoint by officers to get off their bikes, lie on the ground, and crawl toward the officers. The officers said they were detaining the men because they fit the description of suspects in a recent robbery.³⁵



Recommendations: What did we suggest?



SIX RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVOCATES, RESEARCHERS, AND POLICY MAKERS:

1. **Repeal laws, decriminalize violations, and promote alternative enforcement** for policies that have minimal impact on safety and that are enforced in a racially discriminatory manner.
2. **Embrace pedestrian, bike, and e-scooter infrastructure** as a tool to reduce unwanted encounters with police, promote safety, and encourage mobility.
3. **Reduce and/or eliminate court fines and fees** associated with pedestrian, bicycle, and e-scooter policies.
4. **Place limits on pretextual traffic stops**, in which police use minor violations as a justification to investigate unrelated crimes without a warrant.
5. **Engage the bicycling industry** in a conversation about the feasibility of manufacturing and selling bikes with front and rear lamps included, as is mandated in several jurisdictions.
6. **Better understand the scope of arrested mobility:**
 - A. Generate additional research to create comprehensive inventories of enforcement of pedestrian, cycling, and e-scooter policies at the local, county, state, and federal level.
 - B. Expand research on arrested mobility in other modes of transportation, such as public transit, air travel, and travel by automobile, as well as planning policies and polity.
 - C. Mandate greater transparency and access to data on enforcement of laws related to walking, biking, and using e-scooters.

What about TRB?

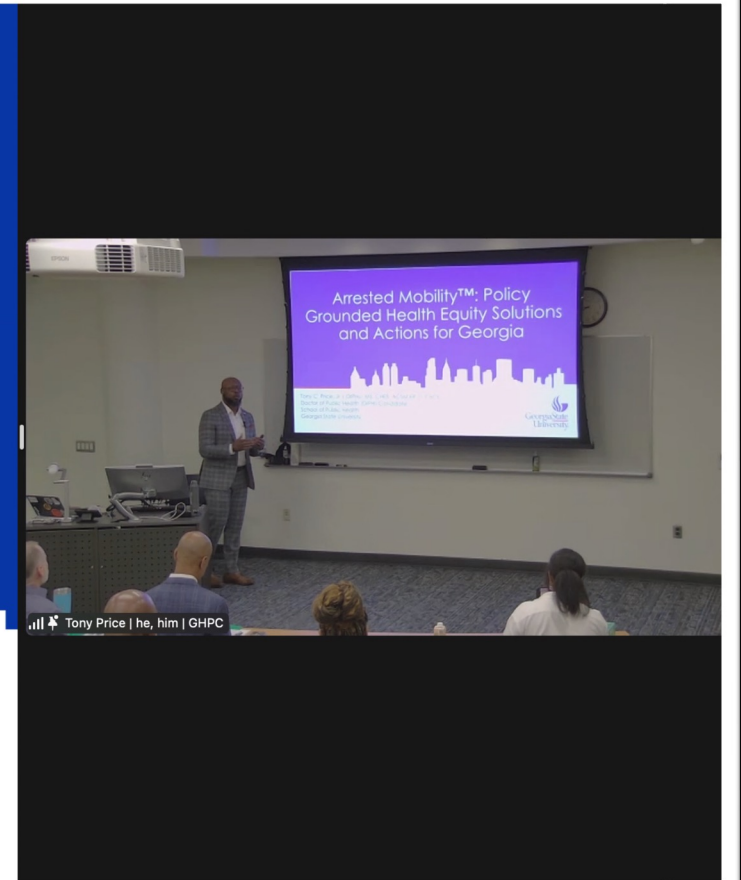
- **Dedicated Research Agenda:** Create a research agenda specifically on Arrested Mobility
- **Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration:** Consider cross-Committee research collaboration
- **Data Collection and Analysis:** Assist/support the development of standardized methodologies for analyzing data re: Arrested Mobility
- **Workshops and Conferences:** Organize special sessions on Arrested Mobility
- **Policy Analysis:** Encourage research that evaluates the effectiveness of transportation policies and regulations
- **Policy Dashboard:** Support the development of an Arrested Mobility Dashboard, scorecard, or annual report such as the Dangerous by Design Report by Smart Growth America
- **University Support:** Support the inclusion of the Arrested Mobility support in University curriculums

Proud Moment: Congratulations Dr. Tony C. Price, Jr.

Arrested Mobility™: Policy Grounded Health Equity Solutions and Actions for Georgia



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Thank You!



Let's enjoy today.