

Planning Institute of BC and the Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers
Fall Conference - Health, Equity and Innovation in the Built Environment
October 10, 2019
Laurel Building, Kelowna

Keynote Presentation

If we build it...who will come? Equity in Spatial Access to Bicycling Infrastructure in Mid-Sized Cities

While planning for bicycling infrastructure is often not driven by equity considerations, there is increasing political pressure to ensure safe access to bicycling for “all ages and abilities”. Local and regional planners and policy makers are being challenged to ask questions like “who benefits most and least from infrastructure investments?” The Impacts of Bicycle Infrastructure in Mid-Sized Cities project address such topics, examining income inequalities in spatial access to bicycling infrastructure in the unique contexts of three mid-sized Canadian cities: Victoria, Kelowna and Halifax. More information on the study: <http://www.sfu.ca/ibims.html>



Presenter: Meghan Winters, PhD

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Dr. Winters is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University, a core investigator at the Centre for Hip Health and Mobility, a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar as well as lead of the Cities Health & Active Transportation Research (aka CHATR) lab. She has a MSc in Health Care and Epidemiology and a PhD from the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia. Her research focuses on ways that cities and their infrastructure can play a role in promoting healthy and safe transportation, for people of all ages and abilities. Dr. Winters provides

leadership for several Canadian-wide active transportation and urban health studies, including the Impacts of Bicycle Infrastructure in Mid-Sized Cities project which she will be presenting on today.

Morning Tours (pick one)

Tour One: Dialing It In: Measuring and Optimizing Existing Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors, Matt Worona and Kamil Rogowski

Bikeways in Kelowna are growing quickly, but often after construction we “set it and forget it.” Through this mobile workshop, participants will *e-scoot* through a project that attempts to make an existing heavily used bikeway work better through targeted design interventions. We will explore how we measure our success today as well as optimize these corridors into the future. Participants will ride complimentary shared e-scooters to explore the corridor. Feel free to bring a water bottle and a helmet (optional).

Presenters:

Matt Worona, Active Transportation Coordinator, City of Kelowna

Matt has years of experience implementing active transportation and transportation demand management programs, policies, and infrastructure. His work in public and non-profit transportation informs his wide-ranging opinions related to micromobility, parking policy, as well as bikeway and urban design.

Kamil Rogowski, Transportation Planner, City of Kelowna

Kamil has experience biking in various cities, advocating for better biking infrastructure in Saskatoon, along with several years of traffic engineering experience at the Government of Saskatchewan. Kamil has gained an aspiration to improve safety and comfort for people walking, biking, and driving. Kamil has managed the project to optimize the Cawston Avenue / Okanagan Rail Trail corridor.

OR

Tour Two: Considerations for Safe Navigation for those with Vision Loss, Brianna McIlquham and Bobby Weir

Vision Loss Rehabilitation British Columbia is a health services organization. We provide training that enables people who are blind or partially sighted to develop or restore key daily living skills, helping enhance their independence, safety and mobility. Our certified specialists work closely with ophthalmologists, optometrists and other health care professionals, providing essential care on a referral basis in homes and communities across British Columbia.

The tour will bring awareness to challenges people with vision loss face on a daily basis, the benefits of Audible Pedestrian Signals and share tools and design information that promote accessibility. There will also be an opportunity for participants to experience navigating the downtown from a perspective of vision loss.

Presenters:

Brianna McIlquham, Specialist, Orientation & Mobility (COMS)

Brianna is a certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist and has been employed with Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada BC since January of 2019 and services the Southern Interior and Northern British Columbia region. She has dedicated many years volunteering her time with the organization in the local Kamloops office and as a board member.

Bobby Weir, Manager, Programs and Services

Bobby has worked for CNIB and now Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada for over 6 years. She oversees the vision loss rehab services within the Southern Interior and Northern BC and is responsible for referrals and registration province wide. Bobby is a guide dog user and has lived experience navigating throughout the community.

Afternoon presentations:

Moving Equity into Planning Action, Katrina Lehenbauer and Anita Ely

Move your equity intention into action with tools and practices to support your everyday decision-making. This session is for planners looking to deepen their understanding of the connections between health, equity and planning. Explore case studies from local communities to understand how they have integrated equity concepts into their planning practices, and the results they have seen from applying an equity lens to their work. The session is relevant to all planning sectors—including the transportation sector—with diverse examples throughout. After this session, you will leave with more tools in your toolbelt, equipped to apply an equity lens in your next planning project. Reference materials and resources will be provided to support you in your equity journey.

Presenters:

Katrina Lehenbauer, Community Health Facilitator, Healthy Communities, Interior Health
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Katrina Lehenbauer is a Community Health Facilitator with Interior Health where she supports local governments and community organizations in the Central Okanagan to create policy and planning documents that support healthy physical, social, and built environments. With a Master in Public Health specializing in Health Promotion, Katrina continually is exploring how to integrate equity into her work.

Anita Ely, Specialist Environmental Health Officer, Healthy Communities, Interior Health
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Anita Ely is an Interior Health Specialist Environmental Health Officer with the Healthy Communities program whose purpose is to create strong collective action to promote, improve and protect the health and well-being of communities through collaboration with local governments and community partners and offering a population health perspective to community planning and design.

Equitable Community Engagement, Sandy Mackay and Melinda Smyrl

What does equity have to do with community engagement? This session will explore how engagement is one of the key pathways to ensure equity along with sharing some best practices for a successful approach. Expand your engagement expertise by matching engagement strategies with the intended target audience. Learn about successful engagement strategies from communities locally and across the province. After this session, you will leave confident in your ability to go beyond “checking the box” of completing community engagement for your project to developing an appropriate, effective, meaningful, and equitable community engagement strategy. Reference materials and resources will be provided to support you in your equity and community engagement journey.

Presenters:

Sandy Mackay, Healthy Community Planner, BC Healthy Communities
sandy@bchealthycommunities.ca

Sandy is a community planner with experience supporting planning processes across British Columbia. He works with local governments, health authorities, and community organizations to develop planning capacity and is passionate about equitable and authentic community engagement.

Melinda Smyrl, Planner and Approving Officer, District of Sicamous

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Melinda is a planner in local government for the past 12 years with an emphasis in small communities. In Sicamous, she supports the Community Wellness Committee in developing and employing effective engagement tools and utilizes these results and experiences to inform the development of the Live More Strategy.

Using Bikeshare Data to Understand Bicycle Traffic in Kelowna, Liza Wood and Mohsen Zardadi

In 2018, the City of Kelowna entered into a license agreement with Dropbike to operate a dockless bikeshare pilot in and around the downtown core. The bikes were tracked by the user's cell phone GPS through the Dropbike app. Kelowna's Active Transportation team recognized that this GPS data could help them better understand the routes used by cyclists which would then inform decision-making for infrastructure improvements. Using current data science techniques, we mapped inaccurate, infrequent GPS points to Kelowna's street and bike path network. With this map, we could understand the traffic volume, patterns and paths of bike share riders and compare it with the City's Eco-counter data. This presentation will summarize how we built that map and helped answer key questions on how Kelowna's streets, lanes and bike infrastructure were being used by cyclists.

Presenters:

Liza Wood

After 13 years in video game development, Liza is kicking off her Career 2.0 as one of the first graduates of UBC Okanagan's Master of Data Science program. An avid cycle-commuter since moving back to Kelowna, she was happy to apply data science to help plan the city's bike infrastructure.

Mohsen Zardadi

Mohsen received his PhD in Electrical Engineering in 2016. In 2018, he decided to expand his skills to machine learning and AI with a Master of Data Science at UBC Okanagan. He is currently combining his image processing experience with these new skills as a Data Scientist at Terrasense Analytics.

Planning with a Winter Lens: Adapting winter city strategies from large urban centres for mid-sized communities, Hailey Rilkoff

Urban planning and design often ignore the cold climate conditions that exist in cities that are located in northern climates. Urban planning and design theories and practices are often borrowed, replicated and altered from one community or region to another. Preliminary research identified examples of large urban centres which are having tremendous success at adapting their cities to enhance livability for residents and visitors in the winter months. My research objective was to explore how small to mid-sized communities can scale the winter city planning strategies that are being undertaken in large urban centres. Using examples of successful winter city planning strategies found in large urban centres, my research is exploring how a small or mid-sized community would be able to implement their own winter city planning strategies. In this session you will hear the results of a comparative case

study between three large urban centres in Canada and three mid-sized communities in the Thompson-Okanagan.

Presenter:

Hailey Rilkoff, Current Planner, City of West Kelowna

Hailey is a recent graduate of the Master of Community Planning (MCP) program at Vancouver Island University (VIU). With a background in tourism, marketing and events, her interest in planning for winter conditions evolved through observations of winter mobility and use of public spaces while living in the Okanagan.

Kelowna 2040: Our Kelowna as we Grow and Our Kelowna as we Move, Robert Miles and Mariah VanZerr

In 2018, the City of Kelowna adopted Imagine Kelowna, which establishes the community's vision, principles and goals for how it will adapt to unprecedented growth and change in the future. Imagine Kelowna's goals include building healthier neighbourhoods, embracing transportation options, and creating a more fair and equitable community.

With this vision established, a new Official Community Plan (OCP) and a new Transportation Master Plan (TMP) are being developed concurrently to guide how the city will change between now and 2040. By working with Kelowna residents and community stakeholders on a series of possible future scenarios, a strategy for how the city will grow and how people will get around in 2040 is taking shape. This strategy focuses on building more vibrant urban centres, providing greater housing variety and slowing outward growth, while providing more transportation options to shift away from Kelowna's car-centric culture. This approach aims to have better outcomes for the health and wellness of all Kelowna residents while creating a more welcoming and inclusive community.

This presentation will focus on the journey of this joint planning process to date and what's next for development of these two plans.

Presenters:

Robert Miles, MCIP, RPP OCP Project Planner, City of Kelowna

Robert Miles has over 12 years experience in community and neighbourhood planning in British Columbia and Alberta. He is part of the Policy and Planning team with the City of Kelowna and is currently working on the development of Kelowna's new Official Community Plan.

Mariah VanZerr, AICP Strategic Transportation Planning Manager, City of Kelowna

Ms. VanZerr is a transportation planner with over 13 years of experience in the public, private and non-profit sectors in both the United States and Canada. She specializes in sustainable and active transportation and is currently the project manager for Kelowna's Transportation Master Plan.