Nurturing Citizen Planners: The toolkit

Better Streets Week
Oct. 26, 2015

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How can *citizens* & government partner to make a *livable* community?
Overview

• Everybody Counts
  – Strava
  – CounterPoint
  – Ride Report

• Messages Matter
  – Streetmix
  – Twitter

• Summary
Where & How Much Bicycling?

Government Approaches

Count technology has evolved to provide a range of options, but limited funding affects the extent and frequency of counts (Griffin et al. 2014).
Why Crowdsourced Planning?

“The wisdom of crowds principle suggests that, in some situations, groups of individuals in the aggregate may solve problems better than individual experts or panels of experts negotiating solutions.” (Brabham et al, 2014)
Everybody Counts—Strava

- An early test in Austin showed Strava reflected ~5% of path users at 5 sites, whereas a major GPS study obtained <1% (Griffin in press)
Everybody Counts—Counterpoint

counterpointapp.org/
Everybody Counts—Ride Report

Only in Portland, OR currently. [https://ride.report/](https://ride.report/)
Messages Matter

• Data is just that—how do citizens influence planning decisions?
  – Inside, and outside, the box.

• New media:
  – Streetmix
  – Twitter
“I miss the GW parkway bike path in DC. Austin’s great, but nothing like an 18 mile paved, straight-ish, scenic, safe (no cars) bike path.”

• “What’s the best surface to ride on? Does paving make a big difference to you in bike trail design?”
Welcome to Streetmix.

Design, remix, and share your neighborhood street. Add trees or bike paths, widen sidewalks or traffic lanes, learn how your decisions can impact your community.

Start by moving some segments around with your mouse.

streetmix.net
Delivering Results
Delivering Results

• **Ask local planners** about how bicycle counts are used for prioritizing projects.

• **Present your results** to planning boards—even when it conflicts with *status quo*.

• **Coordinate meetings** with stakeholder groups & local officials.
Summary

• How can you work with government and citizens to make your community more livable?
  – Everybody Counts
  – Messages Matter
  – Crowdsourcing platforms enable answers to new, re-framed questions
References


Questions?

The mission of the Public Engagement Planning program is to advance the practice of public engagement through research and innovation. [tti.tamu.edu/group/pep/](http://tti.tamu.edu/group/pep/)

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