Equity Meets Change: Transportation Technologies, the Pandemic, and the Future of Equitable Mobility

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COVID-19 is especially impacting vulnerable communities

8M Cases in the US
(CDC, 10.19.20)

218K Deaths in the US
(CDC, 10.19.20)

5.2% Shrink in Global Economy
(World Bank)

Racial and ethnic minorities experience disproportionate illness and death
(CDC)

Women are more vulnerable due to existing gender inequalities
(McKinsey)
Technology is already transforming how we connect and travel

- 136M Shared Micromobility Trips in US (NACTO, 2019)
- 1-1.5 mile Average Trip Length (NACTO, 2019)
- 4.6B Networked Devices in US by 2022 (Cisco)
- 91% of Vehicles Sold in US in 2020 will be Connected (Automotive World)
- 50% of Large US Cities Planning for Autonomous Vehicles (National League of Cities)
Our systems have not been designed to meet women’s needs

WOMEN’S NEEDS

- Mode Choice
- Safety
- Mobility of Care
- Trip Chaining
Transportation infrastructure can connect communities, but can also divide.

Example: Displacement of tens of thousands of people in the 50s and 60s in East Los Angeles to build the 710 freeway.
WHAT COULD HAPPEN NEXT?
BUSINESS AS USUAL

Inequity exacerbated

Driving alone increases for those who can

Transportation funding decreased

Environment at the expense of the economy / The economy at the expense of the environment

Digital divide
A MORE EQUITABLE TOMORROW

Equity and access central to decision-making

Data and new technologies integrated to enhance access and sustainability

Improvements accelerated, made permanent

More places for people

Bridging the digital divide
GETTING TO A MORE EQUITABLE TOMORROW
Disaggregating Analysis to Focus on Equity
Bay Area Transit Recovery Vision

You get what you measure, what you don’t measure is lost

Averages hide inequities

We need to disaggregate data in order to focus on communities of concern
In London, AECOM has been commissioned to engineer temporary cycle lanes for Transport for London (TfL) and we’re providing similar services to other cities in the UK. These projects support the flexible and dynamic use of infrastructure to enable social distancing, use of active transportation and reduce pressure on public transit systems.
Focus Technology to Expand Access

InnovateUK + Centre for Connected & Autonomous Vehicles, London

In the U.K., an AECOM-led consortium is piloting the use of connected and autonomous vehicles to move people around airports, hospitals, business parks, shopping and tourist centers.

The pilot project includes the design, development and testing of new autonomous and connected pods on-demand (PODs).

Technologies like these could free women from caring trips, provide more service in off-peak hours, support point to point trips.
Representation matters as we change the face of our industry.

The Valley Metro South Central Light Rail Extension will bring new opportunities and connections to South Phoenix residents—and new jobs for local residents, opportunities for disadvantaged small businesses, and unique programs to engage our future generations.

The project includes mentorship, internship and training programs to help develop the next generation of our industry’s leaders.
GETTING TO A MORE EQUITABLE TOMORROW

YOU GET WHAT YOU MEASURE

CONNECT, NOT DIVIDE

TECHNOLOGY AS A TOOL FOR EQUITY

REPRESENTATION MATTERS
Thank you.

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