# Equity planning

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| Equity refers to the fairness with which impacts (benefits and costs) are distributed. Transport planning decisions can have large and diverse equity impacts in our lives. Imagine social and economic impacts of a “green” transport infrastructure through the most deprived neighbourhood in your city without giving any thoughts to housing policy nor community? Or have you ever wondered why more investment is often made in certain parts of a city (often wealthier areas) but not the other?  Sadly, still today, there are so many projects making rich people wealthier but making the lives of underserved communities harder. We often talk about “communities” or “people” without actually identifying who they really are in our projects. Do you really know the need of the community you are working for? Well, it is often the case we pretend or we think we know through our very privileged planner and engineer’s lenses.  Equity planning has long existed in the US since the Civil Right Act of 1964 – title 6 yet it still created inequalities in many US cities. The police murder of George Floyd in 2020 and Black Lives Matter movements have given significant pressure to our industry to recognise the inequalities that are created by our industry. NZ’s colonialized history shares very similar social structure and social issues to the US. Yet, we instead look to adopt euro centric policies from Europe where has very different social structure and fabric to NZ, because they have never experienced colonisation nor slavery on their soil.  In this presentation, I would like to talk about how the concept of race, gender, and class can be applied for more equitable practices within NZ planning which requires more planners to have equity lenses. I am hoping this is going to be a thought-provoking session. |