Public Spaces and Active Transportation: What do the LGBTQ & Two-Spirit POC communities of color want decision makers to know?

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Background

• Research has shown Safe Routes to School (SRTS) and Active living helps more kids walk and bicycle to school and adults be more active.

• Through legislation; infrastructure improvements, education and programming; many communities are working to promote Active Transportation and Safe Routes to School.

• Disparities is rarely part of the legislative conversation as these health policy discussions are happening.
Purposes

- Bridge the information gaps that exist between underserved communities, research, and policy makers/implementers.
  - health equity lens
  - community engagement

- Identify community needs around SRTS and Active living focusing on underserved citizens and convey the findings to multiple decision makers and stake holders.
Researcher - Community Partnerships

1. Brian Coyle Community Center serving primarily the Somali community in the Cedar-Riverside Neighborhood.

2. Little Earth/East Phillips Neighborhood which has mostly Native American residents.

3. Health Equity Working group who focused on the two-spirit and LGBTQ populations of color in Minneapolis.
Community Convening's
Program in Health Disparities Research Community Dialogue Series

What is happening in your community now related to SRTS and Active Living?

What are the main challenges to addressing these in your community?

What do you want to tell policymakers/implementers about SRTS and how it relates to your community?

5 convening's
~184 people
Overall Summary of Recommendations

- Infrastructure Safety
- Crime Safety
- Education and Engagement
Overall Key Lessons Learned

- Public Safety-Brick and Mortar Infrastructure
- Public Safety-Crime
- Education and Engagement

- Poverty and underemployment resulting from economic disenfranchisement
LGBTQ Two-Spirit POC Convening

• Over 60 attendees

• As far away as Red Wing and Shakopee

• Hosted by Health Equity Working Group, Shades of Yellow and Café Southside

• Facilitated by Joo Hee Pomplun (HEWG)
What makes you feel unsafe?

Developed by Khalid Adam
LGBTQ Two-Spirit POC Concerns

Residents expressed concerns about:

- Gender and sexuality-based hate crimes.
- Poorly lit roads, bike routes (such as Chicago Avenue), and enclosed bus shelters.
- A lack of confidence in the ability of police officers and bus drivers to address these barriers.
- A lack of cultural competence noting incidents of homophobia and transphobia perpetrated by those in authority.
LGBTQ Two-Spirt POC Recommendations

- Train police officers and bus drivers on cultural competency; work to eliminate homophobia and transphobia.
- Enhance safety on buses by empowering bus drivers to address harassment.
LGBTQ Two-Spirt POC Recommendations

• Address infrastructure issues, such as lighting on busy roads and bike paths.
• Improve lighting at bus shelters, and increase the number of enclosed bus shelters.
• Address the timeliness of high-traffic urban bus routes to reduce wait times in unsafe environments.
Successes

• **Health Equity Working Group** and its partners were reached out to the office of a city council member to present their finding from this project at Trans Equity Summit.

• Single User/All Gender Bathroom Resolution
  City of Minneapolis

• Trans policy for MN state high school league student participation.
2014 Trans* Equity Summit

TARGETED APPROACH: A role for everyone

- Presence on bus/trains (MADDADS)
- Know your rights campaign
- Safety tips/maps (choices)
- Usage audits with feedback reports
- City-level training on cultural sensitivity with accountability
- Future urban planning for safer communities
- Normalizing
  - Education through signage/pictures
  - Creative PR
- Reporting
  - See harassing activity? Report to Metro Transit Authority
LGBTQ Two-Spirit POC Priority Areas

• Education and targeted information with in affected communities

• Education and Awareness information to elected officials and urban planners

• Visibility of Two Spirit LGBTQ POC communities within the broader communities of color and LGBTQ communities
Closing Thoughts

- Process is important.
  - Harnessed existing programs and resources

- Community led and facilitated convening's were central to project success.

- Our results highlight the need for
  - purposeful approach to include health disparities in current political discussions and
  - inter-disciplinary and intersectional lenses to find solutions.
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