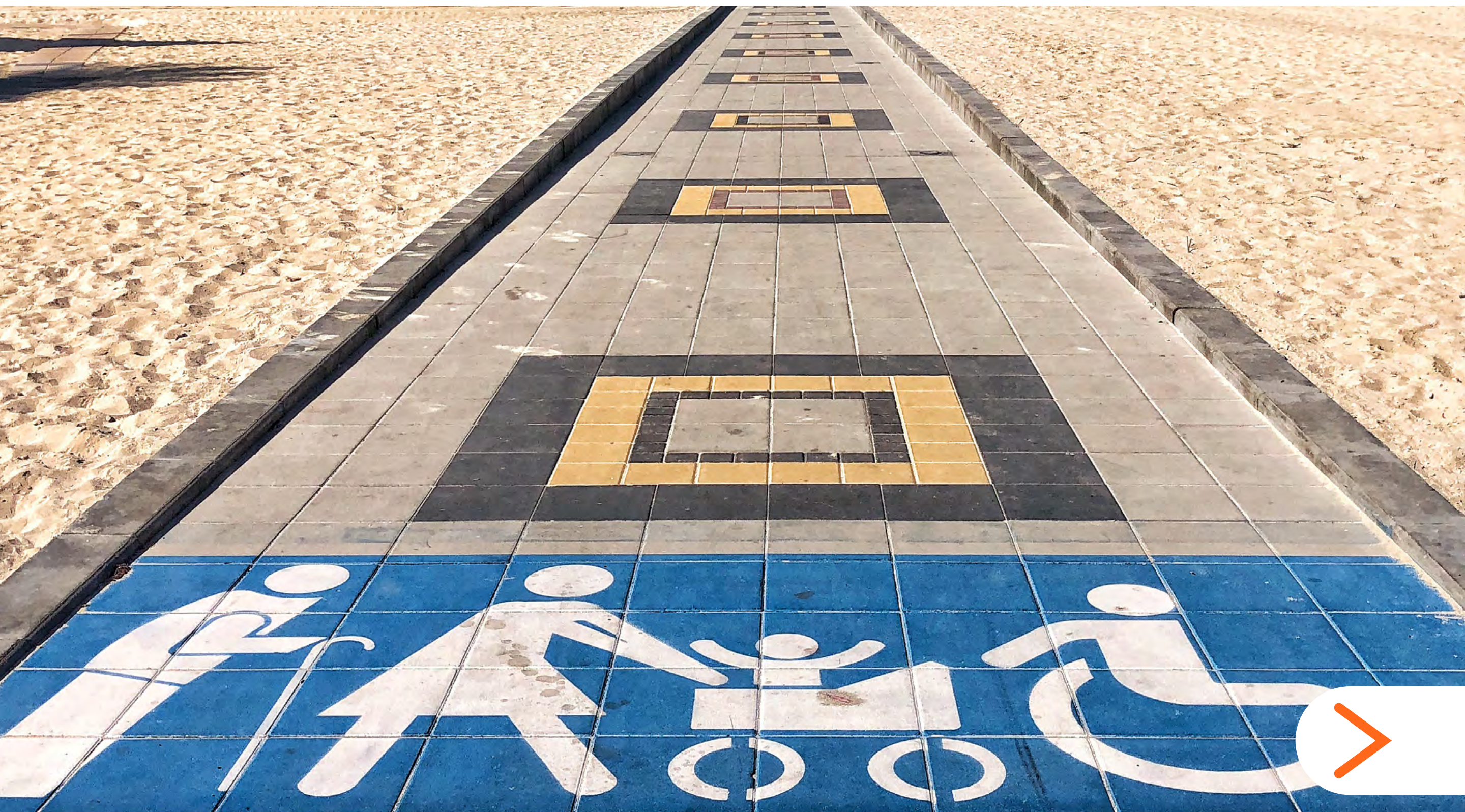


HIGHLIGHTING ENVISION CREDITS



QL3.1 Advance Equity and Social Justice



**Institute for
Sustainable
Infrastructure**



ENVISION™



Envision includes 64 sustainability and resilience indicators, called 'credits', organized around five categories.

CREDIT HIGHLIGHT

QL3.1

Advance Equity and Social Justice



CREDIT INTENT

Ensure that equity and social justice are fundamental considerations within project processes and decision making.



METRIC

Degree to which equity and social justice are included in stakeholder engagement, project team commitments, and decision making.



QUALITY OF LIFE: COMMUNITY

WHAT DOES THIS CREDIT ADDRESS?

“Equity and social justice” refer to the *responsibility of a society to ensure that civil and human rights are preserved and protected for each individual, and that all persons are treated equally* and without prejudice regardless of race, color, wealth, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status. This includes “environmental justice,” which refers to the fair treatment and meaningful engagement of all people with regard to environmental protection.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

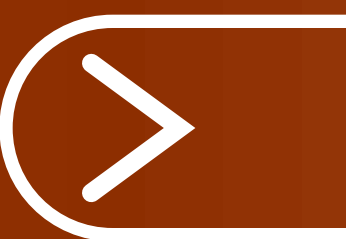
- ▷ Infrastructure development often involves *significant benefits* and potentially *significant impacts*.
- ▷ Inequality, or its perception, in decision making and distribution of benefits and impacts can be a *potential source of conflict*.
- ▷ Conflicts can disrupt project development or become a source for broader *social disruption* causing or exacerbating rifts between communities, organizations, and governments.





Project teams should consider:

- ▶ How community resilience is impacted by social cohesion.
- ▶ Equitable and just systems of infrastructure development are opportunities to strengthen social cohesion, raise awareness, and further develop the social support systems that increase resilience.



QL3.1

Advance Equity and Social Justice

Guides project teams to:

1. Account for the *historic context of equity and social justice* within affected communities in the stakeholder engagement process.
2. Assess the project's *social impacts* on the host and affected communities.
3. Document *commitments* to equity and social justice by key project team organizations.

QL3.1

Advance Equity and Social Justice

Guides project teams to:

4. *Address social impacts* related to equity and social justice.
5. Consider how project impacts and benefits can be *distributed equitably* throughout affected communities.
6. *Empower communities to engage* in the development process.



IN PRACTICE

LEARN MORE »

The East Colfax BRT Project team proactively involved community members, businesses, and agencies throughout planning, design, and construction. Outreach was conducted in partnership with trusted local organizations and included targeted workshops and multiple languages. Input from a diverse range of stakeholders, including historically underserved communities, directly influenced key project decisions, such as station design and branding, the development of funding to support local businesses during construction, and strategies to address long-standing mobility and access inequities. This process fostered broad community support and strong collaborative partnerships throughout project design and construction, including robust participation in We Back the Fax, a community-driven initiative to encourage support for local businesses along East Colfax Avenue before, during, and after the BRT construction.

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Learn more at sustainableinfrastructure.org