The Untokening
Connecting Mobility Justice Theory & Practice

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Diversity in Motion

Being in motion is an **assemblage** of body, machine, and environment—the trip is not the same for each of us, even on the same streets.
When vehicles and environments are the starting point...

“If you build it, they will come”

...planning focuses on infrastructure and other physical projects
When people are the starting point...
...we ask different questions

How do people make biking and walking work in car-dominated landscapes?

How would they define “stress”?
Built environment approach to equity:

Q: Where has there been little investment?
A: Bring planning projects such as low-stress network to those sites
Community-centered approach to equity:

Q: Who has been shut out of public investment?

Q: What does “stress” mean for them?
“core riders” concept

By core riders we mean those people who are known to be the most frequent and regular users of transit. Such regular users make the vast majority of transit trips. More than 80 percent of transit trips are taken by people who ride three or more days per week, and nearly two-thirds by passengers who use transit five or more days per week (APTA, 2007).
Stressors in the Street

Xenophobia & persecution of immigrants

This Shawnee resident is a philanthropist and business owner. Why did ICE arrest him?

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Stressors in the Street

Race-based harassment & violence

'Biking while black': Chicago minority areas see the most bike tickets
Stressors in the Street

Economic insecurity
What is Mobility Justice in Theory?

“Freedom of mobility may be considered a universal human right, yet in practice it exists in relation to class, race, sexuality, gender, and ability exclusions from public space, from national citizenship, from access to resources, and from the means of mobility at all scales”
What is Mobility Justice in Practice?

- Histories of mobility and immobility matter
- There has not been an equitable distribution of transportation benefits and burdens
- We must increase democratic participation & economic opportunity in developing & maintaining transportation systems
untokening

Principles of Mobility Justice 1.0

*Mobility Justice demands* that we fully excavate, recognize, and reconcile the historical and current injustices experienced by communities — with impacted communities given space and resources to envision and implement planning models and political advocacy on streets and mobility that actively work to address historical and current injustices experienced by communities.

Seek to understand how oppressed communities have survived and thrived in spite of systemic neglect, & how these most vulnerable populations continue to struggle because of structural inequalities.
Learn More

The Untokening | untokening.org
People for Mobility Justice | mobilityjustice.org

Thank You!