



Transit & Active Transportation: Pathways to Opportunity, Mobility and Accessibility for All

**Shireen Malekafzali
Associate Director
PolicyLink**

**Panel: Is the Sky Falling? An Update on the Transportation Debate in
Congress**

**February 2, 2012
Partners for Smart Growth Conference**

PolicyLink

A national policy and research institute dedicated to economic and social equity.

Center for Infrastructure Equity

Works to ensure investments in infrastructure create opportunity by increasing racial and economic equity.

Center for Health & Place

Works to create neighborhood conditions that encourage health and equity.

Transportation is Access

- Transportation is access.
- In an auto-centric society, many are left out.
 - People of color have limited access to cars
 - Poverty compounds the problem
 - Elderly and disabled populations drive less



By the Numbers: Transit/Active Transport and Equity in America

- 7.5 mil** The number of people who do not own a private vehicle
- 19** The percent of African Americans who live in a household where no one owns a car compared to **13.7 percent of Hispanics** and only 4.6 percent of non-Hispanic whites.
- 60** The percent of households without vehicles who have incomes below 80 percent of their regional median income –cities and suburbs
- 19** The percent of households making less than \$25,000 per year, and do not own a vehicle.
- 13.2** The percent of trips African Americans in urban areas make on foot or by bicycle, as compared to **12.6 percent for Hispanics**, and 9.6 percent for non-Hispanic whites.

By the Numbers Cont': Transit/Active Transport and Equity in America

42 The percent of their total annual income that low- and moderate-income households spend on transportation

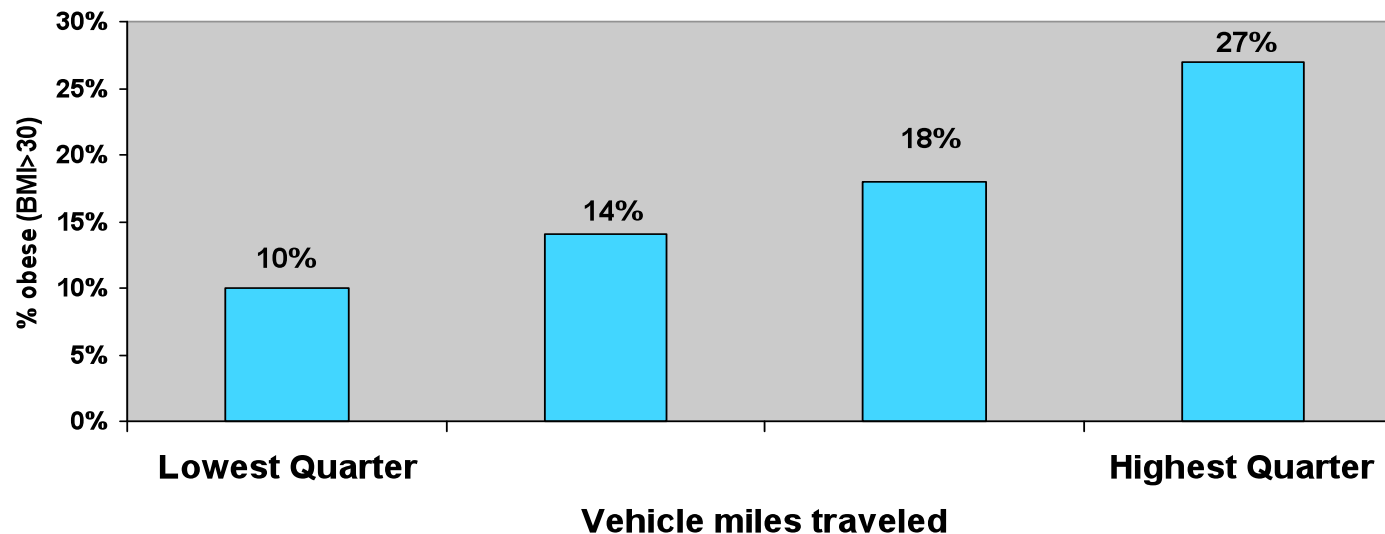
3 The average number of AAs and Hispanic pedestrians, per 100,000 people, that are killed each year in traffic crashes, as compared to an average of 2 per 100,000 for non-Hispanic whites

\$5,000 The amount that a family making \$35,000/year can save in transportation costs when living in walkable, bikable neighborhoods with good transit.

50 The percent of older people in the U.S. staying home on a given day because they lack transportation options.

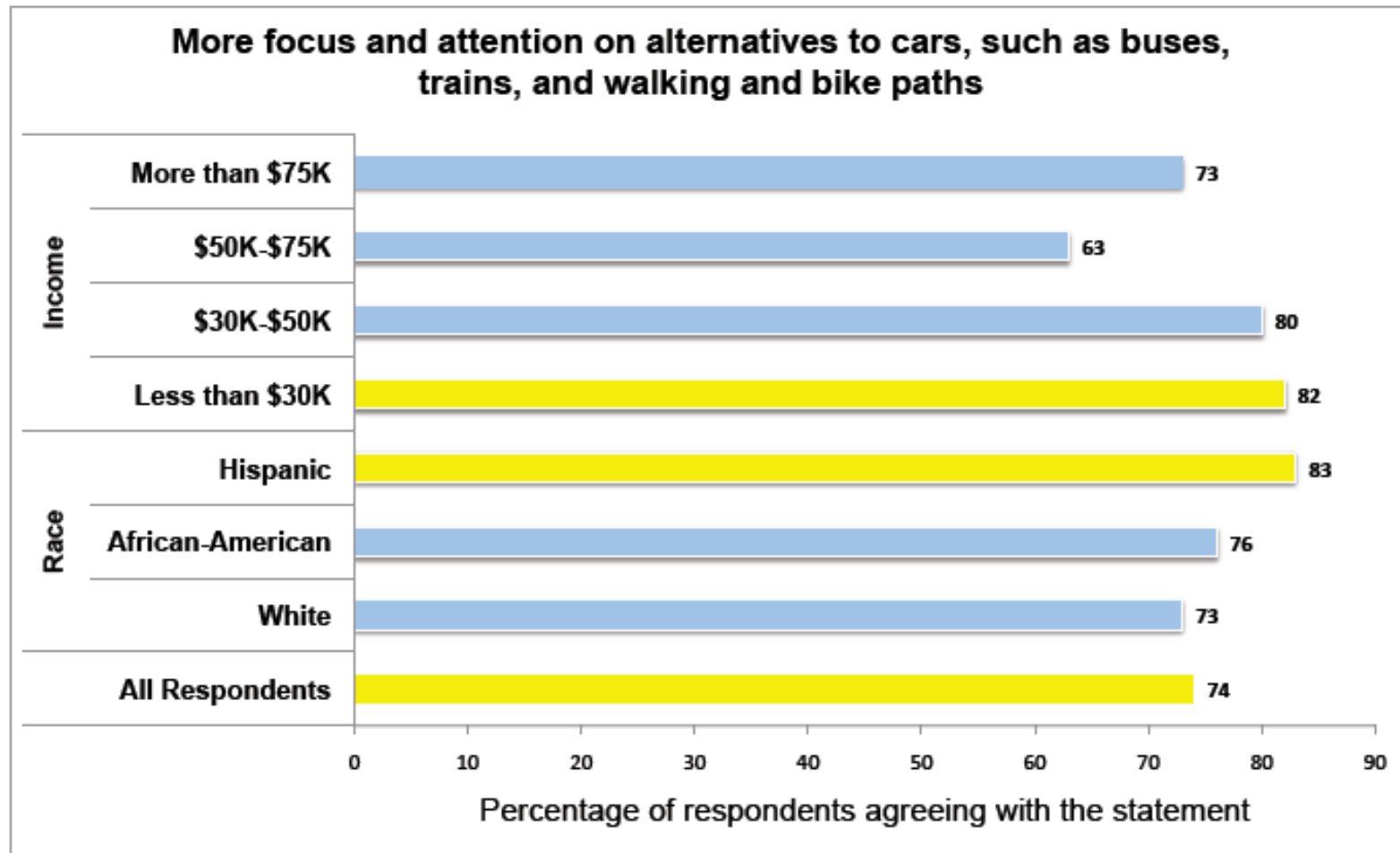
- Driving can increase the risk of obesity by 6%
- Walking reduces obesity
- Public transit riders are more physically active

Driving is a risk factor for obesity



Source: Lopez-Zetina, Health and Place, 2006 6

Interest in Transit & Active Transport



Source: Rockefeller Foundation Transportation Survey
Conducted by Hart Research Associates and Public Opinion Strategies

By the Numbers: Transit/Active Transport and Equity in America

- 80** The percentage of the nation's transit system are considering or have recently enacted fare increases or service cuts.
- 0** The amount of funding for Transportation Enhancements Program in the House T&I draft.
- 0** The amount of funding for Safe Routes to Schools in the House T&I draft.
- 0** The amount of flexibility for communities of 200K and more to use capital transit funds for operations.

- **Maintain/Expand funding for rural and urban transit**
- **Support emergency transit operating assistance**
- **Support active transportation: Protect Transportation Enhancements and Safe Routes to School**
- **Maintain Amtrak funding**

Advancing Equity in the Federal Transportation Bill

- **The Equity Caucus at Transportation for America** — formed by the nation's leading civil rights, community development, racial justice, economic justice, faith-based, health, housing, labor, environmental justice, tribal, public interest, women's groups and transportation organizations — drives transportation policies that advance economic and social equity in America.

www.t4america.org/equitycaucus



Shireen Malekafzali
PolicyLink

510.663.4332

shireen@policylink.org

www.policylink.org