



Exploring Human Rights in Transportation/Mobility Plans and Policies

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Background and Purpose

Access to public transportation is a fundamental to social and economic inclusion in society. Yet, in many places transportation systems reflect deep-rooted inequalities and discrimination. While research on public transportation and justice is expanding, the relationship between public transportation and human rights (HR) is an area that warrants comprehensive exploration and better understanding.

Purpose of the research project

- explore how an HR approach to public transportation can help to advance the integration of equity and justice into public transportation planning and urban mobility policy
- analyzing how public transportation is integrated into globally emerging urban HR policies, frameworks, and strategies.

Research Questions

1) International and national frameworks on HR for public transport systems and urban mobility:

RQ1: How are the broader international and national declarations of HR (e.g. the right to freedom of movement) interpreted, integrated, and translated to concrete policies for public transportation planning and urban mobility?

2) Discrimination and marginalization

RQ2: How do the policies and plans based on an HR approach address discrimination and marginalization related to public transportation and mobility in terms of HR?

3) Public transport access and urban planning

RQ3: How is the spatial distribution of public transportation access addressed? How is spatial discrimination in the public transportation system counteracted?

4) Environmental aspects

RQ4: How are environmental concerns of public transportation addressed in terms of equity and HR?

Previous Research on Public Transport, Social Justice and HR

- An expanding field focusing on ***inequalities and injustices*** of various kinds in transport planning and transport systems (Martens 2011, Lucas 2012), e.g. transport poverty (Lucas et. al. 2016); gender inequalities (Levy 2013); minority and racial inequalities (Golub et. al.2013); income and class inequalities (Mohall 2021); transport-induced gentrification and displacement (Sandoval 2021); transit boosterism, uneven development, uneven mobilities (Semiatycki 2011, King & Fisher 2016, Olsson & Thomas 2024); governmobilities, decolonising perspectives (Schwanen 2018, Barber 2020)
- An emerging variety of ***justice approaches and concepts*** for understanding and evaluating transport policy, transport planning processes, and transport systems
 - egalitarianism, distributive justice and capability approaches, focusing on accessibility of transport services, eg. access as a human capability (Pereira et. al. 2017, Melin 2020)
 - environmental justice approaches focussing emissions and negative impacts (Gaffron 2012)
 - the mobility justice paradigm, based on relational ontologies and the ‘spatial turn in social sciences’ (Sheller 2018, Enright 2019)
 - ‘the right to the city’ (Coggin & Pieterse 2015, Attoh 2019)
 - ***Human Rights-based approaches - an area that warrants comprehensive exploration and better understanding*** (Martínez et. al. 2023)

Human Rights-Based Approaches to Public Transport

An emerging transport research field focusing on public transport as a universal service accessible for all in a non-discriminatory way “with the ultimate goal of full inclusion, cost and time-wise in particular, enabling full appreciation of life – education, work, enjoyment, and leisure” (Kose 2017).

Focus areas of present research

- right of equal access to public transport for specific groups: people with functional variations/disabilities (Kose 2017, Jacobs 2018, Wayland et. al. 2022), children (Grant-Smith et. al. 2017), minorities, women and vulnerable groups (Martínez et. al. 2023); also prohibition of discrimination in PT systems (Korže & Tucak 2021)
- conceptual contributions on how access to non-discriminatory public transport can/should be understood as a universal human right (Sanchez 2007, Korže & Tucak 2021, Martínez et. al. 2023).

Our contribution

- empirical study of the integration of human rights policies into public transportation policies and plans in *Human Rights Cities* (cities taking front runner positions)

Human Rights Instruments

International HR - main multilateral treaties

1. **The International Bill of Human Rights** including:
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): 1948
 - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR): 1976
 - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR): 1976
2. **International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination**: 1965
3. **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women** (CEDAW): 1979
4. **Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment** (CAT): 1984
5. **Convention on the Rights of the Child** (CRC): 1989
6. **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families** (ICMW): 1990
7. **International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (CRPD): 2006

Regional HR treaties

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man
- American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José)
- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women
- European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)
- European Social Charter
- Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
- Arab Charter on Human Rights
- ASEAN Human Rights Declaration

Containing app. 140 rights statements

Linking HR to Public Transport: Six HR Areas

1) Right to freedom of movement

- right to life, liberty, and personal security
- right to freedom of movement

2) What PT access enable for the individual (i.e. what rights can be enjoyed through the provision of PT)

- right to work
- right to education
- right to public health, medical care, social security, and social services
- right to live independently and be included in the community /
- right to participate in public life / right to take part in cultural life
- right to participate in recreational activities
- right to personal mobility
- right to public goods and services

3) The conditions for individuals to use PT

- right to non-discrimination
- right to personal security
- right to respect
- rights of the child
- rights of minorities

4) Democracy and individuals' participation in PT planning processes

- right to participate in public affairs
- right to express views

5) The impact of PT on the environment

- right to a healthy environment

6) PT as work environment

- right to just and favorable conditions of work

Research Design and Method

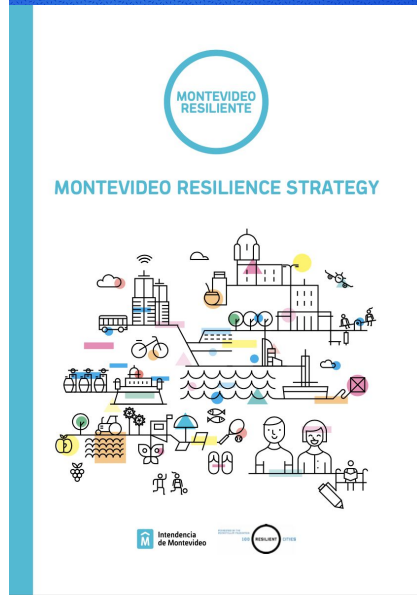
Desk study including:

- 1) A comprehensive review of the existing knowledge on the topic, covering research within legal studies, urban planning, sociology, and transportation studies. Grey literature covering the relationship between HR and public transportation will also be reviewed.
- 2) A comparative review of local statutes, policies, frameworks, and plans promoting HR as guiding principles for public transportation planning and urban development as well as the operation of the public transportation system.

Data collection and analysis

First selection: Human Rights Cities (cities with local HR statues or systematic integration of HR in policy): 42 HRCs (6 African, 7 Asian, 9 European, 14 North American, and 5 South American cities). The initial review has shown that integrating public transportation into policies varies from not mentioning public transportation to addressing public transportation briefly to applying a strong focus on public transportation.

Second selection: A comparative review of the Human Rights Cities addressing HR in transportation plans.



NORTH AMERICA	EUROPE	AFRICA
Edmonton, Canada ✓	Lund, Sweden ✓	Walewale, Ghana
Montreal, Canada ✓	Nuremberg, Germany	Korogocho, Kenya
Winnipeg, Canada ✓	Terrassa, CA, Spain	Thies, Senegal
Washington, DC, USA	York, UK ✓	Timbuktu, Mali
Carborro, NC, USA	Bihac, Bosnia	Musha, Rwanda
Chapel Hill, NC, USA	Graz ✓	Mogale, South Africa
Richmond, CA, USA	Utrecht	ASIA
Eugene, OR, USA	Vienna ✓	Gwangju, South Korea
Boston, MA, USA ✓	Barcelona ✓	Seoul, South Korea
Pittsburgh, PA, USA ✓	SOUTH AMERICA	Nagpur, India
Seattle, WA, USA	Rosario, Argentina ✓	Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Jackson, MS, USA	Montevideo, Uruguay ✓	Wonosobo District, Indonesia
Edina, MN, USA	Santa Cruz, Bolivia	Bojenogoro District, Indonesia
Mountain View, CA	Porto Alegre, Brazil ✓	Bandung, Indonesia
	Temuco, Chile ✓	

Research Design and Method

2) Review of local statues, policies frameworks and plans

Equity Evaluation Framework based on plan quality evaluation framework (Lyles and Stevens 2014, Stevens et. al. 2014)

- 1. Evaluating equity, justice and HR awareness in transportation plans:** Do the policies/plans acknowledge specific groups underserved in PT systems and/or at risk of discrimination?
- 2. Scrutinizing the strength of equity, justice and HR-related policies:** Do the policies/plans include policies dedicated to addressing HR concerns? What is the strength of the language used and what commitment to addressing equity, justice and HR does the language reflect? What is the clarity and precision of the policies? How well are HR-related policies related to the broader goals of the transportation plans?
- 3. Inclusivity in decision-making processes:** Do the policies/plans acknowledge and involve specific vulnerable and marginalized groups in the public consultation/engagement processes? Do the policies/plans define a mechanism representation and active participation of
- 4. Assessing the practical application of equity policies**
- 5. Monitoring and evaluation: ensuring accountability and continuous improvement**

Research Design and Method

2) Review of local statues, policies frameworks and plans

Key indicators

Mention of Specific Groups
(Dis)ability
2SLGBTQIA+
Elderly
Low Income
People of Colour (POCs)
Women
Youth
Strength of Policy Wording
Encourages Equity
Mandates Equity
Mention of Equity
Presence of Public Engagement
Implementation Plan
Intent to Implement ERP
Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Evaluation scale

0	No consideration of equity in the policy content
1	Consideration of equity in the policy content but lack of significance when compared to other subjects.
2	Good consideration of equity in policy content and good level of significance when compared to other topics

Research Design and Method

2) Review of local statues, policies frameworks and plans

North American cities - document selection

Edmonton, Alberta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Way We Move Transportation Master Plan (2009) • Transportation Strategy Plan (2018)
Winnipeg, Manitoba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transit Master Plan (2021) • Plan 20-50 Regional Growth Plan (n.d.)
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Envision 2070 (2021) • Active Transportation Plan (2020)
Richmond, California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Mile/Last Mile Transportation Strategic Plan (n.d.) • The General Plan 2030 (2012)
Montreal, Quebec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2050 City Vision Plan (2022) • 2030 Mobility Policies (n.d.)

Result of protocol

	Edmonton	Montreal	Pittsburgh	Richmond	Winnipeg
Mention of Specific Groups	55	67	66	7	37
(Dis)ability	7	10	9	1	10
2SLGBTQIA+	2	10	6	0	4
Elderly	15	9	7	1	2
Low Income	10	9	15	1	6
People of Colour (POCs)	3	9	9	0	4
Women	6	15	9	2	9
Youth	12	5	11	2	2
Strength of Policy Wording	6	6	13	4	6
Encourages Equity	1	1	5	2	3
Mandates Equity	5	5	8	1	3
Mention of Equity	0	0	0	1	0
Presence of Public Engagement	16	9	5	0	6
Implementation Plan	79	9	26	53	14
Intent to Implement ERP	79	9	26	53	14
Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	2	0	6	2	3

Results: North American Cities

- Edmonton and Pittsburgh demonstrate commendable consideration for specific demographic groups, emphasis on equity, strong wording regarding equity considerations, but there is room for improvement of public engagement strategies
- Richmond and Winnipeg show limitations in explicitly recognizing and prioritizing the needs for marginalized communities, they would need more comprehensive inclusion measures

Score breakdown and final score

	Mention of Specific Groups	Strength of Policy Wording	Presence of Public Engagement	Implementation Plan	Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	Total Score
Edmonton	2/2	1/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	9/10
Winnipeg	1/2	1/2	1/2	2/2	1/2	6/10
Pittsburgh	2/2	2/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	7/10
Richmond	1/2	1/2	0/2	2/2	0/2	4/10
Montreal	2/2	1/2	1/2	2/2	0/2	6/10

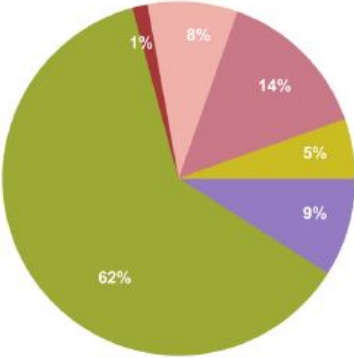


Richmond First Mile/Last Mile
Transportation Strategic Plan
Final Report

February 2019

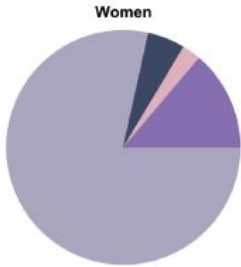


Results: South American Cities

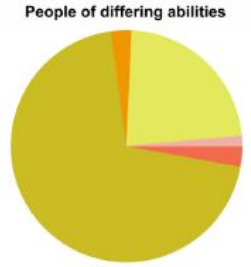


Mention of Specific Groups

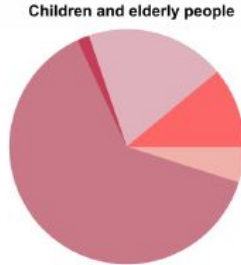
- Women
- LGBTQ2S
- Terms of equity and inclusion
- Race/ethnicity
- Lower socioeconomic status
- Students
- Childern and elderly people
- People with differing abilities



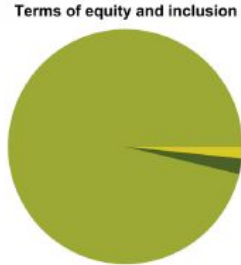
- Mujer(es)
- Mujeres embarazadas
- Femenino
- Desigualdad/equidad de género



- Personas con necesidades especiales de movilidad
- Discapacidad(es), discapacitado(s), incapacidad(es), invalidez, invalido(a)
- Invidente (s)
- Personas con movilidad reducida, personas con capacidades especiales
- Personas con discapacidad motriz



- Personas/grupos/usuarios vulnerables
- Niños/niñas
- Menores de edad
- Persona(s) mayor(es), adultos mayores, ancianos, tercera edad
- Gente joven, jóvenes, juventud, población joven



- Inclusivo
- Equitativo
- Seguro/a, Seguridad

- Race/ethnicity
- Persona/gente de color
- LGBTQ2S
- La comunidad LGBTQ

- Students
- Estudiantil, estudiante (s)
- Lower socioeconomic status
- De bajos ingresos, los pobres, ciudadanos de bajo poder adquisitivo, hogares de menores ingresos

Next Steps

Coding the remainder of the plans

Writing a peer-reviewed article and summary report for K2

Pla de Mobilitat Urbana 2024

Ens movem cap al futur de manera més sostenible, segura, saludable, equitativa i eficient



Pla Estratègic
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Questions/Comments?

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