Rail-Volution “Making Cities Liveable for Women” 9:30-11:00  Sept 11, 2019
Ellen Woodsworth CoChair Women Transforming Cities International
“Why transportation isn’t working for women and girls”

Slide 1 Women Transforming Cities building Women Friendly Cities

Three overarching world crisis:
  • Climate change
  • Economic disparities (women own only 1% of world’s wealth)
  • Women over 51% of the population are not represented equitably in
governance, policies or funding;

Why do these issues matter to women? Because these issues are not gender neutral.

Strategies to address the major issues of today are failing women because women
and women’s unpaid work are invisible. 60% of the world population will be living
in cities by 2050. Good news 60 % of the infrastructure has yet to be built and we
can be the ones to do it in a way that works for women. Cities that work for women
work for everyone. Women have to be at the table developing the strategies. Women
and girls are 51% of the population but we do not have access to 51% of the world’s
resources but significantly more than 51% of the problems caused by climate change and
lack of transportation are faced by women.
Why does transportation matter to women?
Because transportation is not gender neutral.

What is a solution?

Women Transforming Cities calls for a gender intersectional lens using disaggregated
data on policies, programmes, budgets, funding, staffing and governance in all areas of
city work including transportation. Addressing these issues is an important way to tackle
one aspect of the environmental crisis. Women are rising to demand that our lives and
our solutions are at the table to make the changes that will include all of us.

Slide 2 An intersectional lens is a measurable, time sensitive grid to reflect the
multidimensional lives of citizens.  Crises such as climate change, affordable
housing, violence, situation of refugees, transportation and income impact women
and girls differently than men and boys.

We must add lens such as race, culture, income, paid and unpaid work, ability,
diversity, age etc which often have much more significant and far-reaching effects
that are only seen if looked at with the multiple lens that intersectionality provides.
Professor Crenshaw a black academic who examined the weakness of the women’s
movement that was predominantly white came up with the term said that
“Intersectionality” must be rooted in social justice. She states that it is the location
of being black intersecting with being a woman that creates the oppression that
black women experience. Using an intersectional lens is a strategy to address systemic barriers. Using an intersectional lens is the way to implement useful and effective urban policies. We all access cities and city services in different ways. Women and girls access transportation differently than men and boys.

Slide 3  2014 Hot Pink Paper municipal campaign launch at Vancouver City Hall

Women Transforming Cities brought together key sectors to work on these issues. Electeds, the women's movement, urbanists, academics/students, NGO's, city unions (and the Raging Grannies)

- Women Transforming Cities International Society works locally, nationally and globally
- We are part of a movement of women speaking at UN Habitat, World Urban Forum, Canadian Institute of Planners, Smart Cities, Women Deliver, Feminists Deliver etc.

Slide 4 Ellen Woodsworth Co Chairperson at UN Habitat talking about the “Advancing Equity and Inclusion a Guide for Municipalities”

- 5 Cities and 5 NGO coordinated by CAWI developed “Advancing Equity and Inclusion a Guide for Municipalities” which includes transit;
- We work locally through Pecha Kuchas, forums, talks, media, Facebook, website, twitter and our newsletter. We work internationally through UN Habitat, WUF, Smart Cities and in many other ways.
- Ongoing neighbourhood Cafes held in neighbourhood houses, community centres, art galleries, schools, universities etc.– sharing an issue, listening to local people and coming up with their solutions;

Slide 5 Vienna, Austria has been Gender Mainstreaming for over 30 years

Hot Pink Paper for municipal elections in 2014 and 2018

- We call on all parties and candidates to put a gendered intersectional lens on policy, programmes, budget, funding, staffing and governance
- Out of our local Cafes came 10 key issues to build self identified women friendly cities (Transportation, environment, housing, child care, income, safety, youth, indigenous, immigrant, refugee women & girls) with a background paper for each issue developed with the “wise” practitioners from the women’s movement, up on our website
- Transportation
  1. USE of PUBLIC TRANSIT: More women and girls than men use public transit; 80% of night users of public transit are women, as we are the low income cleaners, sex workers and workers in the bars and other late night businesses; because of our low incomes 51% women don’t
own cars and 50% don’t drive cars; women educate children to use transit;
2. AFFORDABILITY: women have much lower incomes than men, mothers have even lower incomes, 51% of single senior women live below the poverty line so use public transit but even public transit is too expensive for these women and their children, and the majority of women can’t afford regular use of Uber or Taxis;
3. ACCESSIBLE: Public Transit doesn’t go to the places where women need to go ie schools, childcare centres, welfare offices and it is not frequent and 24 hours a day; it doesn’t go to their homes;
4. DESIGN: many women can’t lift their bikes on buses, bike seats and overall design are not for women; women can’t get their walkers, wheelchairs and other mobility aids that the tsunami of seniors, many of them women, are increasing using, onto public transit; public seating at bus stops is too high for women; etc
5. SAFETY! Women and girls often experience sexual harassment on transit, walking or riding bikes. See the CAWI and Ontario Transit safety strategy; Women only buses and cars are used in India and Japan;

SLIDE 6 WOMEN ONLY PUBLIC TRAIN CAR  Tokyo, Japan

6. Management : Gender Mainstreaming in Transportation by Eva Whittbom... a majority of men control the management of transport systems. The Swedish government recognized this as a problem, and a specific policy goal of a gender-equal transport system was introduced into governance of the national transport agencies in 2021:A transport system that is managed by and serves the interests of women and men equally: The transport system shall be designed to meet the transport requirements of both men and women. Women and men shall be given equal opportunities to influence introduction, design and administration, and their assessments shall be afforded the same importance.
The goal is equal division of power and influence.

SLIDE 7 Mayor of Vancouver Commitments to the Hot Pink Paper Municipal Campaign:

• Women Transforming Cities Lobbied all parties and all candidates to support a gendered intersectional lens on the city and put their answers in this framework on our website www.womentransformingcities.org comparing their agreements and differences on issues including transportation;
• We shared their agreements on our website with the public, media, parties and electeds;
• Then we lobbied the Mayor showing him where he had unity in a Council of four different parties and we met with each Councillor to discuss this unity and their commitments including transportation;

• We review each Council agenda and began a campaign of calling, emailing and attending Council meetings in PINK and speaking out and showing them how to put an amendment on their motions and staff reports, held a café teaching others how to speak out at Council;

• May 29, 2019 was a milestone for the City of Vancouver. Based on the support from the Mayor and Council on commitments made during the Women Transforming Cities Hot Pink Paper Campaign 2018 and after several hours of discussions, including questions to former Councillor Ellen Woodsworth, Co-Chair of Women Transforming Cities, the following amendment to the main motion was moved by Councillor Jean Swanson to direct staff to "Develop a comprehensive gendered intersectional strategy with short and long-term goals that are measurable for each department and every strategy and supported for at least 6 years". The amended motion passed unanimously.

SLIDE 8 "Develop a comprehensive gendered intersectional strategy with short and long-term goals that are measurable for each department and every strategy and supported for at least 6 years".

• This means teams from all departments will work together across the City with each department including Engineering, Planning, Social Planning, etc to develop intersectional frameworks measurable each year for six years.

• The Mayor has agreed to work regionally and nationally with other municipalities using a gender intersectional lens.

• Vancouver will join Seoul, Korea, London, England and Vienna, Austria as leaders in gender intersectional work to create women friendly cities

WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS WILL MEAN FOR TRANSPORTATION?

SLIDE 9 – Women Friendly Cities Challenge Home page – 16 Issues

• With women from Seoul, Korea, Malaysia, and the USA, we launched the Women Friendly Cities Challenge an online library of wise practices (an indigenous women taught me that something wise is something we learn from and can apply in our own ways to fit our own situations rather than a best practice which might not apply to all situations in fact might be a poor practice in our home town);

• These 16 categories are tied to the Sustainable Development Goals, CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women) and the New Urban Agenda of UN Habitat,
SLIDE 10 Women Friendly Cities Challenge Transportation Page

- Transportation category has great examples from the Women and Transportation Conference;
- There are so many exciting new examples of organizing around the world that we should share with each other.
- Please do submit your work on the link so others can learn from you.

SLIDE 11 WE CAN ALL DO IT – JOIN US – THANK YOU.