

Omaha

EQUITY LEARNING CAPSULE



WHERE WE STARTED

- Everyone knew someone, no one knew everyone
- Equity is a hard topic to talk about – want to normalize
- Omaha is at a defining moment due to the convergence of several factors:
 - *Recent years brought a significant amount of development and reinvestment in the downtown area*
 - *Last year, Omaha Metro launched the first BRT line (ORBT) along Dodge and Douglas Streets*
 - *Significant long range planning efforts, including MetroNEXT, ConnectGO, and Heartland 2050 are all underway*



WHERE WE LANDED

- A more unified group that is interested in supporting one another and advancing equity efforts in the Omaha-Council Bluffs region
- An interest in collaborating more
- Recognition of the importance of having a shared story: different people seeing the same thing and feeling moved to take action
- Acknowledgement of multiple, disparate conversations happening and an interest in figuring out how/where they come together
- Promise of shared equity metrics – allowing multiple groups to be on the same page re: both need and impact

WHY IT MATTERS

- People planning cities don't look like the people in the city
- You know who you know, you don't know who you don't know
- Moment to reconsider who the street is for, who transit is for, shift car culture mindset
- We can help people understand why investing in transit is important for the region, even if they don't use transit themselves



WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT

- Continue to work towards a shared definition/description of what equity means for us, our work and the communities we serve
- Figure out how this group will stay connected and activated in an ongoing way
- Develop a shared framework to use as a baseline to inform decisions, including transit investments
- Review the equity dashboard being developed by MAPA and continue to refine how we understand, evaluate and measure changes that impact equity, via both hard data and lived experience

