Development in Your Community: Are We Asking the Right Questions?



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Planning is:

"managing our co-existence in shared space

Healey (1997)

"[This] speaks with equal clarity about environmental, transport, housing and other conflicts, reminding us that, whether we like it or not, we do share space on the planet with others who in many ways are not like us, and we need to find ways of co-existing in these spaces, from the next-door neighbor to the street, neighborhood, city and region."

Sandercock (2000)

Are developments in our communities fostering coexistence in shared space?

Question 1

Are we asking what is possible, not what is probable?



Question 2:

How can we make our spaces more spatially 'just'?

Södra Vägen, Gothenburg, Sweden

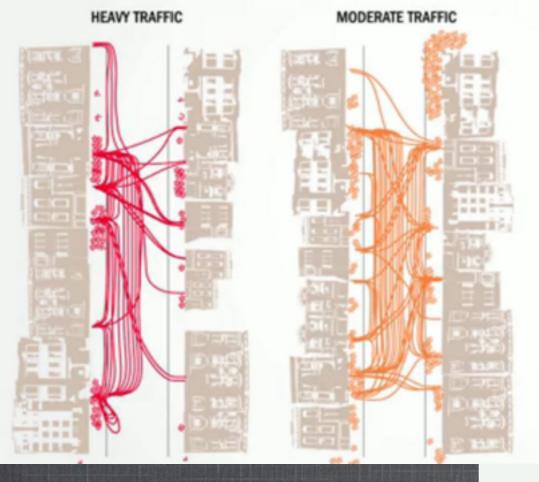
Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA





Streets are our most commonly used public space. Södra Vägen has been democratized but not Mass Ave. What does this say to adults, children who use these streets daily and become accultured to spatial justice on Södra Vägen or spatial injustice on Massachusetts Avenue?

Social Interactions on Three Streets - Neighboring and Visiting



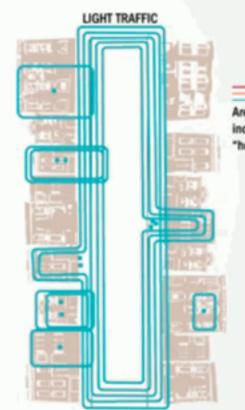




Home Territory on Three Streets



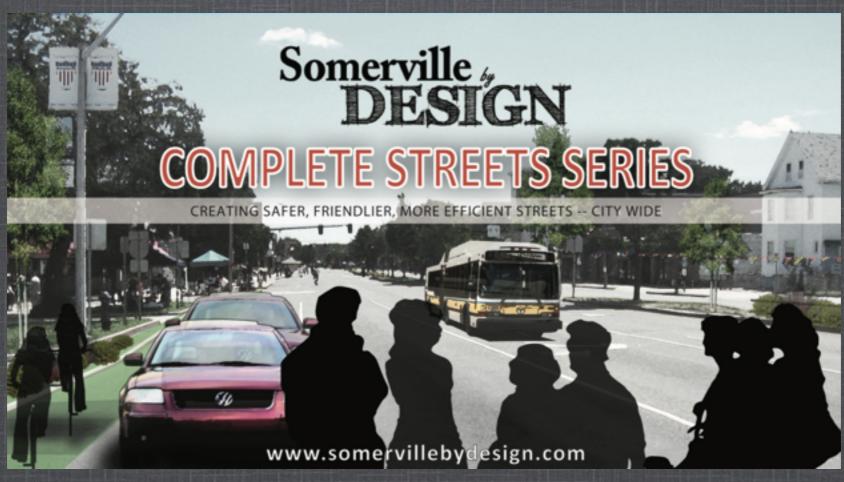




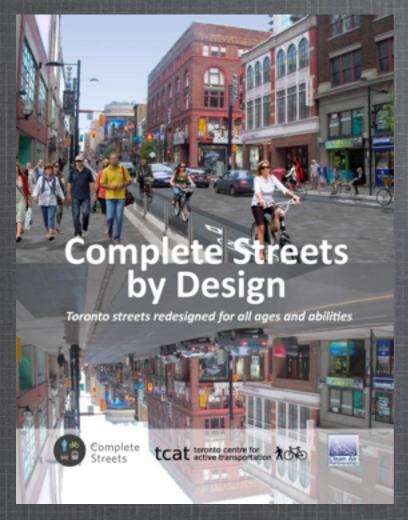
Areas people indicated as their "home territpry"

Question 3: What are Complete Streets, who decides?





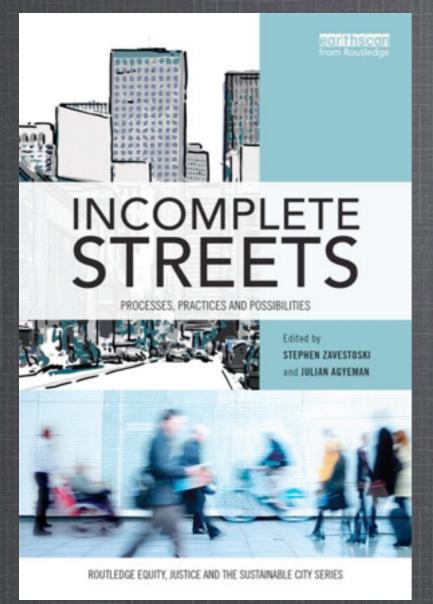
Complete Streets: Urban Design Disconnect?



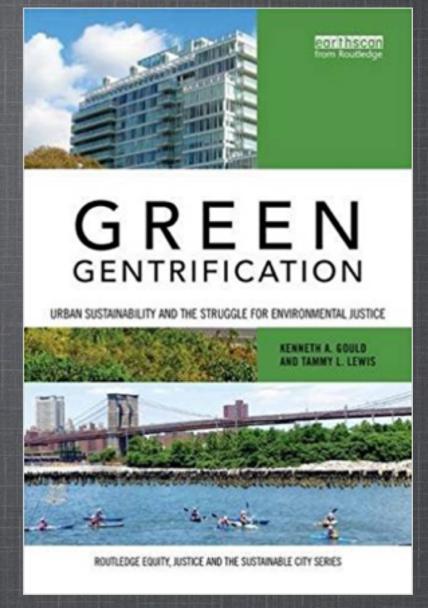


Massey (1995), sees places (and streets are places) as having no fixed meaning; rather, they are "constantly shifting articulations of social relations through time." Yet much of the current urban design-focused Complete Streets rhetoric disconnects streets from their significant social, structural, symbolic, discursive, and historical realities.

Complete Streets, 'greening' and gentrification?







"These physical changes can make certain street users and the dwellers in some neighborhoods, invisible, further diminishing their rights and roles in the community. In these predominantly low-income communities and neighborhoods of color, people worry that such changes will foster gentrification"

Zavestoski and Agyeman (2014)

Question 4: Who is using bike share schemes?



What would a bike-share look like if it were designed around equity and justice?

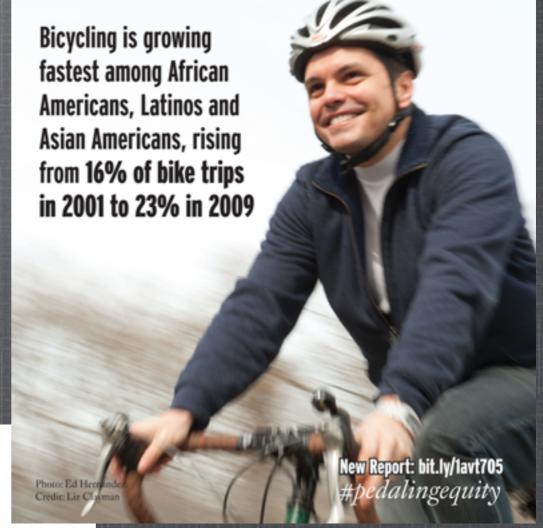
Ethnicity

Boston is a majority minority city.

But...

- 85.7% of Boston cyclists are caucasian
- 87% of Hubway members are caucasian





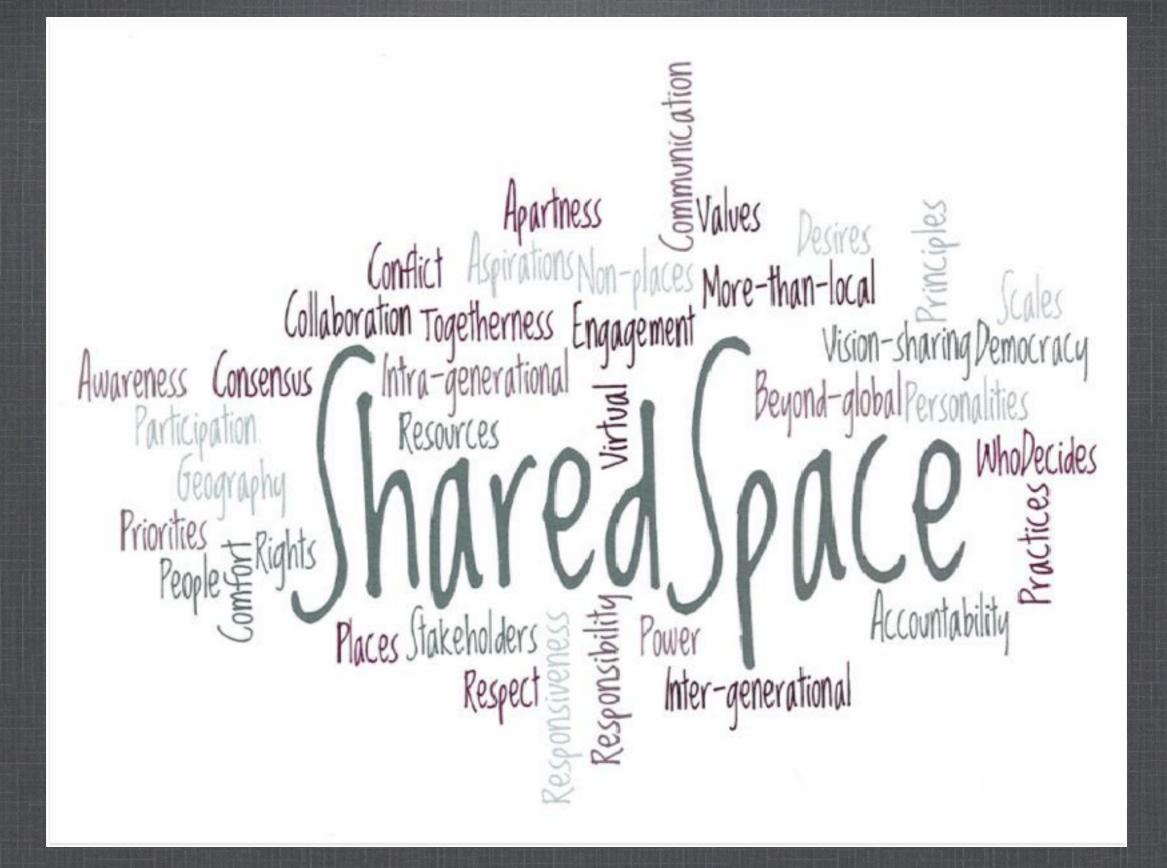
The policing of communities of color has always had a large impact on

HOW
we get around our
communities.

Question 5: Does our organization look like the people it serves?



If not, are you legitimate?
There is a pressing need is for a more diverse set of place-making and development professionals



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