Reconnecting Communities: An Opportunity to Repair Harm

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Congressional Black Caucus Foundation
Environmental Justice

The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies (US EPA).

Environmental Racism

Racial discrimination in environmental policy-making and enforcement of regulations and laws, the deliberate targeting of communities of color for toxic waste facilities, the official sanctioning of the presence of life-threatening poisons and pollutants in communities of color, and the history of excluding people of color from leadership of the environmental movement (Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.).
By Design

Chrysler Freeway construction in Detroit, MI
By Design

Hastings Street, a main street running through Paradise Valley and Black Bottom, predominantly Black neighborhoods in Detroit, MI

Chrysler Freeway, as viewed from the same location
By Design

Demolition for I-75/85 in Atlanta 1950's

State Capitol

Interstate completed, neighborhoods gone.
By Design

“The interstate bridge, erected in 1968 to provide access to New Orleans East and beyond, ran above part of what was once a thriving black community, above what was once more than 150 homes, over what was once the black shopping district with tailors and clothing stores, five-and-dime stores, restaurants. Joseph, Elaine, and Ivory shopped there as children. My mother shopped there when she had children. The neutral ground where the homeless lived in 2008 was lined back then with more than two hundred great oaks - the longest continuous line of oaks to be found anywhere in America - all of them bulldozed to make way for the concrete bridge. MOVE OVER, TREES, read the headline in the Vieux Carré Courier, which could afford to be flippant. The French Quarter avoided a similar expressway that would have wiped out the neighborhood, but the city’s political and business elite put up a winning fight; for the bridge on Claiborne, there was a battle, too, but black people - underresourced and overextended - had bigger wars to win, like basic civil rights. The bridge won” (Broom, The Yellow House, p. 272).
By Design

Calvin Gladney
@SmartGrowthCEO

Name a highway that razed or divided a Black or brown neighborhood in your city, or a city you know. I’ll start: I-95 through the Overton neighborhood, in Miami, Florida. Tag someone.
@atlurbanist @BethOsborneT4A @CityFoodLover @ctbrown1911 @DrDesThePlanner @andrepperryedu @rbttwo

Smart Growth America @Sm... 10 Dec 20
Interstate highways were often intentionally placed to raze or divide Black and brown neighborhoods. It's long past time to repair the damage. Read new @T4america & @ThirdWayEnergy policy proposal. bit.ly/2VX...
Consequences

• The consequences of freeway investments include:
  • Automobile-dominated transportation system
  • Restricted mobility
  • Stolen wealth & concentrated poverty
  • Increased air & noise pollution
  • Heightened risk of pedestrian injuries
Air Pollution

- 24% Percent of African-Americans living near highly trafficked roads
- 9% Percent Black adults with asthma
- 14% Percent Black children with asthma
Percent of traffic-related pedestrian deaths that are African-American: 18%
Reconnecting Communities

Black and brown neighborhoods have been disproportionately divided by highway projects or left isolated by the lack of adequate transit and transportation resources.

In the Biden-Harris administration, we will make righting these wrongs an imperative.
Watch a recording of the May 19 webinar. Use Passcode: xY2t?p3$

View and download the slide deck from the May 19 webinar.

**What is an Eligible Facility?**

A highway, including a road, street, or parkway or other transportation facility, such as a railroad track, that creates a barrier to community connectivity, including barriers to mobility, access, or economic development, due to high speeds, grade separations, or other design factors.

**Funding Available**

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Source: https://www.transportation.gov/grants/reconnecting-communities
I-81 proposed boulevard Source: James H Kunstler
Completed Projects

BOSTON | THE BIG DIG

CHATTANOOGA | RIVERFRONT PARKWAY

MADRID | MANZANARES RIVER BANKS

MILWAUKEE | PARK EAST FREEWAY

PORTLAND | HARBOR DRIVE

PROVIDENCE | I-195

ROCHESTER | INNER LOOP

SAN FRANCISCO | EMBARCÁDARO FREEWAY

MONTREAL | BONAVENTURE EXPRESSWAY

NEW YORK CITY | SHERIDAN BOULEVARD

OAKLAND | MANDELA PARKWAY

PARIS | POMPIDOU EXPRESSWAY

SAN FRANCISCO | OCTAVIA BOULEVARD

SEATTLE | ALASKAN WAY VIADUCT

SEOUL | CHEONGGYE FREEWAY

Source: cnu.org
Legacy

1959 map of proposed freeways in Seattle. Source: nextcity.org