

Transportation: The Drive Towards Food Justice in Oakland

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The Scope & The Big Question

Strengthening **resilience** of movement of people and goods,
in a post-pandemic world where infrastructure will be changing,
under the lens of equity and justice

**How can transportation systems make food more accessible for
people in the food deserts of Oakland?**



What is a Food Desert?

An urban area where “**33%** of the population...live more than **1 mile** from the nearest large grocery store.” (USDA)

- Food sources are lacking or limited
- More likely to have a higher share of:
 - Convenience stores (AM/PM, 7/11)
 - Fast food
 - Liquor stores



Food Deserts and Equity

“In Chicago, the death rate from diabetes in a food desert is twice that of areas with access to grocery stores” - Diabetes Forecast

- POC/low income residents are disproportionately affected by food deserts
 - Community Foods Market is the **first** full-scale grocery store in West Oakland in **40 years**
- Higher reliance on public transportation
- Greater health tolls on POC/low income communities (malnutrition, obesity, diabetes, etc.)



Food Deserts and Environmental Justice

“Fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

- Food justice: an extension of environmental justice
- Food, as an environmental resource necessary for health, currently is not readily accessible for all people



Mapping Food Deserts and Public Transit in Oakland

☒ Grocery Stores



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☒ Major Transit Stops



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☒ Impacted population
population

◇ 71

◇ 72 - 2887

◇ 2888 - 3965

◆ 3966 - 5229

◆ 5230 - 7207

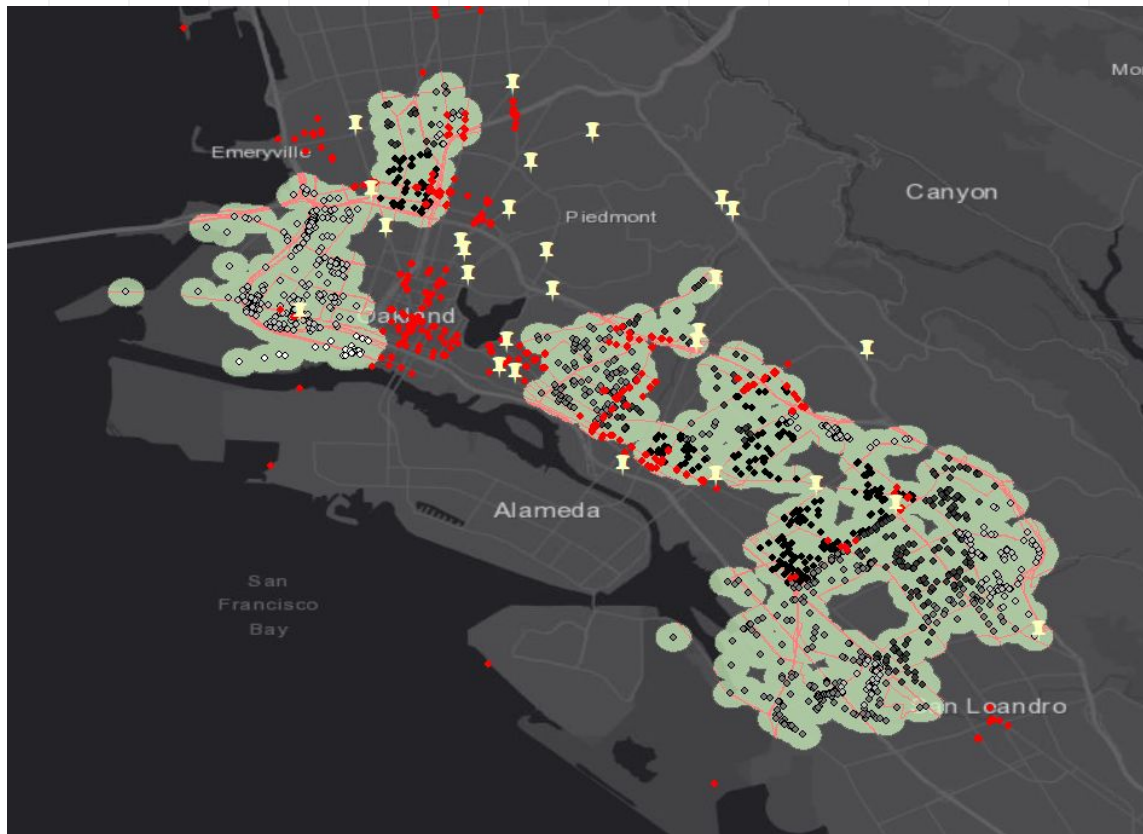
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☒ Intersecting Transit Routes



☒ Impacted population 0.2mi buffer

0.2



Case Study: Ride to Groceries Program

- Implemented in Flint, MI in 2015, connecting neighborhoods with grocery stores at a discounted rate
- 900 people per month
- \$6,000 per month, funded by USDA/private donors
- Offered call-in service to drive people directly



Ride to Groceries

RIDE TO GROCERIES BUS STOP

MTA

Monday - Saturday
Hours: 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM

GROCERY ROUTE
Use the Ride to Groceries route accessed through these designated bus stops. Look for the sign.

CALL-IN AREA
Call the MTA to schedule a ride right from your home.
CALL: (810) 780-8918

Grocery Route \$0.85/ride

Call-In Rides \$2.25/ride

Grocery Route Stops

Kroger to Walmart	Walmart to Kroger
• Richfield and Branch	• Court and Center
• Richfield and Franklin	• R.T. Longway and Dort
• Franklin and Leith	• Franklin and Ohio
• Franklin and Delaware	• Franklin and Davison (Fresh Choice Market Place)
• Franklin and Bennett	• Franklin and Bennett
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• Franklin and Ohio	• Franklin and Leith
• R.T. Longway and Dort	• Richfield and Franklin
• Court and Center	• Richfield and Branch
• Walmart	• Kroger

mtaflint.org or (810)780-8918 for more information



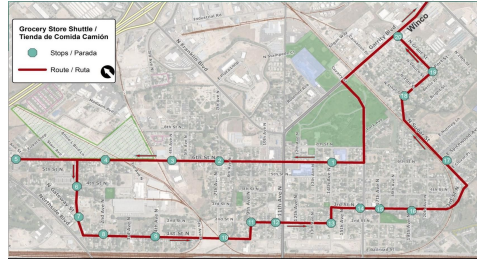
Solution: Expanded Transit Service in Food Deserts



- Create more AC Transit bus stops and routes in impacted neighborhoods (West and South Oakland) to provide access to grocery stores
 - Ex. Community Foods Market in West Oakland
- Increase bus frequency during peak shopping times (Saturday afternoon)
- Stakeholders: grocery stores, AC Transit, residents

Case Study: Grocery Store Shuttles

Nampa, Idaho



Hope Buss (Louisville, KY)



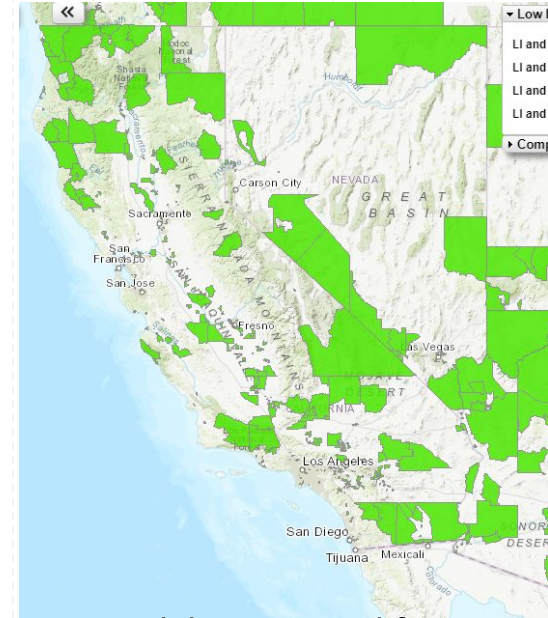
Implementation

- Funding
 - Federal (USDA), state, local government
 - Pass measures to allocate more of the budget
 - More bus stops & frequent routes have mass appeal
- Creating community trust
 - Use public outreach to encourage people to use these platforms implemented by the government



Restrictions and Looking Ahead

- Restrictions
 - There is no silver-bullet for this urban issue
 - Investment in these communities should be prioritized
- Looking Ahead
 - Further analysis for additional bus stops
 - Expansion to other food deserts in the Bay Area/California
 - Different approaches for urban/rural areas



Food deserts in California