

WEBVTT

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00:00:49.240 --> 00:00:51.549

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: Hello, everyone! Let's get started

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00:00:52.160 --> 00:01:03.310

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: first up. Thank you. Everyone for joining. My name is Carolyn Chung, and I am the senior public engagement associate here at spur. Thank you for joining us for this digital discourse today.

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00:01:03.320 --> 00:01:05.550

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: Many of you are spur members.

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00:01:05.620 --> 00:01:22.859

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: So we and thank you for your support. If you are not a member, I encourage you to join to support spurs, ongoing work with using education, policy, analysis, and advocacy to make our cities and regions more prosperous, sustainable, and equitable places to live

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00:01:22.930 --> 00:01:34.700

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: your financial support and encourages us to renew our work, including the hosting of programs like today's. You'll find more information about membership online at spur, org slash join.

6

00:01:35.110 --> 00:01:40.600

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: We also have another. Another digital discourse scheduled for Wednesday, August 20. Third.

7

00:01:40.690 --> 00:01:55.019

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: we'll be looking at how the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted transit's business model, and how Toronto, the United Kingdom and Germany are addressing the challenges register. Today we will drop the link in the chat.

8

00:01:56.510 --> 00:02:05.589

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: Today's digital discourse is called book talk, inclusive transportation, a manifesto for dividing repair for repairing divided communities.

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00:02:06.380 --> 00:02:13.060

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: The now transportation planning has often had destructive consequences for underserved communities.

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00:02:13.210 --> 00:02:22.900

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: Veronica Davis would like to shed light on those inequalities in her new book. inclusive transportation, a manifesto for repairing divided communities.

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00:02:22.940 --> 00:02:34.520

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: Veronica lays out her vision to bring about a new era of transportation planning. During this webinar. Veronica will explain why centering people in transportation decisions

12

00:02:34.600 --> 00:02:40.500

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: will require great shift in how transport a transit planners and edge engineers are trained.

13

00:02:40.530 --> 00:02:42.030

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: how they communicate

14

00:02:42.090 --> 00:02:46.720

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: the types of data that they collect and how they work as professional teams.

15

00:02:46.810 --> 00:02:56.200

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: She'll define what equity means for a transportation project and how it can create something safer, better and more useful outcomes for all people.

16

00:02:56.380 --> 00:03:02.230

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: This QA. Will be moderated by pusida Rudder, the director of public engagement here at Spur.

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00:03:02.500 --> 00:03:23.310

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: We would like today's Qa. On today's discourse to be an interactive conversation, and planned on spending time as much as possible engaging with you all. So I encourage you to use the chat box here to share your thoughts with each other and with the speakers, encourage you to submit any questions that you may have by using the QA. Panel.

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00:03:23.350 --> 00:03:29.429

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: It should appear as a button at the bottom of your screen, or if you are using the mobile app on the top of your screen

19

00:03:29.500 --> 00:03:36.089

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: within the next few days we'll be sharing a copy of the recording Transcript and chat with everyone who registered

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00:03:36.150 --> 00:03:39.389

Carolyn/SPUR Public Programs: with that I will turn it over to Veronica. O Davis!

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00:03:45.110 --> 00:04:11.240

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Good afternoon. I'm gonna share my screen. I hope everyone is doing fabulous. It has been 100 plus degrees in Houston. We got a little bit of a break, and it's been like in the nineties. So I'm just gonna take it for what we can. So good afternoon, everyone. I'm Veronica Davis. Some of you may know me. I just wanna confirm that you can see my screen.

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00:04:12.780 --> 00:04:13.650

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Yes.

23

00:04:14.690 --> 00:04:32.320

Veronica O. Davis, PE: okay, great. Thank you. Nina. So I will tell you. We were just talking about how one of the challenges one of the great things about webinars. It has allow us to engage globally in different conversations. But the challenges is that you miss?

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00:04:32.320 --> 00:04:53.780

Veronica O. Davis, PE: The head nods in the body language. As you're talking so please. I love a good emoji. I love reactions. You could do it. Amen. You could do a girl you trip in. You could do it. Speak to my soul. However you want. Please please engage in the chat, and then save the QA. In the QA. So, please, and let's get rocking and rolling.

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00:04:54.470 --> 00:05:03.089

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Oh, and also too. So here's the thing. You got to stay to the end of the presentation because there is a discount

code. But you only get the discount code if you stay to the end.

26

00:05:03.190 --> 00:05:23.699

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And don't go sharing it, they have to listen. So first, this is a presentation. This is a picture of where I grew up. I'm from a little itty, bitty town called Maplewood, New Jersey. Those are Jersey people may know but it is a little bit little itty, bitty town outside of New York City, a bedroom community.

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00:05:23.700 --> 00:05:48.520

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And it was a really great and walkable place to grow up. I walked to elementary school. I walked to high school until I got a car. But it really was a really great place to grow up, and it informs a lot of my thinking about towns. I know, Jason, all, Dean said. Try that in a small town while I'm from a small town. And I will say, depending on your age. Andrew, Andrew and Elizabeth Shoe went to my high school.

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00:05:48.520 --> 00:06:00.560

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Lauren Hill went to my high school, sizzle, went to my high school, Jack Braf. So we produce good people. So I am just happy to be one of the good people that also get got produced from Columbia High School.

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00:06:01.060 --> 00:06:17.549

Veronica O. Davis, PE: This is a photo of a black woman bike so I am one of the co-founders along with in, say, Ufoot and Najima Washington, and it started as a conversation. And I'm sure many of you may have heard this story before, if not, I definitely have Youtube videos with it.

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00:06:17.550 --> 00:06:36.969

Veronica O. Davis, PE: But really, why I continue to put this I've stepped out of the leadership role and I am excited. That black women bike is thriving even with the founders the co-founders no longer being engaged. But it really was about getting black women specifically on bikes for transportation, fun, health, wellness.

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00:06:36.970 --> 00:06:47.580

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so one of the things that we were able to accomplish is not just getting women who look like me, younger women, maybe women who are a certain level of fitness.

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00:06:47.580 --> 00:07:13.759

Veronica O. Davis, PE: But really getting a lot of older women. We attracted a lot of young retirees. Who then went on to become. You know, licensed, certified instructors who then encouraged other people to bike, and so, recognizing, I needed to step back and allow them to be the face of the organization. And so it's really great to see them. Continue to thrive. This is me as a kid. Why I like this picture because I feel like I was a cute kid.

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00:07:13.930 --> 00:07:35.999

Veronica O. Davis, PE: 2. I can't touch my toes in this picture. But I am a certified yoga instructor, and I say that because a lot of times people think about Yoga as just the movement but it really is a bigger framework. And so one of the frameworks is around how we treat others. And one of those principles that I love to talk about is ahmsa, and that means non harming.

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00:07:36.000 --> 00:07:50.070

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so that is what I attempt to do while I'm off the you on the yoga mat, but also even off the yoga mat is. As I approach this work. I'm not gonna say I'm I'm not perfect. I actually have a typo in my presentation. I'm not perfect.

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00:07:50.070 --> 00:08:14.279

Veronica O. Davis, PE: but it is a everyday attempting to be non harming and that's what I poured in. A lot of my book are ways that we, whether we are engineers, planners, advocates, journalists, politicians, how we could actually truly serve our communities and attempt in order to not continue to harm the same communities over and over again.

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00:08:14.640 --> 00:08:41.959

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Okay, let's rock and roll. So the book. So hopefully, you've had the book. But understand, if you haven't so this is just the table of contents of the book. So this is gonna be the teaser of what to expect. First of all, the forward is by Tamika butler. I know that she is very known particularly around the globe. She's a super, awesome, awesome, awesome person, part of my brain and heart. Trust I am Texy with Tabika

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00:08:41.960 --> 00:09:03.659

Veronica O. Davis, PE: constantly, and I am honored that she wrote the forward and you know, and really poured herself into the book. And I will say it wasn't just that she wrote the forward. She actually read one of the versions of my book provided different feedback. So I

really am always appreciative of Tamika. Love, love, love, love, love, love, love, love, love, Tamika

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00:09:03.730 --> 00:09:05.460

Veronica O. Davis, PE: in the preface

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00:09:05.520 --> 00:09:33.929

Veronica O. Davis, PE: I talked a little bit. And 1 one person, a black woman particularly, came up to me at a conference, and one of the things that she said to me was she felt like the preface was like a love letter to women, to black women to black people? But in the preface I talk a little bit about the writing process, and how I was ready to give up. Because who am I to say that I'm the expert? Right? It's I remember being in planning school. You read these books by people who've been dug experts.

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00:09:33.930 --> 00:09:48.689

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and I never questioned how or why they became the expert. And you know for me it was like, Well, why is anybody gonna listen to this book like, how do I become an expert who defines what an expert is. And I had a lot of self doubt.

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00:09:48.730 --> 00:10:04.020

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so and I have a lot of I was ready to give up, and a lot of. And so in the look in the preface I talk about that about the honesty about. I know that once I put this out in the public sphere, I am held accountable for my own words.

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00:10:04.020 --> 00:10:20.460

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and you know that is, you know, very important that I I'm gonna be hold accountable for the words I put on paper. So I just had a lot of anxieties and self doubts. But pushing through that because self doubt is an enemy that's always gonna hold you back if you listen. And so continuing to push through. So that is the preface.

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00:10:20.710 --> 00:10:48.429

Veronica O. Davis, PE: the introduction. I talk a little bit about just where we are as the transportation industry. So I talk a little bit about autonomous vehicles and my opinions, you know of them good, bad, and otherwise. I talk about you know you know what happened with Covid, and how Covid really exposed the inequities of our cities, of all of our communities.

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00:10:48.430 --> 00:10:55.840

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And we didn't we still not doing anything about it? If you know particularly. You know, public transportation systems shut down.

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00:10:55.840 --> 00:11:25.660

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Because no one's going to work. Yet there were essential workers continuing to go to work. And yes, doctors and nurses, but also the people who keep hospitals and doctors, offices clean. The janitorial staff, the security staff they were still showing up, and that that inequity was shown of. They had no way to get to work, and we're still expected to show up to work. So that's a little bit how I frame just the overall introduction of why this book is needed now, and hopefully, into the future.

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00:11:25.860 --> 00:11:48.790

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Chapter one. Transportation is personal, and so over off as you get into the chapters one through 6, I structure them where I give my thoughts. But I give you space for reflection. I did not want a book that you read it and pat yourself on the back, cause you did the equity. No, we're not doing that. We are going to put in this work.

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00:11:48.790 --> 00:12:16.679

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so what that means is, you need to have the space and time for reflection. And so I start off. In Chapter One. I talk about my journey both as my family and I'll share a little bit more about my family and the impacts of transportation on my family. I talk about growing up. I showed you the picture of Maplewood, New Jersey. I talk about my travels and things that you experience and I invite you as a reader to talk about your transportation story.

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00:12:16.680 --> 00:12:22.280

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and it doesn't have to be anything tragic. It doesn't have to be anything dramatic. It's just

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00:12:22.280 --> 00:12:49.600

Veronica O. Davis, PE: how did you move growing up? Why, how do you move today? And why do you make those choices? I think sometimes we are aren't conscious of those things. And a couple of my readers have shared with me that you know stories of grandparents who were killed, and and traffic related crashes before they were even born, and the impact of not even knowing this grandparent in person. So really, just taking that time to invite the reader to reflect on their story.

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00:12:49.850 --> 00:13:11.499

Veronica O. Davis, PE: In Chapter 2. Equity is more than a baseball graphic. I know many of us, and you can give a thumbs up if you know exactly the graphic that I'm talking about where you have 3 people attempting to look at a baseball game. They're all on boxes that are the same height, and they're watching the game, and that is equity is equality, as everyone gets the same.

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00:13:11.500 --> 00:13:29.259

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and then they give bikes. Boxes according to height, and into every equity is everyone gets what they need. And so we love this graphic. I mentioned to Mika, and also my friend Vaidette Gavin, who explored like, who even said they wanted to watch a baseball game to begin with.

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00:13:29.330 --> 00:13:40.260

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so part of that is exploring. How can we really talk about equity and the challenge that I have with the overall definition of everybody gets what they need.

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00:13:40.320 --> 00:13:51.520

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Cities cannot give everybody what they need. We don't have the people. Cities don't have the financial resources, the contractors, the consultants, to give everybody what they need right now.

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00:13:51.550 --> 00:14:05.380

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so I introduce equity as a way of how do we be actually truly begin to prioritize. And that framework. Sorry you're gonna have to read it to understand what I did. But it's good. It's a good chapter. It was one of my favorite to write.

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00:14:05.940 --> 00:14:15.039

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Chapter 3. Should there be a war on cars? I don't answer the question. I don't dislike cars.

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00:14:15.110 --> 00:14:16.450

Veronica O. Davis, PE: but

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00:14:16.580 --> 00:14:44.879

Veronica O. Davis, PE: if we look at facts, not alternate facts,



although we don't talk about alternate facts anymore. Although it's not alternate facts when you look at the facts. Cars. Are they polluted? When we look at our traffic, related crashes. You need a car. The happy traffic related crash most of the time. And so I just talk about the overall impact that cars have on our society. And then I tie it back to people. And the impact that cars have on people.

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00:14:44.880 --> 00:15:11.090

Veronica O. Davis, PE: I know that for children, as an example, it's a back and forth between cars and guns, of which one is the number one killer of children. I'm not sure it where it stands this year, but they keep battling back and forth, and that is not a good thing in either case because they're both preventable. So I talk a little about about framing the problem of how we have built our cities, built our communities and the impact that it has on people and communities

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00:15:11.300 --> 00:15:21.730

Veronica O. Davis, PE: in chapter 4. And I'm going to go a little bit more in this. Within this presentation is power, influence, and the complexity of people. So we're gonna stick a PIN in that

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00:15:21.850 --> 00:15:35.629

Veronica O. Davis, PE: chapter 5 is bringing it all together. And that's where I talk about one of the challenges of the industry is that we have a planning or a design process that goes on one track.

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00:15:35.810 --> 00:15:39.419

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and then, even with some of the best engagement on a separate track.

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00:15:39.430 --> 00:15:52.509

Veronica O. Davis, PE: They don't always inform each other, so sometimes we can have really bad engagement, or sometimes we have really great engagement, but it doesn't help us inform the design. And so you still end up with frustration from the community.

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00:15:52.510 --> 00:16:09.499

Veronica O. Davis, PE: So I talk a little bit about how to really, truly bring those processes together so that you are working with the community on how to engage in a project and then learning to be honest with the community when something can't be done, and saying Why, that thing cannot be done.

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00:16:09.500 --> 00:16:17.390

Veronica O. Davis, PE: So I talk about that in Chapter 5, and then rounding it out in Chapter 6 is what I'll talk about today as well. The task ahead.

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00:16:18.270 --> 00:16:38.810

Veronica O. Davis, PE: So how we've designed our systems. This is, you know, an archetype of what we consider the American dream. So if you look at American history and I'm not a hit, a true, true historian. But when you look at the just the bigger points of history. We had the Civil War. From there we went into reconstruction

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00:16:38.810 --> 00:16:48.489

Veronica O. Davis, PE: officially, but layered with that you had Jim Crow, and then you had around the 1,900 thirtys this introduction of the American dream

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00:16:48.520 --> 00:16:58.060

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and so with the American dream it was, you could have a house, a picket fence, your 2 kids. Maybe you have a dog, a cat.

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00:16:58.120 --> 00:17:01.839

Veronica O. Davis, PE: mostly dogs, but you know, whatever. That's the American dream.

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00:17:01.850 --> 00:17:12.940

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And the interesting thing. This is a screenshot of my computer from Google. When you Google American dream ads, it always shows a white family.

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00:17:13.020 --> 00:17:42.910

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so that is how we designed our system. There are. There's plenty of information out there that I reference in my book around redlining around white flight. And all of these things that are very well documented about the impact of the real estate industry and moving people to different neighborhoods. But even just you think about marketing. We marketed the dream. And that dream was marketed to white families. And the interesting thing as you Google.

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00:17:42.910 --> 00:18:02.049

Veronica O. Davis, PE: American dream ads. There's this one picture that shows up that has people of color. And they're in a food line

with this American, you know, kind of dream ad in the background. And that's really the only thing that I was able to find. If you can find something else, please share it with me. Around the American dream.

72

00:18:02.220 --> 00:18:19.180

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so these things had real implications and real impacts. So what I have here is a parcel map. This is from 1960s. In Louisiana, East Baton Rouge, Louisiana. That is where my family is from, and it's very faded because it's an old map.

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00:18:19.240 --> 00:18:25.900

Veronica O. Davis, PE: But what you see is a parcel map. and very, very faintly on top of that. Is this shadow.

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00:18:25.930 --> 00:18:45.490

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And that's what planners love to do. We love to Dylan abstract. So it's the shadow. And what that is is a shadow of how the planners of that time majority white men, all white men, probably were thinking of Interstate i. 10 through East Baton Rouge.

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00:18:46.410 --> 00:19:05.569

Veronica O. Davis, PE: So this is a picture. You! There are 2 Arrows, and those arrows go to a property that was owned by my family on the front part of the property was my great-grandmother's house, that up until I was about 9 years old she lived in that house, so I remember as a child visiting my grandmother, who lived under the highway.

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00:19:05.650 --> 00:19:32.670

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And then the arrow is the back part of the property, and that is where my mother grew up, and when my mother was a teenager her house was taken and and I haven't been able to find records of compensation, and my mother and her would have been too young to remember, and unfortunately my grandparents are no longer living. So maybe they got compensation. Maybe they didn't. But largely. This is a was a black and Italian neighborhood.

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00:19:32.670 --> 00:19:55.909

Veronica O. Davis, PE: My mother went to St. Francis Xavier High School, that the church, the community, came together to build this new high school for the church. You know. And my mom went there. She started in freshman year, so she was the first class to enter and the last class to leave. When she graduated they tore down that brand new high school, built mostly for black and Italian kids for the Interstate.

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00:19:56.200 --> 00:20:09.919

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so this is a picture of my uncle cause I got my receipts once you think I'm making up a story. This is a picture of my uncle at my great grandmother's house. there, that was eventually taken.

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00:20:09.950 --> 00:20:27.589

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so this is that same property today. And so there is a tree where my grandmother's house once stood. There's also a little bit of an irony in that since then that the area underneath, which had 1 point had houses. Has been converted into a park

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00:20:27.590 --> 00:20:33.369

Veronica O. Davis, PE: as an amenity for the community. And so I think there's there's a a wrestle there

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00:20:33.370 --> 00:20:57.939

Veronica O. Davis, PE: of an amenity for the community when the community was destroyed. And there are many people who still live in that community today. Who remember my mother, who is very much in her right mind, remembers it to the day, and then we have family stories I haven't been able to verify of Trucks going off the highway in the back of my great grandmother's house when she lived there full of cows. That they fell off the highway.

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00:20:58.150 --> 00:21:11.330

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And unfortunately. You know, the Louisiana Department of Transportation is looking to expand the highway right in this location, which continues to harm the same communities over and over again.

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00:21:11.590 --> 00:21:40.400

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so a little bit about chapter 4. And again, this is just a big picture, snapshot. So this is a photo of people, some really beautiful people. I had an opportunity to get to know. In Salzburg, Austria, and Salzburg Global Seminar, which is the meeting of the minds. You might recognize some people for those of you know. Tamika. She's right up front in the pinkish red jacket. And so what we came together, and it was a conversation about equity

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00:21:40.400 --> 00:22:05.950

Veronica O. Davis, PE: of the built environment. And really the impact

on public health. So in this photo represents people who are advocates, people who are engineers, planners, people on the public health side. There were a few doctors there, people involved in government, and so we came together to have a conversation, and one of the things that came really apparent as you're dealing with people from all over the globe

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00:22:05.970 --> 00:22:07.140

Veronica O. Davis, PE: is

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00:22:07.300 --> 00:22:27.210

Veronica O. Davis, PE: there was this language around. Oh, racism and race is a United States issue. We don't have these issues. And we heard that particularly from many people in the year, from the European delegation. And so it was challenging because they were like, Oh, no, we don't have this type of issues. And it's like, Okay.

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00:22:27.820 --> 00:22:42.490

Veronica O. Davis, PE: you say so. And so what we did was we came up with a framework. That's a list of questions that's available on British Medical Journal. I do reference it in the book and it was a framework to truly understand what is power and privilege.

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00:22:42.630 --> 00:22:59.049

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so in that we came up with our definition of power. And so power is defined as the ability to direct laws, policies, and investments that shape people's lives. And so, even for me, in the role that I sit in there is there's power in that.

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00:22:59.050 --> 00:23:18.999

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And the people that report to me there's power. And so everyone has a certain level of power. And so we were just in examining that of helping people understand the power that is available to them. Even if you are a journalist, you have the power of the pen. You have the power to help people understand a narrative, you have the power to shape a narrative.

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00:23:19.000 --> 00:23:37.920

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Advocates every day. There is a power it can feel. I know what it is. I am an activist as well, and I have an activist side. It can feel like you're like Sisyphus, where you're constantly pushing the ball uphill, and you're not getting to the top. But there's still a power of being able to have a seat at the table. Sometimes you have to snatch it

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00:23:37.940 --> 00:23:43.700

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and then privilege, and that is an accumulation of benefits of special rights.

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00:23:43.720 --> 00:24:09.159

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so, even with this, having people examine the privilege that they have. You know, for me, I have a privilege of today. I'm an able-bodied person. I can't quite see without my glasses, but that is a privilege to be able to not have to worry about. Is there a curve cut? Is the side? Does the sidewalk have a tripping hazard? Because I can just keep moving. And so there is a privilege in that, and understanding that for each of us we do have certain levels of privilege.

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00:24:09.330 --> 00:24:20.520

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And then we came up with the framework of one we talked to your safe spaces, but really creating brave spaces. And what brave spaces do it allows us

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00:24:20.520 --> 00:24:34.919

Veronica O. Davis, PE: the opportunity to make mistakes like we're trying to get it right. We're trying to learn. We don't have to have the perfect language as long as we continue to try, as long as we are willing to listen, as long as we are willing to accept correction and feedback.

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00:24:34.920 --> 00:25:00.750

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so, really, having those brave spaces. To have these types of conversations. I was understanding the power and the role that power plays in our work. And then, lastly, was analyzing power and privilege. And so I say all this to say that I talk about it in the book, but I also use that as my framework for stakeholders, and I really see that there's stakeholders generally fallen for buckets, and I'm sure there's other buckets you could create.

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00:25:00.760 --> 00:25:07.310

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so one bucket is the people in power. Those are people that have the ability to make a decision.

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00:25:07.310 --> 00:25:31.129

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Those are the people that sometimes have the ability to speak for a community. I remember in my old neighborhood I

have a woman named Ms. Gladys. She was the unofficial mayor, may mayor of neighborhood, and if she supported something the community would show up to support. She didn't support it. The community would show up to oppose. But every community that we work in that has that like unofficial neighbor, where they have power that has been given to them somehow.

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00:25:31.130 --> 00:25:49.270

Veronica O. Davis, PE: But they do have that power. But then you have your people, the obvious people, the elected officials, people that send an agency head. And so one of the things that I invite in the book is to interrogate of how do you who influences that person's decisions. And then how do you sometimes get to the people that can influence that decision.

99

00:25:49.290 --> 00:26:06.779

Veronica O. Davis, PE: but also understanding what motivates that person in power. How do you address something to them? I think sometimes, and I've done it in my past. You know my advocacy had where you demand things, and sometimes that doesn't work for some people. But how do you really reach the people in power? And so interrogating that

100

00:26:06.980 --> 00:26:23.560

Veronica O. Davis, PE: I talk about the naysayers? So I know we've all heard the term not in my backyard, which originally started, because people literally didn't want things in their backyard, and we're talking things that were dangerous to their life. Whether it was, you know, landfills

101

00:26:23.560 --> 00:26:45.149

Veronica O. Davis, PE: highways, and all of those things that were true things. But I know that many people on here, and I'm sure I'm gonna get some thumbs up on this experience where people just don't want anything like they don't want to lose up a single parking space. They don't want to be delayed a single minute. They do not want to be inconvenienced. No, put that bike lane somewhere else.

102

00:26:45.160 --> 00:27:11.609

Veronica O. Davis, PE: I support transit over there. And so those daysayers, I talk about them, and they are a complicated bunch. Because there are some. It doesn't really matter what you do. They're just the answers not always gonna be. No, they have a way of life. That they are comfortable with. And they do not want anything to change. I saw recently, I believe it was San Francisco, where they

were carrying a casket down the street for the death of 80 parking lots.

103

00:27:11.610 --> 00:27:17.400

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so it is. A parking space is rather, and so change is scarier. So understanding the naysayers.

104

00:27:17.400 --> 00:27:27.569

Veronica O. Davis, PE: but also understanding some of the naysayers, where it may not necessarily be a no, it is. I am unsure.

105

00:27:27.820 --> 00:27:45.679

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and I just have some questions, or I have some concerns. And so I talk a little bit about that of how do you really get to like what is the root? Cause? Sometimes the first thing that comes out of their mouth is a red herring, and you gotta get to the root of the root of what is their real issue? And can you actually address that issue.

106

00:27:45.850 --> 00:28:00.210

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And sometimes it's as simple as they've been fighting for something for 10 years, and no one's listened to them. And so now you're coming to talk about bus rapid transit. And they're like, I don't really care about your bus rapid Transit. I just want my stop sign that I've been asking for since 1983.

107

00:28:00.220 --> 00:28:25.439

Veronica O. Davis, PE: So just really just get an understanding of what is motivating the naysayers. Then there's the champions. I'm sure many of the advocates on here fall in the champion category. I talk about the champions even for the champions. How to be a really good champion, because yes, there is a time where you gotta yell. You gotta demand but there's also a place for advocates to be trusted, advisors to people who

108

00:28:25.440 --> 00:28:37.959

Veronica O. Davis, PE: in power, whether it's people in agencies, whether it's elected officials. To be that trusted advisor that gets you. That gets you audience, if you will, with the people in power. And so I talk a little bit about that.

109

00:28:38.280 --> 00:28:58.919

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And then, lastly, most important, as I started



out with Ahimsa, and making sure that we are always keeping people at the forefront. It's the silently suffering. It's those people with every public meeting, the passionate champions are there. The passionate naysayers are there.

110

00:28:58.920 --> 00:29:16.800

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and there are these people in the middle who are just trying to survive every day. And so they are the silently suffering. And as I started off when we talked about Covid and those hospital workers who didn't have the privilege of being a doctor, or maybe even a nurse, couldn't get to work.

111

00:29:16.800 --> 00:29:35.650

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so they're the ones that silently suffer we forget about because we're so focused on people who are trying to get to work. 9 to 5. But we forget about people who work shifts, who maybe travel overnight in order to get their place of employment. And so they're constantly suffering. They're constantly left out of conversations.

112

00:29:35.650 --> 00:29:49.730

Veronica O. Davis, PE: But it really is about as planners. If we can't reach them, making sure that we're just elevating our consciousness to always think about them. How does this project improve their life? How could this project hurt their lives?

113

00:29:49.970 --> 00:29:57.400

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so with that chapter 6, it's called The Task Ahead, where the work begins. And I have a call to action.

114

00:29:57.620 --> 00:30:16.329

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and so I'll talk a little bit through this. But you don't have to read to get the full stuff. So on the call to action, I talk about moving quicker, and I think this is just a challenge of transportation. It is slow. And even when governments wanna move fast, it moves slow, and it's it's always this dance cause when you move too fast

115

00:30:16.330 --> 00:30:37.540

Veronica O. Davis, PE: you have the community they're like. No, no, no, you move too fast. Then when you slow down and you're methodical, then it's you're moving slow. So you're always trying to find that balance of how can I move quicker? How can I can get things done faster? How can I solve these problems? And so it really is the call

to governments to just explore that and I know that can be hard. But just a call to explore that

116

00:30:37.570 --> 00:30:59.179

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and I talk about directing a vision. I think again, one of the challenges of transportation is we project from where we are today. So we say today, we have a million residents. And in 2040, we're gonna have 2 million residents and this many jobs. And here's how they are gonna move. And we project a project, a future that we don't really know.

117

00:30:59.180 --> 00:31:16.990

Veronica O. Davis, PE: None of us knew in 1,997 that we would have a computer that fits in the palm of our hands that from this computer we could talk to someone by face that we could take pictures, take videos, send it to someone we never envision. That. So that's the challenge of we're always projecting from where we are today.

118

00:31:17.040 --> 00:31:25.530

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And I invite. And this is a little bit of a provocative statement. But what if we actually had a different vision? What if cities said, you know what

119

00:31:25.740 --> 00:31:50.759

Veronica O. Davis, PE: our vision in 30 years is to get rid of half the pavement in our city, and that is we wanna reduce the number of lanes we wanna remove all of our surface parking lots. Now, how do we get there. What does the transportation system need to look like to get us to that point with the the people we have that live here today, and the people that will be here in the future. So I invite you all to reflect on that

120

00:31:50.790 --> 00:32:11.999

Veronica O. Davis, PE: enabling bold leadership. And so I talked a little bit about Jeanette Sadakon, and for those of you that don't know her. She was the Commissioner of New York City Department of Transportation, and really had she's a book out called Street Fight where she really had to fight to take space from cars and reallocate it to people.

121

00:32:12.290 --> 00:32:23.040

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so it really is about that bold leadership. But enabling bold leadership means you have to have the right person over your agency in that power. People empower that power seat.

122

00:32:23.290 --> 00:32:43.680

Veronica O. Davis, PE: but even once you put them there it is where particularly champions, when you work to get someone in a position still showing up to continue to support that person and help them move things forward and not putting in someone in a position and then leaving them to fight all the battles by themselves. So that is really what enabling a bold vision is about.

123

00:32:43.680 --> 00:32:57.030

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And some of that, too, means y'all need to elect better mayors, better council members, commissioners, governors. All of that you need to elect better people across the board who understand your vision. And I'm just gonna leave it at that

124

00:32:57.040 --> 00:33:18.139

Veronica O. Davis, PE: increasing diversity. So I do talk about the challenges. Engineering and planning is still very much male dominated, getting a little bit better on the planning side. And it is still very much it is still very much white. And so we really need to put in the effort to increase diversity. So some of that is

125

00:33:18.140 --> 00:33:47.659

Veronica O. Davis, PE: making sure we're hiring people. If you see a job that you think would be good, encourage your friends to apply, tell them to apply, and then do the work of putting in their names. Hey, I have this really great candidate, and I think you should look at their resume. So it really is, making sure that we are elevating and and doing our best for diversity. And then I talk about also, though this is supposed to be empathy, not empath but with empathy. It's we still have to develop our own empathy muscles.

126

00:33:47.660 --> 00:34:17.439

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Diversity is not an excuse for you as an individual to not do the work, and what I mean by that is, it is you have to take the time effort to decenter yourself and take the time to learn from someone else's experience. So if you are not a person that has any type of a disability, take the time to listen and understand what someone goes through who has a disability, and it doesn't need to be in a performative way.

127

00:34:17.510 --> 00:34:27.799

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Just listen. It could be on Twitter. There is a whole disability twitter that exists. There's a black twitter that it

exists, you know. There's all these things that exist, but just taking the time

128

00:34:28.030 --> 00:34:57.140

Veronica O. Davis, PE: to listen and learn. One of the things I love to do is I read fiction books prepared by someone of a group that is different than me, that centers a character that reflects that identity. And so what you get is a fun fiction book that I like to read. But also, you know, particularly for books written in first person. You get to read thoughts, you get to read anxieties. So as an example, I read this book. It was like a dystopian food future. And so one of the main characters was a transgender woman. And

129

00:34:57.436 --> 00:35:21.139

Veronica O. Davis, PE: so what it was is was the anxiety around. Okay, the world is ending. But I'm also am I safe in this pod? Because I am unlike someone? And so it just helps you to understand and have a different level of understanding. And it's not to say that that's gonna be everybody's experience that has that identity. But it's just doing the time to develop that empathy and empathy starts with caring for people in the first place.

130

00:35:21.240 --> 00:35:24.070

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and then, lastly, is understanding the opposition.

131

00:35:24.400 --> 00:35:44.159

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Now, I'm gonna tell y'all know, you most of you are in California, but a lot of people from all over the world right now. It is very easy to go Florida, gonna Florida, Texas, gonna Texas. We need to be aware of what is happening across

132

00:35:44.160 --> 00:35:59.310

Veronica O. Davis, PE: the country, particularly for those of us in the United States. We need to be aware of what is happening across the country. Florida is not just flooding, and Texas is not just texting. There's all a test they are testing to see what legislation can get passed.

133

00:35:59.310 --> 00:36:18.260

Veronica O. Davis, PE: So then, the next State can take that legislation and move it forward in their State House. And so, as an example one of the things that many people across the country missed is, there was legislation introduced in Texas to prevent road diets.

That was an actual legislation that would become a State law.

134

00:36:18.260 --> 00:36:33.239

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and it was introduced now. Fortunately it did not pass, but it should signal to all of us. Wait a minute. They're up to something. They're introducing legislation to stop road diets. And honestly, I think it could have gotten bipartisan support.

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00:36:33.350 --> 00:36:34.450

Veronica O. Davis, PE: So

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00:36:34.460 --> 00:36:51.990

Veronica O. Davis, PE: be aware and understand what is happening. Pay attention to what is happening. Lend your voice to your colleagues in other places. Say, Hey, I see that this thing is happening. How can I help? Can I get you some literature? But we need to be aware and understand the opposition.

137

00:36:52.000 --> 00:37:01.639

Veronica O. Davis, PE: But with that. so I got interviewed and someone asked me to interview. Oh, it's good, you know. We should understand the opposition and all that thing I was like. But but but

138

00:37:01.680 --> 00:37:11.800

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and I love this quote by James Baldwin, and let me read it twice, because I want you to understand. We can disagree and still love each other, unless

139

00:37:11.920 --> 00:37:18.259

Veronica O. Davis, PE: our disagreement is rooted in my oppression and denial of my humanity and right to exist.

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00:37:18.380 --> 00:37:19.580

Veronica O. Davis, PE: One more again.

141

00:37:19.750 --> 00:37:38.740

Veronica O. Davis, PE: we can disagree and still love each other, unless your disagreement is rooted in my oppression and denial of my humanity and right to exist. So I just wanna make sure that is clear. Understand the opposition. But you do not get to say that I don't exist as a human in that

142

00:37:38.830 --> 00:37:59.979

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and so final thought, please go get the book. I know we got some questions happening. Please get the book. Read it. Let me know what you think. Take the time to reflect. Because II did again. I wrote the book to be a thing that you can go back. One of one of the books I love is called Think and Grow rich by Napoleon, Napoleon Hill.

143

00:38:00.090 --> 00:38:29.330

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so every now and then I go back to the book, and I go back to a chapter, and that's why I wrote this. It is a resource for you whether you're journalists, activists, planner, engineer, all of that. So please, please. I'm a book. And because we made it to the end, you made your discount code? So go to Island Press if you haven't purchased it already. Type in inclusive to save 20. And with that I know we are gonna have a moderated QA. Thank you so much.

144

00:38:32.900 --> 00:38:33.570

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): Right?

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00:38:33.820 --> 00:38:50.849

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): Thank you so much, Veronica, for sharing your thoughts with us and highlighting the connection between communities planning and brave spaces. At this point we're gonna transition to a. QA. So for folks on the call, please drop your questions into the QA. Tab

146

00:38:50.850 --> 00:39:09.509

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): but before we jump into audience questions first off, I want to say that I love the way that you've laid out this book, and one of the highlights for me was really when you were talking about your family. So can you share a little bit more about how your family history may have influenced you to even get into this field.

147

00:39:10.500 --> 00:39:25.090

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Yeah. So on my, that's on my mom's side. My mom's from Baton Rouge, and that is the impact that transportation has had on my family. And so for that story in particular, the impact that it has had for me is

148

00:39:25.340 --> 00:39:44.759

Veronica O. Davis, PE: this realization that there are people alive

today in the communities that I work with who had a very similar experience? I think that sometimes, especially for people. My age and younger things can feel like they were so long ago. Civil rights movement could feel like it was so long ago, because it's in black and white.

149

00:39:44.870 --> 00:40:00.239

Veronica O. Davis, PE: but you have to realize like, but my parents were there, and they weren't babies. They were there, and they remember my mother was a teenager when this happened, and so for me, where it has shaped my work, is the realization that when I go into a community

150

00:40:00.360 --> 00:40:10.270

Veronica O. Davis, PE: they remember what it was like before they remember when the highway was installed, they remember the construction. And so, having that sensitivity around that

151

00:40:10.470 --> 00:40:18.120

Veronica O. Davis, PE: on my dad's side, my grandfather owned a Lincoln Cab company, so my grandmother was in a crash.

152

00:40:18.240 --> 00:40:24.650

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and they used the money from the insurance, and they started a Cap company in Raleigh, North Carolina

153

00:40:24.700 --> 00:40:44.470

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and part of it. The emphasis was, many. Black people couldn't get cabs, and so they were like great. We'll just start our own cap company. And so they ran Lincoln Cab Company up until I was about 9 or 10, when my grandfather passed away, and also with that they had a contract where they had some bands, and they did

154

00:40:44.470 --> 00:40:50.249

Veronica O. Davis, PE: shuttling school children around to get them to and from school.

155

00:40:50.250 --> 00:41:14.719

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so I'm sure that it had an impact on my dad's life. So my dad is a civil engineer. He started on the railroads. He worked in the shipping industry, worked in public transit. So he worked for Umpa, and I share in the book. I was this close to being born in the Us. Dot building. So I was born into it

almost but you know my my dad was in the industry. Was also the executive director of Merck size civil engineers.

156

00:41:14.780 --> 00:41:40.550

Veronica O. Davis, PE: So he has a a a constant impact on my life. I am very lucky to have him as a mentor, not just a father, but a mentor. As I navigate my professional career, and being able to bounce things off of him, and also just being able to look through his old books. So he has old design books from like 1960, and you're like, Woof! We've come along. We still have a long way to go, but we've come a long way, and so just a daily influence on my life.

157

00:41:42.280 --> 00:41:50.900

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): Thank you for that. And is that part of what inspired you to write this book? And what what was your overall thought process when you were writing this book?

158

00:41:51.350 --> 00:42:14.960

Veronica O. Davis, PE: So funny story. When I was 22 years old I was working for New York City transit authority, and it was like as an intern, and I don't really have anything to do, so I will. I was 23 years old. And so I started just writing this life manifesto. I was 23. II don't know. I just wrote this live manifest, and I have it to this day. And it's this life strategic plan. And I had, like all of these, I'm very involved in the national study of Black Engineers.

159

00:42:14.960 --> 00:42:36.289

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so at the time, as we had these thrust, like financial vitality, professional achievements. So I wrote my life strategic plan based on these net, the national site of black engineers principles. 5 financial vitality of like all this money I was gonna have that I don't have somehow. But one of my objective was, I wanted to be a world noun transportation expert.

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00:42:36.300 --> 00:42:42.630

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and that's what I had. And so I had these strategies in there, like, I am going to testify at the Us. Senate

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00:42:42.660 --> 00:43:01.370

Veronica O. Davis, PE: being done it. I am going to become a PE in all 50 States. So I got 5 States so far in the District of Columbia. I am going to get a Ph. D. So I started a Phd. That didn't finish because I was like, I'll need this to be a world renowned expert. I'm just gonna have to do this another way.



162

00:43:01.410 --> 00:43:16.220

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And then I had in there that I was gonna be a an author of multiple genres and so around the time I was in my mid twenties, I did a poetry book which I'm trying to figure out how to publish. But I self published a poetry book. That's my first official book.

163

00:43:16.390 --> 00:43:21.539

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and I just had it out there. It's just the thing that I put out there, and in 2,018

164

00:43:21.620 --> 00:43:37.449

Veronica O. Davis, PE: I was talking at a conference, and this woman, who then became my first editor, currently links comes up to me and says, Hey, you should write a book if you were thought about writing a book. And I was like, Yeah, well, when I was 23. And so that's what got the ball rolling and so I started writing the book and

165

00:43:37.450 --> 00:44:06.749

Veronica O. Davis, PE: definitely was gonna quit a few times, and Courtney was like, no, you will not quit. You will keep writing. Just keep writing. Just keep writing and so that's what I did. And I know that I shared with you all before that chapter 4 was my. I wrote that with chapter first. It was my favorite chapter to write of all the chapters. Chapter 2 was also a good chapter to write. But I will say I went back and forth with 2 and 3 those were the 2 hardest together, cause I was like, Oh, this is going to. This is going 3 so working with the editing team there.

166

00:44:06.750 --> 00:44:20.780

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and 6 was the hardest to write believe it or not. I had written a completely different Chapter 6, and then I moved to Texas. And I was like, Nope, just not gonna work. We gotta do something different. So I wrote a whole new chapter 6, after living in Texas.

167

00:44:22.760 --> 00:44:50.770

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): I love that. I love the the frantic gotta change to the switch. So we've got a question from Otto. So the question is, how do you ensure that stakeholder input? Is effective in decision making. What segment of stakeholder groups are most influential in the decision-making process. And developers and corporations have significant influence and shaping urban communities?

168

00:44:51.240 --> 00:45:04.750

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Oh, so let me try to unpack all of that. So one, how to ensure stakeholder input is effective. So this is where, in Chapter 5, I do talk about it of you have to understand. What are you getting input about?

169

00:45:04.790 --> 00:45:24.640

Veronica O. Davis, PE: I think that there are times when we do stakeholder engagement, and we go in there. And they're like, tell me all your problems. You know their problems. You know it exists. You have the emails you have, you have what their problems are and so part of it is understanding of what it is that you want the stakeholder input about

170

00:45:24.640 --> 00:45:49.379

Veronica O. Davis, PE: being clear with the community of when and how you are going to ex in, get their input, how you're gonna use their input and what are the parameters of input cause? I think it's if you have a 1 million dollar budget, we're not reconstructing a street. We got 1 million dollars. So what can actually be done with that 1 million dollars? So helping map stakeholders navigate that.

171

00:45:49.680 --> 00:45:59.790

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And what are the most influential, the decision decision making process. That's hard. So again, that's where internally doing the work of

172

00:45:59.830 --> 00:46:15.550

Veronica O. Davis, PE: how am I truly trying to improve lives because there are gonna be times you're gonna have to make an unpopular decision, and I know I've been there in my career where one side wants this one side once this, and you have to make a decision. And I say in the book. Probably one of the most

173

00:46:15.660 --> 00:46:36.580

Veronica O. Davis, PE: provocative things outside of getting rid of half the pavement is sometimes there's no consensus and I know these consultants will tell you we want consensus. No, sometimes there's no consensus. Sometimes things aren't up for debate. If the law says we need to put a sidewalk on both sides of the street. That's what we're doing. There's no debate. There's no discussion. We're putting in the sidewalks now.

174

00:46:36.580 --> 00:46:55.969

Veronica O. Davis, PE: We can have a discussion of where they go, of how far back it is. There's certain things we can discuss. But you're getting a sidewalk and so really, just having that understanding and developers and Co. Corporations have a significant influence because they are putting. They have a significant influence on the people who are elected to serve you.

175

00:46:56.220 --> 00:47:08.229

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so that's where I get to enabling a bold vision of how are you as advocates, as engineers, as planners, making sure that you are electing people who represent you.

176

00:47:11.570 --> 00:47:18.180

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): Thank you for that response, and thank you also for the question. You've got another question from Griffin.

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00:47:18.250 --> 00:47:28.070

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): So the question is in directing the vision. How are you enabling space and access for the silently suffering to be able to define that vision?

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00:47:28.270 --> 00:47:34.299

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): And how do designing and tracking metrics fit into an equitable planning process.

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00:47:34.610 --> 00:47:57.279

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Okay, so one in terms of the silently suffering. Sometimes you have to go to where they are. And I know that it has be gotten better. We not perfect but as an industry people have gotten better about going out into communities. And II talk a little bit about one project where we actually looked at the data on when people were getting off large groups of people getting off the bus.

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00:47:57.280 --> 00:48:10.510

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and not just at 5 to 7, when at the end of the workday, looking at weekends of Wait a minute. Why, they're all these people going off the bus while the workers are coming in to work at target and best buy. And all of these places.

181

00:48:10.510 --> 00:48:32.830

Veronica O. Davis, PE: So really looking at the data. And then what we

did was we set the meeting up in the bus, so there was no missing this bus, this this meeting, so getting them off in the bus and then recognizing you have about 2 min. That's it. People will give you 2 min of their time, and that is it. And so, being very focused on the questions that you ask and things of that nature in terms of the metrics.

182

00:48:33.160 --> 00:48:38.090

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and design metrics, I believe that was a question, equity and design metrics?

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00:48:38.870 --> 00:48:40.050

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): Yeah, yeah, yeah.

184

00:48:40.440 --> 00:48:57.939

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Well, equity should be a metric. And I know that for for me. When I worked in the consulting world, and I was working on consulting projects. To the best that we could, because things are optional is we always got demographic data of who was in the room.

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00:48:58.160 --> 00:49:08.630

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And we always compared that demographic data to the broader community, depending on what type of a project it was. And from there, we look to see.

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00:49:08.940 --> 00:49:11.410

Veronica O. Davis, PE: does this data reflect the community

187

00:49:12.030 --> 00:49:17.530

Veronica O. Davis, PE: is there groups missing from the community and if they're missing, how do we go about engaging them.

188

00:49:18.020 --> 00:49:23.980

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): great.

189

00:49:24.270 --> 00:49:46.460

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): I see we've got a a bunch of small questions, we'll try to get to as many questions as we can. But apologies in advance if we're not able to get to everyone's questions. So a question from Amber, can you share some more thoughts about getting folks more folks interested in urban planning and

transportation planning as well as engineering and related fields.

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00:49:47.040 --> 00:49:51.980

Veronica O. Davis, PE: So I think some of that is Excuse me.

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00:49:52.150 --> 00:50:02.400

Veronica O. Davis, PE: I think some of that is getting into high school curriculums so that they even can know that the job exists. I had no idea

192

00:50:02.730 --> 00:50:12.549

Veronica O. Davis, PE: what urban planning was until I got to undergrad, and I had a professor who taught transportation planning, and he was like, Oh, this is thing called urban planning. I was like Urban, what?

193

00:50:12.860 --> 00:50:19.859

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And that's when I did my research like, oh, this is pretty cool. and that's how I ended up going to the master's program and planning.

194

00:50:20.560 --> 00:50:21.350

And

195

00:50:21.650 --> 00:50:38.429

Veronica O. Davis, PE: but I'm sure if I knew about it earlier I don't know. That would have been planning as an undergrad. I probably still would have done engineering. but it's just that people just don't know, and I do know that I sent on the Board of, or the the Advisory Committee for a couple of departments for engineering for Cornell.

196

00:50:38.690 --> 00:50:59.850

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and that's my biggest push. I always try to get the undergrads. I'm like, go to planning school, especially in transportation. If you're gonna get an advanced degree. Go to planning. So you can take the engineering side and the planning side and marry those together. But I think some of it just comes down to education and helping the helping young people understand they're already doing it without realizing it.

197

00:50:59.850 --> 00:51:17.689

Veronica O. Davis, PE: How many of us have played with Lagos and built

entire villages with Legos, or you know whatever else that is urban plan. That's the first stages of urban planning you are creating and thinking of how this town is gonna exist. So some of that is just making sure we are exposing young people to it.

198

00:51:18.130 --> 00:51:30.560

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): Umhm, yeah. And we've got a question from Betsy. So Betsy says in your book you mentioned that the community engagement process is the first thing cut from the budget.

199

00:51:30.610 --> 00:51:49.779

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): And Betsy also hears this from other planners too. So the first question is, is there a study documenting, documenting this? Or is it just known by all planners? And then what will it take to ensure that public engagement is consistently given the resources and respect it needs?

200

00:51:50.560 --> 00:52:04.019

Veronica O. Davis, PE: I don't know that there's a study or research. It's just for me. I would tell you. Personally, I know as a consultant it is the first thing cut you deliver a budget, and they're like, Nope, Nope, Nope, Nope, Nope, Nope, Nope.

201

00:52:04.160 --> 00:52:25.939

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and so it is just one of those first things that gets cut. Unfortunately, and there's a variety different reasons around that in terms of how to ensure engagement is done. I think this is where, particularly for the advocates on the on the on, the on the line. These are the things that's an ask. That's a thing that as an advocacy group.

202

00:52:25.940 --> 00:52:41.579

Veronica O. Davis, PE: You make that ask. You make that as during budget season, you make that as during oversight hearings or any type of oversight meeting, that is, you make that ask through your bicycle advisory Council, your pedestrian Advisory Council, your Disability Advisory council, all the different councils.

203

00:52:41.580 --> 00:52:57.369

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Those are the things that you just make and ask, hey, I want you government agency to prepare an engagement plan, so that it is clear to us as citizens when and how you're going to engage us on the different types of projects. But those are things that you can always ask for

204

00:52:58.330 --> 00:52:59.070

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): cool.

205

00:52:59.150 --> 00:53:29.010

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): So Silas is giving you a lot of praise. Silas says, great presentation, Veronica, you brought it. Thanks for sharing your journey and personal and policy challenges with us. Quick question related to experience and gathering diverse groups. How can diverse groups that includes people of power. Champions and other types go around their differences to unlock solutions for public problems in their neighborhoods. Any learned lessons you would like to share on that.

206

00:53:30.110 --> 00:53:44.210

Veronica O. Davis, PE: I will say for that. I I've had had projects that have been challenging. And so that's where you sometimes have to get focused on the objective and it will focus on what we can agree on.

207

00:53:44.210 --> 00:54:01.619

Veronica O. Davis, PE: So, as an example, bike lanes bring out the emotions and people. I have never known a single thing that can bring out all types of emotions. Good, bad. Otherwise, even if you say we're not gonna take parking. It's like nobody bikes. You can't take away my vehicle Lane for a bike.

208

00:54:01.670 --> 00:54:27.480

Veronica O. Davis, PE: And so in that case you have to sometimes get out of the bike Lane and say, Okay, let's stop. Let's go back to what we all agreed and said where the problems. So we all collectively agreed, that people are speeding. We all collectively agreed that we cannot get across the street. Do we all agree on that? And so sometimes you have to go back to what that agreement is. And get people out of the

209

00:54:27.510 --> 00:54:45.800

Veronica O. Davis, PE: of the the thing, you know. Get people out of focusing on the bike lane and get them focused on what we can say that we agree on and then work back into. Okay. So this is how the bike lane will solve all of these things. We will take away a land of traffic. It will slow traffic down, I promise you.

210

00:54:45.800 --> 00:55:01.810

Veronica O. Davis, PE: It will not be end of days, because we've taken away Atlanta traffic and having those types of conversations, and then saying, and this is how we will evaluate the effectiveness of this particular project. So that's just one little tactic. And then sometimes

211

00:55:02.030 --> 00:55:04.409

Veronica O. Davis, PE: it still doesn't work. And you just gotta make a decision.

212

00:55:04.700 --> 00:55:06.349

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): Yeah. Good back wise.

213

00:55:06.450 --> 00:55:16.499

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): So Elena asked. Did you work? Did you work or analyze any data sets in any of the chapters?

214

00:55:17.070 --> 00:55:39.270

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Not specifically not like, oh, if you you know, download senses data. Calculate this. I don't get to that level. I talk more about how to use the data. So, as I mentioned, if you are having meetings where you can. And it's always gonna be optional. Try to get that demographic data of who is in the meeting

215

00:55:39.320 --> 00:55:56.940

Veronica O. Davis, PE: and then see how that goes against the data sets that you have, and this to see a might do, I have at least a representative sample of the community. And I will say, I do have a data analysis. From years ago, where on one particular block.

216

00:55:57.010 --> 00:56:24.199

Veronica O. Davis, PE: we had 2 separate types of meeting, we had one meeting that was in a traditional meeting room with a presentation and everything. And we had one meeting that was outside same exact block right at the Metro station. And so when we looked at the demographics, the demographics that came to the meeting and it was mostly older mostly white, and that was who showed up at the meeting when we looked at the demographics at the Metro station. It almost perfectly.

217

00:56:24.200 --> 00:56:35.450

Veronica O. Davis, PE: at least from income and race, not necessarily age, but at least income and race. It almost perfectly matched the



community. And so I do have that data that I have collected.

218

00:56:36.700 --> 00:56:37.570

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): Great

219

00:56:37.690 --> 00:56:57.590

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): we've got some more praise be so, Kim says. Thanks for leaving your personal and lived experiences with work and encouraging people to do the same. The community residents of the experts and listening before we leap is so important. So I think we have one time for one more question before we have to wrap so this question is from Christy.

220

00:56:57.590 --> 00:57:10.410

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): Christy says the how we got people out of the route section was refreshing as a regional planner. In Missouri. Our board is big on prioritization and fights for the county as they should.

221

00:57:10.500 --> 00:57:22.010

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): This year each county got projects funded in the Lrtp. But a few counties still decided to fight over semantics rather than funding allocation, which was not an issue

222

00:57:22.160 --> 00:57:46.109

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): despite volumes, because the region is decades behind in transportation, because members sabotage progress towards a safer and efficient system that supports transit accessibility for autocentric development in their country in our county, and will pick petty fights. Have you experienced this in Texas. And how have you navigated moving the board towards Progress?

223

00:57:46.590 --> 00:57:48.090

Veronica O. Davis, PE: Oh, no comment.

224

00:57:51.930 --> 00:58:06.230

Veronica O. Davis, PE: I won't. II don't wanna necessarily answer to Texas that like to keep my job. But II will say this. I think this is where as advocacy groups. I think sometimes what can happen is.

225

00:58:06.230 --> 00:58:29.360

Veronica O. Davis, PE: we live in a place, and so we advocate in our

place. But you have colleagues that live in some of the other counties within your region that think the same threat thing, but they not may may not be aware of what's happening. You know, transportation world is very nerdy. It's very hard to understand? Right? Housing is easy. There's land. There's gonna be a house you can only put, but so much there.

226

00:58:29.430 --> 00:58:55.580

Veronica O. Davis, PE: But transportation is, it's nerdy. It's you got engineer. You got design standards, and people really don't understand it. And so that's where, as advocates of reaching out to different advocacy groups within that county and have them hold their elected leaders accountable at the regional level. And they don't have to have the perfect words, but they do just need to be able to tell a story of Hey, I am your constituent, and it concerns me

227

00:58:55.580 --> 00:59:10.859

Veronica O. Davis, PE: that you are stopping this I use transit, and II am your constituent. And I have all these other constituents. So it's it's making sure to really galvanize across the region. And get people to come out and speak up and tell their story to these

228

00:59:10.870 --> 00:59:15.140

Veronica O. Davis, PE: these elected officials. It helps with the pettiness just a little bit.

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00:59:15.580 --> 00:59:25.220

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): just a little bit great. And on that note. I wanna thank Veronica for her incredible knowledge and the work that you put into this book

230

00:59:25.220 --> 00:59:50.009

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): and to all of you in the audience for joining us today. If you haven't picked up Veronica's book yet, please grab yourself a copy. This is what it looks like. I think you can find it everywhere online and in most bookstores. And also don't forget to use that discount code that Veronica provided earlier in the presentation. So we'll be following up with an email where you'll see more information about this recording and

231

00:59:50.010 --> 00:59:58.190

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): any other resources. But again, thank you for your time. And thank you, Veronica. We look forward to seeing you at another spur public program.

232

00:59:58.550 --> 01:00:00.039

Pacita Rudder | SPUR (she/her): Have a good day, everyone.