POLICY, POLITICS AND PROCESS:
THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CYCLING EQUITY IN WINNIPEG, MB

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This is the master of city planning | city-7050 capstone project

Research Methods:
- Semi-structured interviews
  • with two planners, two planning consultants, three city councillors and two bicycle advocates
  • transcribed and coded to identify themes
- GIS Analysis
  • mapped investments found in the budget analysis
  • calculated the breakdown of bike investment across the city by wards and census tracts

Research Questions:
1. What are the most important components of an equitable bike system?
2. What are the main obstacles to pursuing and achieving an equitable bike system?
3. Has Winnipeg’s bike system become more equitable since the Winnipeg Pedestrian and Cycling Strategies were adopted in 2015?
4. What is necessary to overcome barriers and provide an equitable bike system in Winnipeg?

Key Finding 1:
Six years on from the adoption of the WPCS, the City of Winnipeg has spent approximately 75% of the amount suggested by the plan.

Key Finding 2:
4/6 Census tracts identified as the most needful of bicycle investment in the WPCS received no investment during the study period.

Key Finding 3:
The people planning, funding and advocating for Winnipeg’s bicycle system see equity as broadly important to the city, but many do not think the system is more equitable now than in 2015.

Conclusions:
Competing Priorities and Political and Funding Bottlenecks in Winnipeg’s Bicycle Planning Process Systematically Dilute its Focus on Equity.

Winnipeg needs to place a greater focus on the equitable distribution of cycling’s benefits throughout the planning and implementation of its bicycle network.

This requires a better understanding of the systemic obstacles to equity in cycling, including in politics, policy and development.

Total investment by census tract, 2015 - 2020

Total investment by electoral ward 2015 - 2020

WHAT WAS BUDGETED FOR CYCLING?

Total Annual Public Bicycle Investment
(Budgeted amounts in specified locations)

WHERE WAS IT BUDGETED TO GO?

WHAT DID PARTICIPANTS SAY?