Walkability Beyond the Right-of-Way

Chester Harvey

Director, Transportation Policy Research Group National Center for Smart Growth University of Maryland

Roundtable: Baltimore Avenue Smart and Connected Communities November 10, 2023



What is the transportation field overlooking in pedestrian planning?

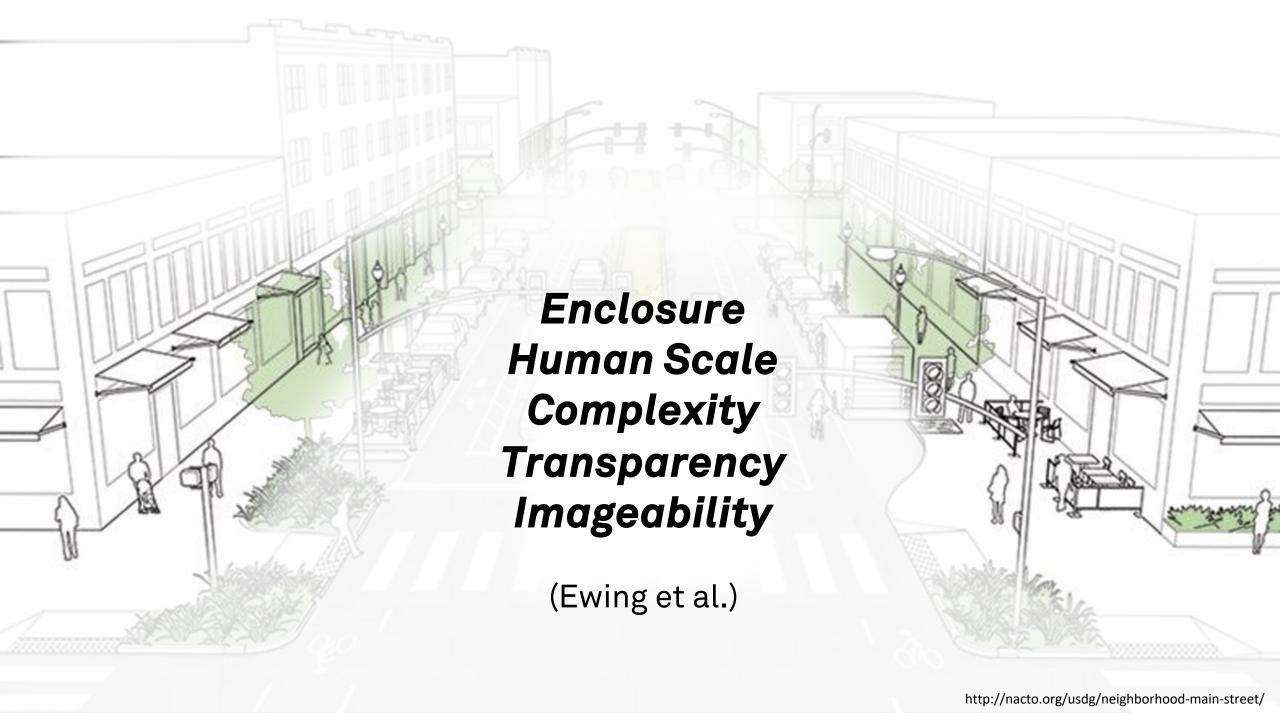




E-W Hwy @ PG Plaza: Walk Score = 92 ("Walkers Paradise")

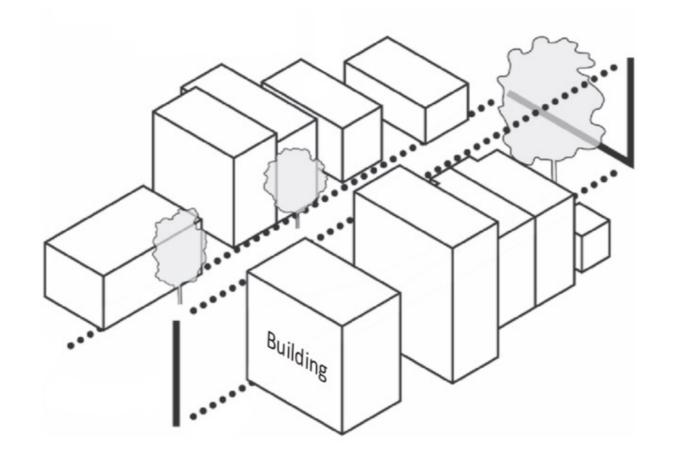
Carroll Ave, Takoma Park: Walk Score = 87 ("Very Walkable")





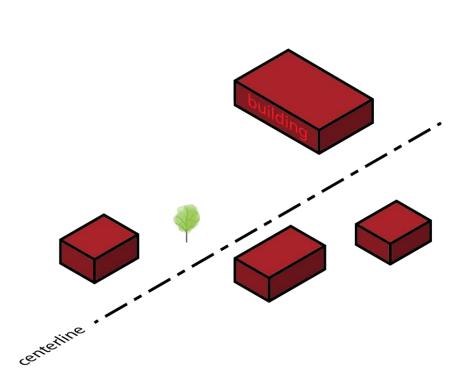
Measuring Streetscape Design Qualities

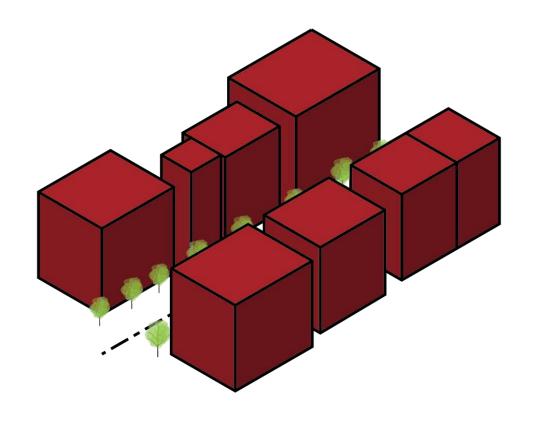
- Buildings frontages
 - Continuity
 - Height
 - Setback
 - Active Uses
- Street trees



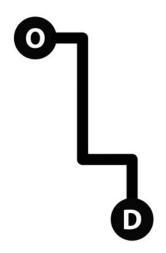
More Severe Crashes

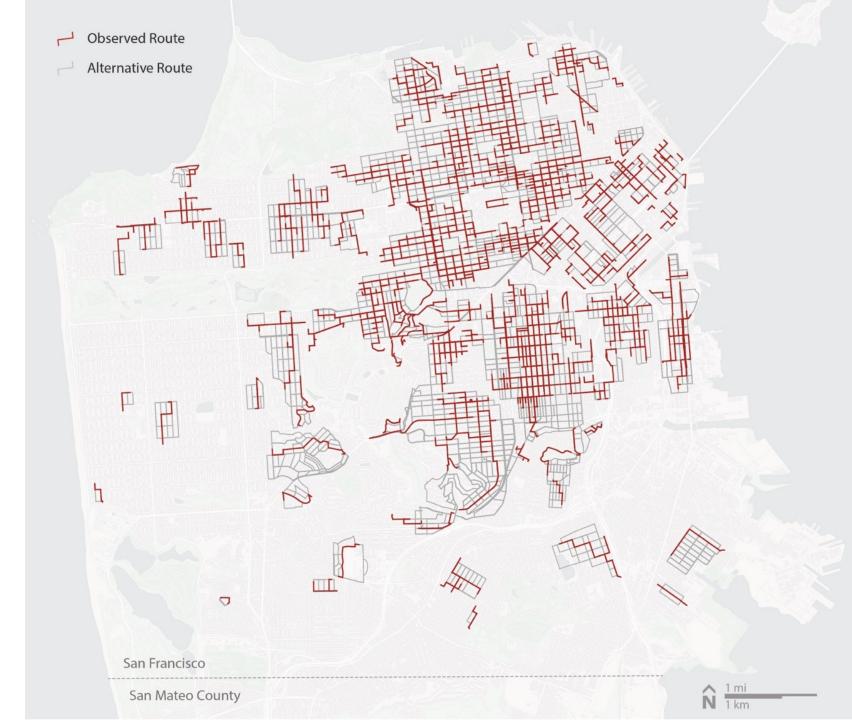
Less Severe Crashes



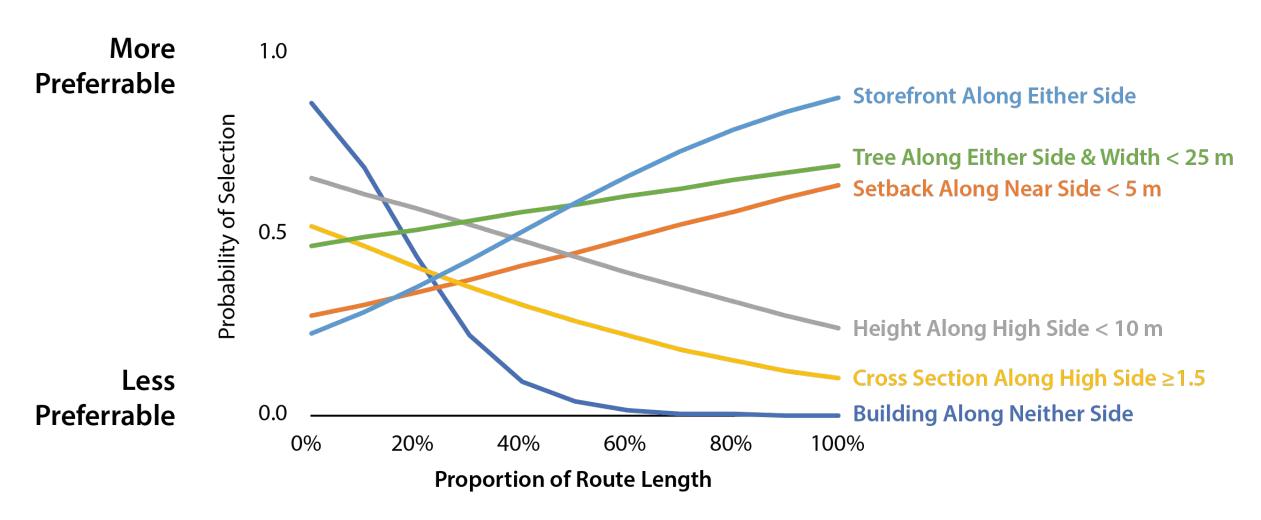


GPS Observed Walking Routes



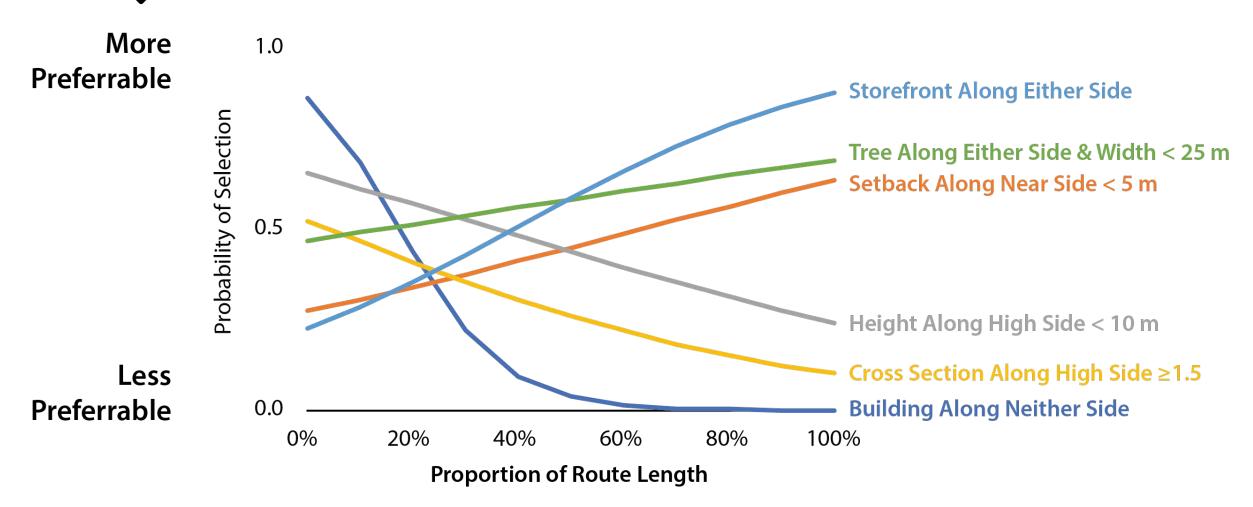


Walking Route Preferences



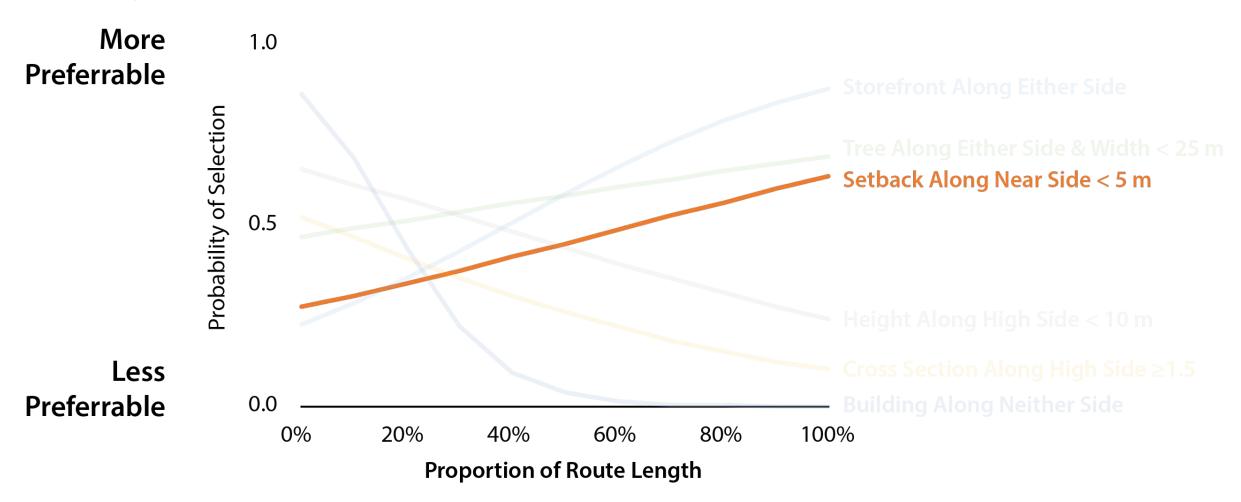


Who has access to more walkable design?

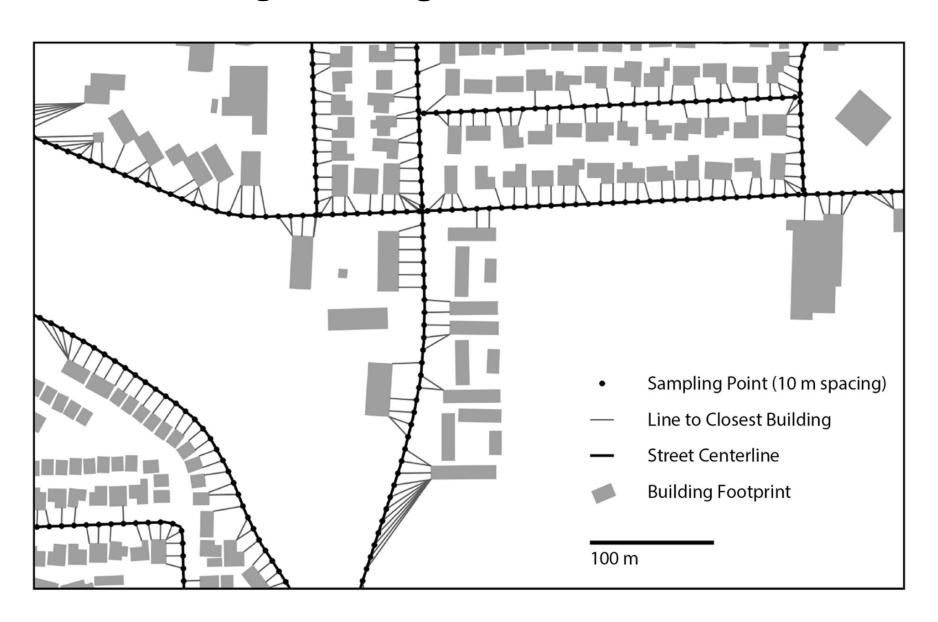


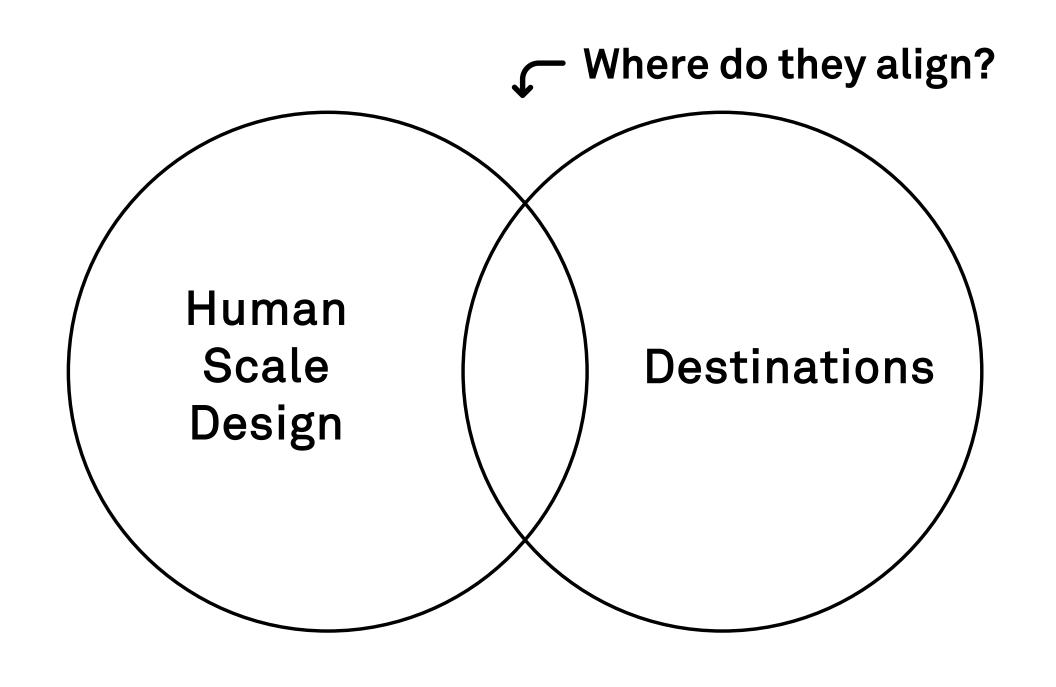


Who has access to more walkable design?



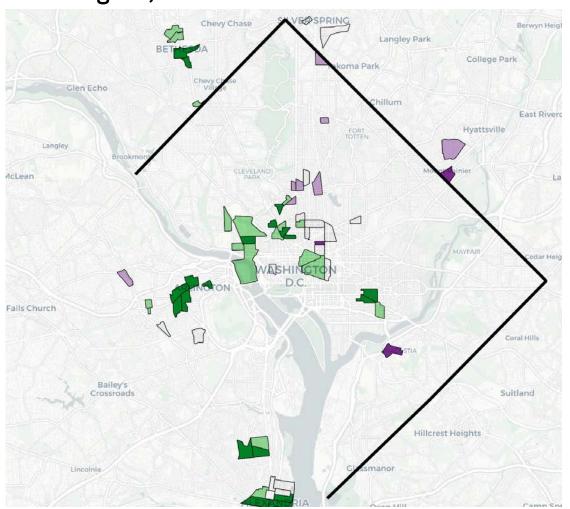
Distance to Buildings: A Rough Indicator of Human Scale Design



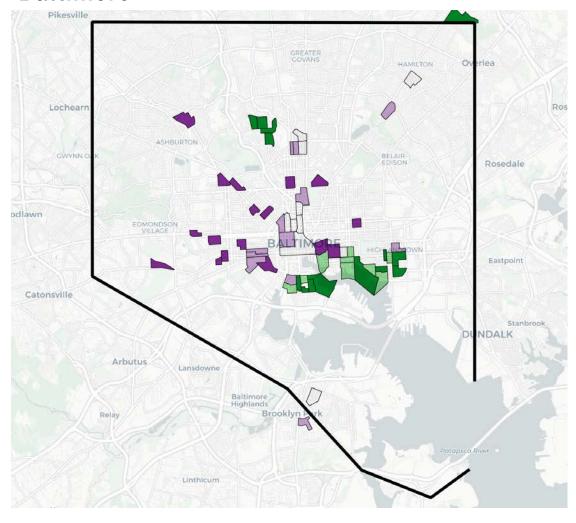


Human Scale and Destinations EPA Smart Location Database

Washington, DC



Baltimore

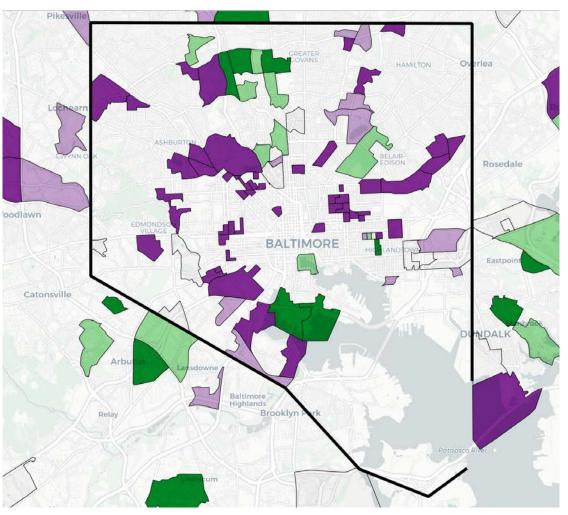


Mismatch → Destinations but Lack of Human Scale

Washington, DC

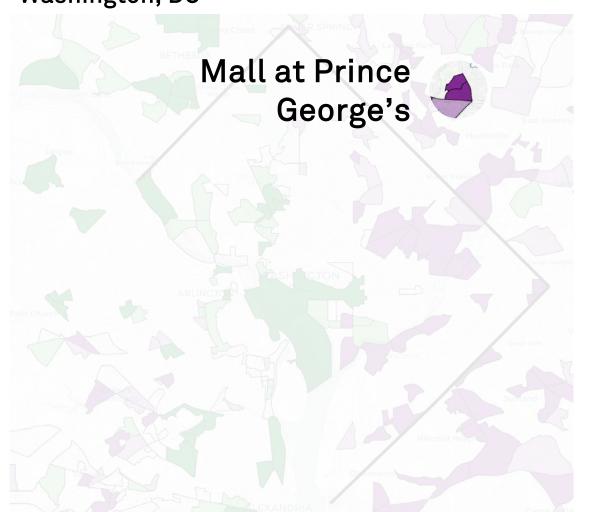


Baltimore



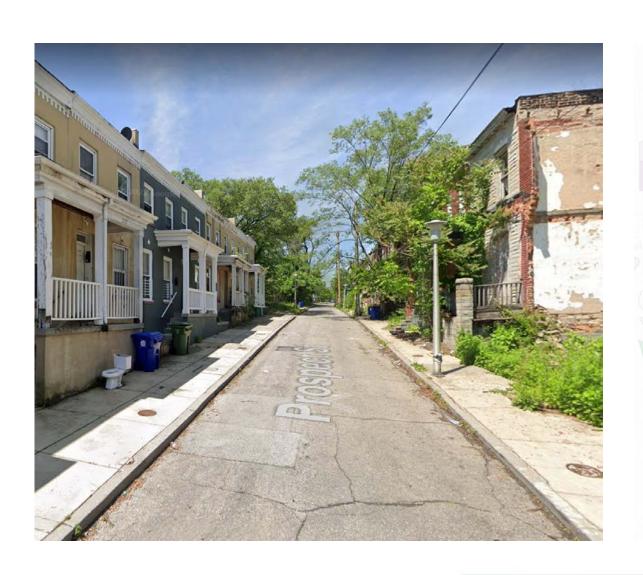
Mismatch → Destinations but Lack of Human Scale

Washington, DC





Mismatch -> Human Scale but Lack of Destinations







Chester Harvey

cwharvey@umd.edu

