



# FOCUS CITIES PROJECT

FUNDING FOR THIS PROGRAM WAS PROVIDED BY A GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY, THROUGH THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

## HOUSEKEEPING

- Participants are muted by default. We have enabled video to facilitate our roundtable discussion.
- We welcome you to share the experiences of your organization and community during this time by typing in chat. During the discussion section, we will call on and unmute participants who have shared in chat, one at a time, so that they can personally expand on their remarks.
- Note that the webinar is being recorded and will be posted to the SafeTREC YouTube channel at a later date.
- We will send follow-up materials (recording link, slides, resources) after the webinar

# INTRODUCTIONS



**Maria Ruvalcaba Gomez**  
Youth and Community Engagement  
Coordinator, KidWorks



**Maryann Aguirre**  
Project Director, People for Mobility  
Justice



**Esther Rivera**  
Interim Executive Director & Deputy  
Director, California Walks

# COVID-19 Impacts

## Challenges in times of Social Distancing

Esther Rivera



Our Vision:  
Freedom to  
Move and  
Freedom to Be

**“...we cannot move freely when we feel vulnerable and unsafe while walking on our streets. And we cannot live freely when we feel threatened or unwelcome for simply being in public space.”**

**[www.CalWalks.org](http://www.CalWalks.org)**



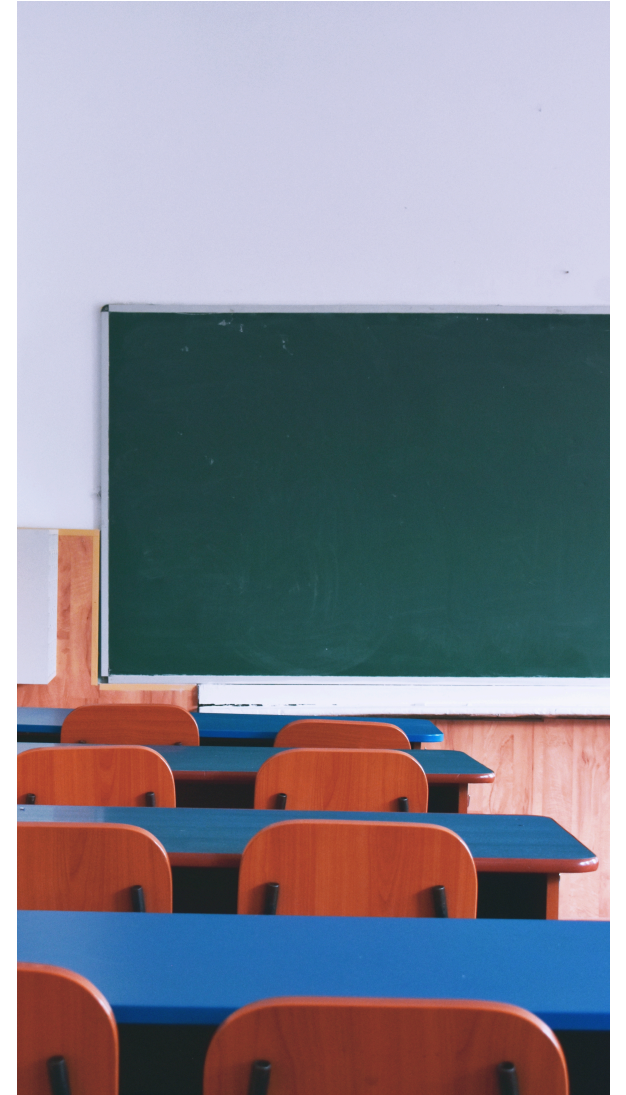
# Changes in our traditional work

- How do we engage community?
- How do we support immediate needs?
- How do we ensure we are keeping an ear-to-the-ground?



# Challenges & Barriers

- Shifting needs of community
- Understanding the mobility needs of community
- Thinking outside the box – short and long-term impacts



# Thank You!

Esther Rivera  
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# Sharing Stories and Strategies: A Collective Discussion About COVID-19 Challenges



**Presented by:**  
Maryann Aguirre  
People for Mobility Justice  
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# Land Acknowledgments





# Introduction

@ElRandomHero

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a red jersey with yellow trim, is seen from the side, looking at a large community map. The map is orange and blue, featuring various icons like a house, a car, a person, and a bicycle. It also shows street names like 85TH ST, 87TH ST, and 92ND ST. The map is part of a larger display, possibly at a community meeting or a public space. The background is a solid orange color.

**As BIPOC we seed critical  
consciousness about Mobility  
Justice across all communities.**

**We envision a world where  
people have the freedom and  
resources to move in public  
spaces with love & dignity.**

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## Rest In Power Ahmaud Arbery

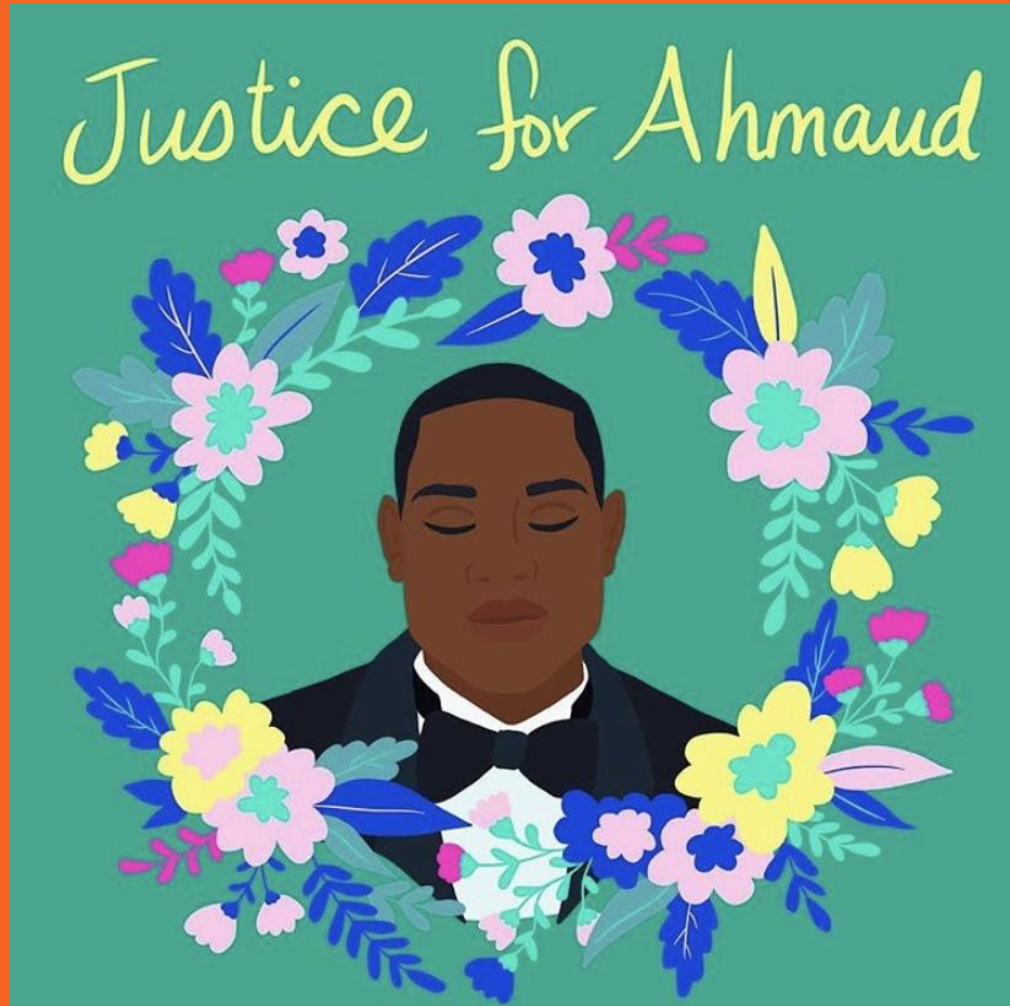


Photo By: Shirien  
Damra

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# Mobility Justice & COVID-19

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# Capacity, Challenges & Importance of Collaborations

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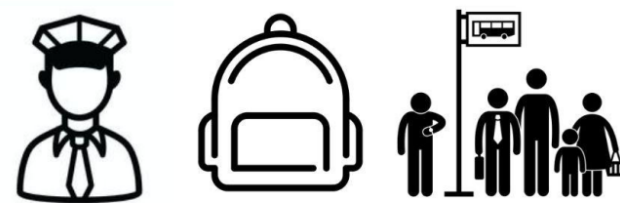
# HEALTHY & SAFE TRANSIT

IS



- PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR DRIVERS & TRANSIT RIDERS
- FREQUENT SERVICE TO ENSURE SOCIAL DISTANCING
- SANITATION STATIONS AND CLEAN RESTROOMS
- FARE FREE TRANSIT

IS NOT



- POLICING TRANSIT RIDERS
- ONE BAG POLICY
- REDUCED SERVICES THAT PREVENT SOCIAL DISTANCING
- CONFUSING BUS FARE POLICY

# Conversations & Comments on Long Range Transportation Plan





- Remember all your partners!
- Remember all those that struggle to get us where we are today
- Remember that we are talking about real people's lives
- Remember we have a responsibility to our utmost to improve the safety and quality of life of those with the least



**Maria Ruvalcaba Gomez**

**Youth and Community Engagement Coordinator**

# Walk with Families

- local non-profit organization in central Santa Ana
- From Pre-K through BA: Life-ready, Learners, and Leaders
- State Pre-School AM & PM sessions
- After School Tutoring Program (K-12<sup>th</sup>)
  - 4 community-based centers around the city
- Arts, Partnership Events, Field Trips, Summer Program
- Youth Leadership Programs– internal & external
- College and Career Readiness
- Parent Engagement Programs



# Youth Empowerment Network (YEN)

- Team of youth leaders dedicated to creating a healthier, safer, and more active Santa Ana
- Safe space for youth to become aware of political, societal, and economic issues that affect communities of color
- Their main goal is to create long-term systemic change within the city and school district to create a positive and lasting impact in their community
- Through their community involvement, civic engagement, and youth organizing campaigns, these youth develop leadership, personal, and professional skills that are vital to the molding of their morals and values, and are crucial to their academic and career goals
- Advocating for: healthy food access in schools and around their neighborhoods; safer streets and alternate modes of transportation; more green open spaces and youth recreational activities/spaces; housing, rent, immigration, and so much more!



# Creating a Healthier, Safer, and more Active Community

- Youth advocate for safer street infrastructure and open spaces to increase families' level of activity and alternative modes of transportation
- Accomplishments
  - Survey collection and GIS mapping of street safety → \$2.3 million dollar grant for street improvements and bike lanes (2012-2015)
  - Keynote Speakers at National Youth Bike Summit Minneapolis, Minnesota (2016) and recognized as OC's 100 Most Influential people (2016)
- Current Work: Safe Skate
  - Create awareness and inclusion of skateboarding in Active Transportation
  - Skatepark Design Visits, Community Survey, GIS mapping of skate "hotspots"
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> place in California Geographic Alliance & Esri statewide competition
  - Advocate for more safe skate spaces in Santa Ana's existing and future parks
    - 3 new safe skate spaces coming up!



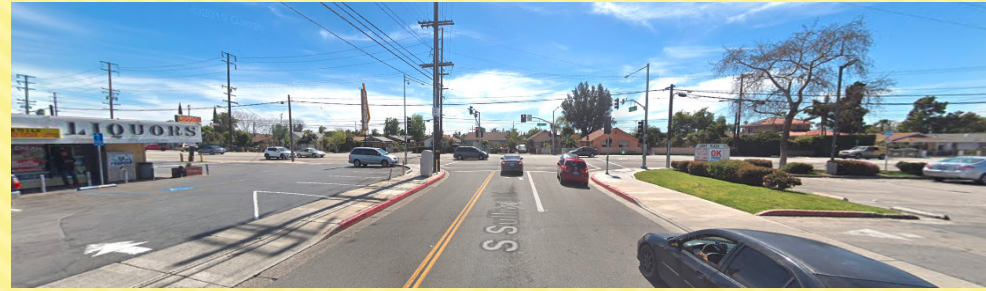
# Covid-19 & KidWorks

- Direct Services– food distribution in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, Bracken's Kitchen, and neighborhood food pantry
- Wellness check-ins w/ 300+ families every 2 weeks & check-ins with youth
- Online virtual tutoring through Zoom  
& Engagement through Class Dojo & Instagram
- Connect to Resources & Support in the community for parents, college students, high school youth, and community members



# Youth Experiences Outside

- Many Santa Ana families are renters living in crowded apartment complexes in unsafe neighborhoods
- Overwhelmed with rent, food, unemployment, schoolwork, health, personal family issues, etc.
- Capturing their surroundings
  - showcase the not-so-subtle health, safety, and environmental disparities in different neighborhoods and areas around the same city
  - Through the lens of youth who walk, bike, and skate on their routes to schools, community centers, parks, churches, stores, and many other places they frequent, the youth want to showcase the various notable issues that should be addressed to improve their health and living conditions.



Youth Empowerment Network  
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Thank you!

## OPEN DISCUSSION

- We will start by sharing a few COVID-19 experiences that were shared with us via survey. If anyone who contributed via survey is willing to expand on what you told us, we would welcome your contribution!
- In the meantime, please share your own experiences in the chat. We will begin calling on some of those who share in the chat box to see if you would like to be unmuted to tell us more about what you are sharing.

# OPEN DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Please say your name and identify or describe the organization you are with or the community you serve.
- How has your work changed with physical distance requirements and travel restrictions? What challenges are you and your organization facing?
- What challenges is the community you work with facing? What would be helpful to the community?
- What are alternative ways you are continuing your work? What challenges are you finding with some of these alternatives?

## CLOSING REMARKS

- Thank you for sharing your experiences and time with us today.
- Our final Focus Cities webinar of the year will be on June 18. In it, Walk San Francisco and other local community partners will discuss their work as part of the Tenderloin Traffic Safety Task Force.