

February 2021

20 years strong AMERICA WALKS

Black Voices on Movement, Mobility, Investment, Identity

This month we decided to feature lessons of Black History through some of the prominent Black voices in our sphere. People we've had the pleasure of listening to and learning from on our various webinars and interviews. This is not an exhaustive feature but a brief, collective call to change straight from our most versed leaders – those who live and lead at the intersection of Black lives and walking and moving or biking, urban planning, mobility justice and much more.

Please give this important video compilation a chunk of your time today and share it with others who might need to view it (everyone). Check out [our YouTube videos](#) for the full recordings of these pieces.



Watch the Video

It's Been One Year Since Ahmaud Arbery Was Killed While Jogging

ON AHMAUD

The Ahmaud Arbery killing is a tragic reminder that for many it's not just automobiles that make streets unsafe.

As walkable community leaders and advocates we must acknowledge the traumatic ways that black, indigenous, and/or people of color are experiencing the public right of way and make sure our voices and recommendations acknowledge the structural racism that undermines safety.

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Last Call for Walking College Applications – Extended To Monday!

The power of grassroots advocacy to affect real change – that is our creed. If you want to learn how to change the world in the pivotal space where our active transportation systems collide with social justice, equity, climate, health and more – apply for the Walking College. [We've extended the application deadline to Monday, March 1st.](#)

This six-month training is for anyone looking to hone their skills and knowledge around creating vibrant, safe, engaged and accessible communities by making lasting changes to the built and policy environments.

Watch the video to get a feel for the culture and ethos of what the Walking College is all about. Click below to learn more and apply.



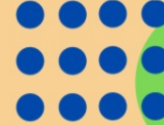
[Learn More and Apply By March 1st!](#)



We can re-imagine our streets if we embrace the simple philosophy of 'streets for people'.

- Evren Sönmez, 2015 Walking College Fellow

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Could You Be a Walking College Fellow? Read Our 'Stories from the Walking College' Series.

Our new, in-depth miniseries features past Fellows from the Walking College and highlights the details of the people-first work they've gone on to activate in their local neighborhoods.

If you're interested in learning more about the Walking College program or possibly applying, reading these stories is a nice way to get an intimate read on this deeply educational, fun, relationship-based leadership program - straight from the Fellows themselves.

Read the Walking College Stories: Why Evren Sönmez Advocates 'Streets for People'

The MUTCD.
The Manual that Undermines
Terrific Community Design?

submit
YOUR STORIES

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The Most Important Pedestrian Safety Document You've Never Heard Of!

We're thrilled about the opportunities with a new administration – from funding sidewalks and transit, to removing urban highways, to better pedestrian safety plans. But there is one Federal Highway Administration document that is critical to getting great local streets – the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

If you're a local advocate, you may already be aware of it. For example, if you want a crosswalk, perhaps you've been told "sorry, it does not meet the warrants." Essentially, the manual is often where terrific community design ideas go to die.

We want to help change this and we need your help. Please tell us your MUTCD horror stories by clicking below. Even better if you can send us pictures or videos of what you wanted, and what you ended up with, because of the outdated manual. It will inform our advocacy and we'll share the best stories on social media, in our general communications and with the Federal Highway Administration.

[Read the Blog and Share Your MUTCD Story](#)

Did You Miss Our February 22nd Webinar, The Biden Administration and Transportation Policy?

You all busted the ceiling on our webinar limit for this one – thank you for showing up with so much enthusiasm and curiosity for what future federal leadership holds for walkable communities and accessible, multi-modal, climate-conscious transportation.

We know that the time to act for people-first policy changes is now. And it's time to hold our leadership accountable for that action. Thanks to our amazing panelists for giving us the tools, ideas and energy for how to move forward with possible actions. Watch the webinar by clicking below, this is one you don't want to skip.



[Watch the Webinar Recording](#)

Did You Miss our February 10th Webinar, What Can a Body Do? How We Meet the Built World – a conversation w/ Author Sara Hendren?

Sara Hendren, author of *What Can a Body Do? How We Meet the Built World* and design researcher at Olin College, shared stories and examples of the generative, surprising, and universally human ways we can all think and plan anew about the design of our homes, workplaces, city streets and more.

Claire Stanley, Public Policy Analyst at the National Disability Rights Network and long-time blind and visually impaired advocate joins the conversation and offers her experience and expertise during the Q and A session for the second half of the webinar.

This was a fascinating and pertinent discussion in both humanism and urbanism.



[Watch the Webinar Recording](#)

REGISTER NOW

Storytelling for Active
Transportation
Advocates

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Mark Those Calendars:

March 1st: Walking College Applications are due! [Apply here.](#)

March 17th: How can we reach more people and convince them of the benefits of inclusive and accessible walkable communities? We've put together a panel of creative and experienced communicators to share their ideas about how to cut through the clutter and move people to action. [Register for our next webinar.](#) Storytelling for Active Transportation Advocates.

Happening now: The AARP Community Change Challenge Grants are open! These grants fund "quick-action" tangible demonstration projects in communities across the US. This is the fifth year of the program, and a key part of AARP's broader Livable Communities effort, which seeks to support local leaders to create great places for all ages. [Apply here.](#)

Content of the Month:

- [African American Transportation History/ American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials \(AASHTO\)](#)
- [Ten Ways to Commemorate Black History Month in National Parks/ NPS](#)
- [Infrastructure Built by Enslaved People Still Creates Wealth in US Cities/ Next City](#)

- [Outdoor Afro Connects Black Americans With Nature / wbur](#)
- [Equity Summit Recap Materials / Smart Growth America](#)
- [Racial Equity in Public Policy Message Guide / Voices for Healthy Kids](#)

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