



# Smart Growth America

Improving lives by improving communities

## King County - Safe System Approach and Vision Zero for Traffic Safety

King County Council Committee of the Whole (23 July 2024)



# Presenter



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# Smart Growth America

Improving lives by improving communities



**Transportation  
for America**



National Complete  
Streets Coalition



State  
**Smart Transportation  
Initiative**

**LOCUS**  
Responsible Real Estate  
Developers & Investors

**FBCI** Form-Based  
Codes Institute

“We envision a country where no matter where you live, or who you are, you can enjoy living in a place that is healthy, prosperous, and resilient.”



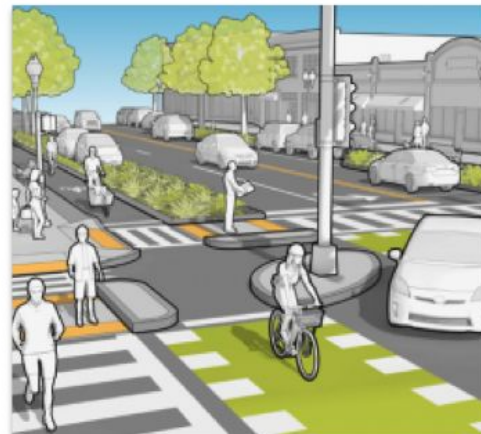
# What We Do



Technical Assistance



Advocacy



Thought Leadership

## Guiding principles for transportation investment

The time has come to elevate the national conversation about transportation beyond the cost—we need a vision for what we expect to accomplish.

America's federal transportation program does not address basic needs, and more money alone poured into this broken federal program will not suffice. Billions of dollars are spent without clear desired outcomes, and there is far too little accountability for accomplishing anything measurable and tangible.

We need to reform the 70-year-old federal program to reflect today's needs and ensure a focus on fixing our existing system first, on improving safety, and on accountability.

Learn more: [t4america.org/platform](https://t4america.org/platform)

### PRINCIPLE #2

## Design for safety over speed

A serious effort to reduce deaths on our roadways requires slower speeds on local and arterial roads. The federal program should require designs and approaches that put safety first.



### PRINCIPLE #1

## Prioritize maintenance

Cut the road, bridge, and transit maintenance backlog in half by dedicating formula highway funds to maintenance.

**Did you know:** States are permitted to neglect their basic maintenance needs in order to expand their roadway systems—and then rewarded with more funding.



### PRINCIPLE #3

## Connect people to jobs and services

Don't focus on speed. Instead, determine how well the transportation system connects people to jobs and services, and prioritize the projects that will improve those connections.





# Agenda

- Roadway Safety Crisis
- Past framework in transportation decision making
- Streetscape Accessibility
- Interagency Collaboration



*Who are we designing for?*







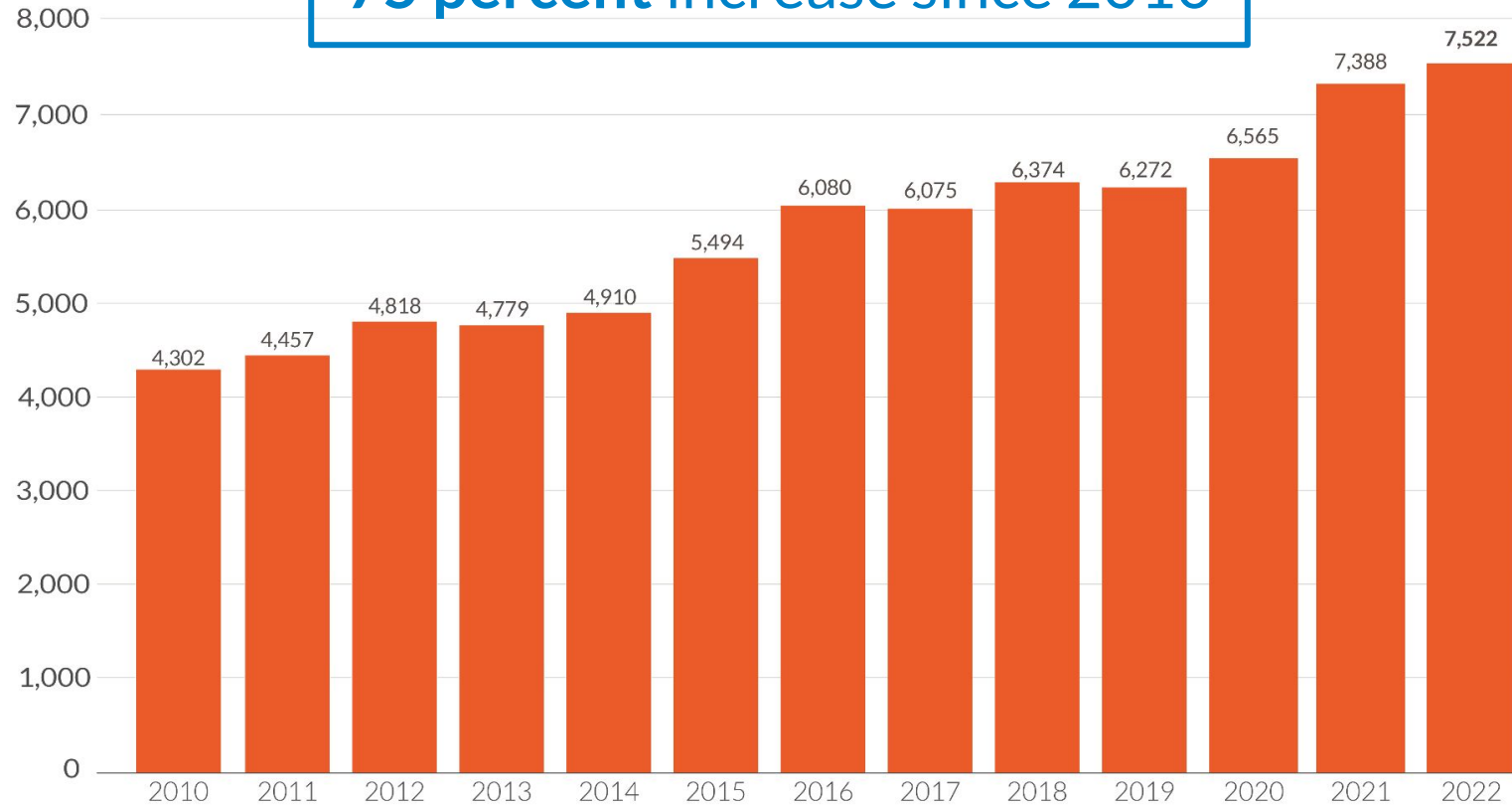
*Vehicles, or People?*



# No two communities are the same



75 percent increase since 2010

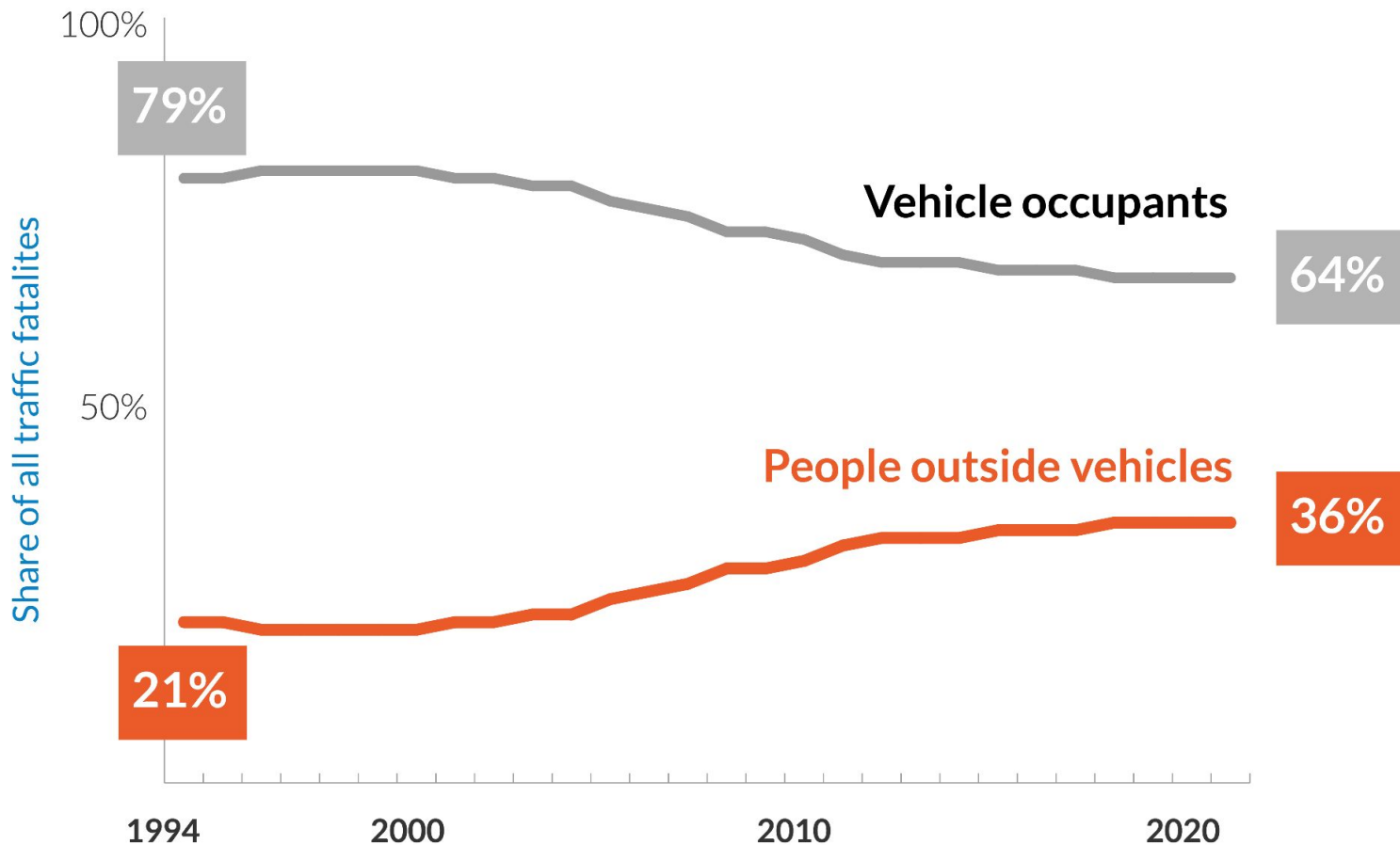


U.S. pedestrian deaths (2010-2022)





# A historic share of all deaths are people outside of vehicles



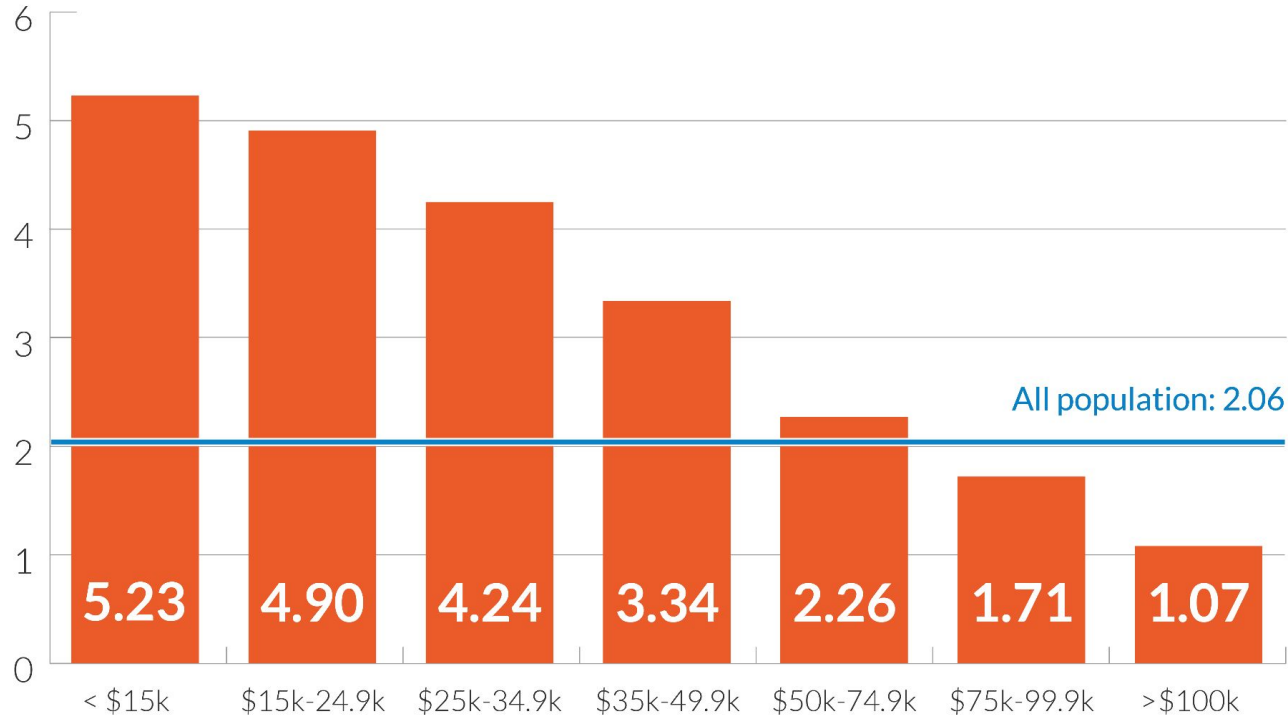




# Rates are highest in the poorest areas

## Lower-income areas have far higher rates of pedestrian deaths

Pedestrian fatalities per 100,000 people by census tract income

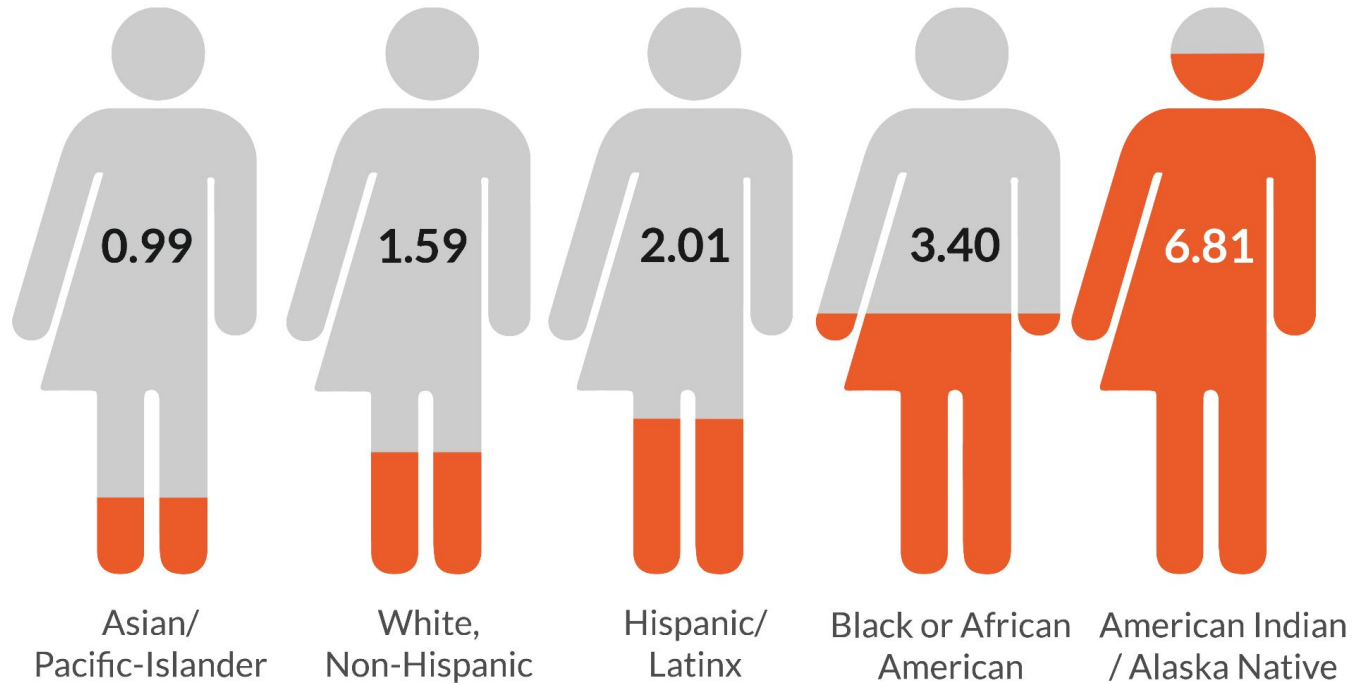


Census tract median household income, 2018-2022



# People of color bear the burden

Pedestrian deaths per 100,000 by race & ethnicity (2018-2022)



# King County is Dangerous by Design



**2013 - 2017**

205 people killed while walking

**2018 - 2022**

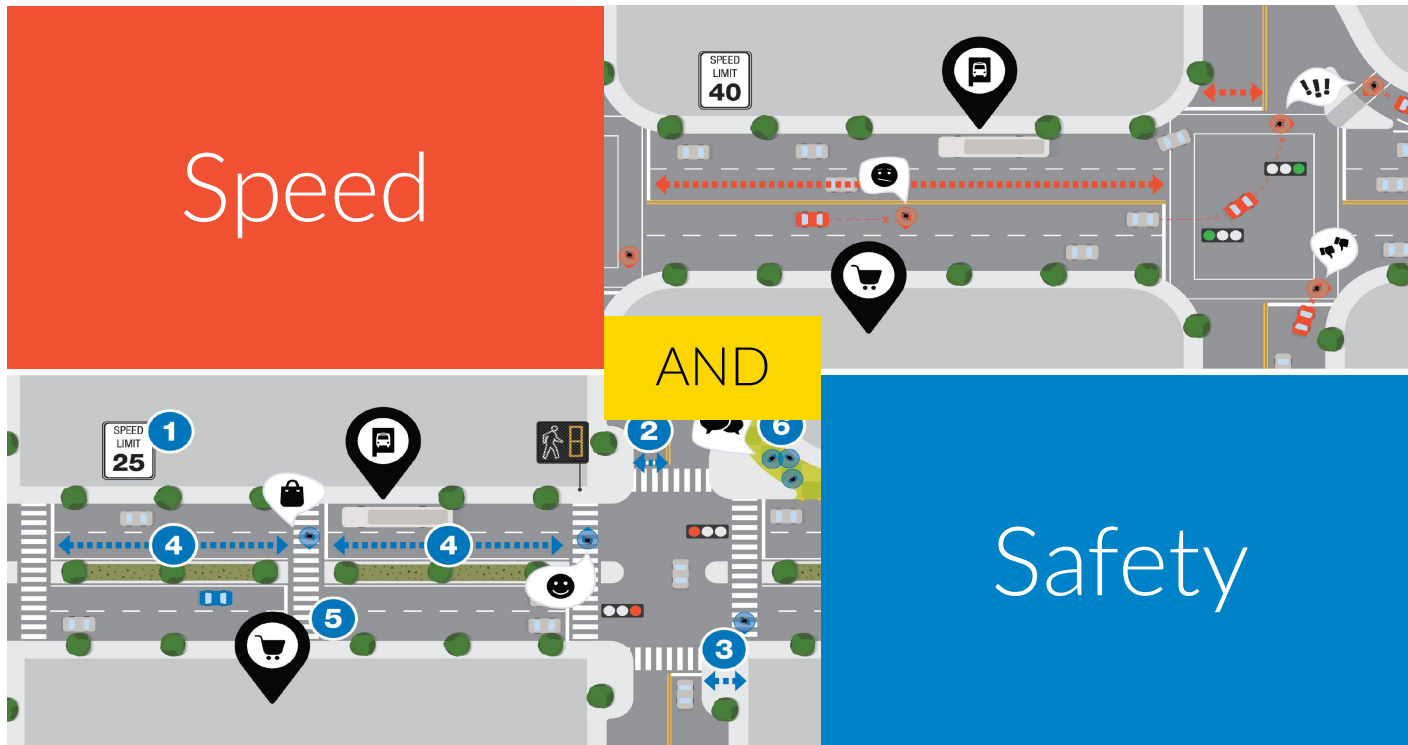
326 people killed while walking

An increase of 121 deaths.





# It's impossible to prioritize both...





**We design for 9-to-5 downtown work trips.**



# Implications from Transportation Decision Making



[Darin Givens](#), sourced from [the GSU digital collections](#)





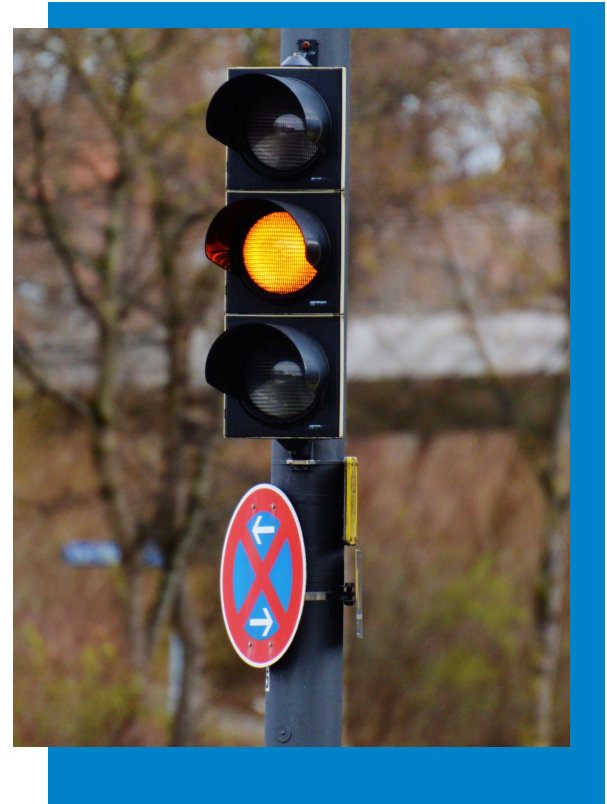
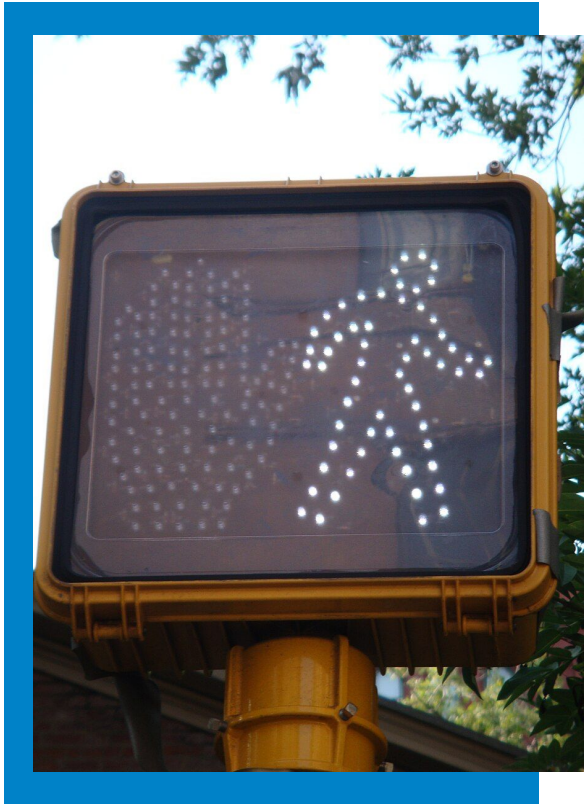
# Implications from Transportation Decision Making



**Siloed approach to the built environment perpetuates livability challenges**



# Accessibility and Streets





# DC Vision Zero

- Interagency Work Groups on data, enforcement, education, and engineering
- Representatives from DDOT, DMV, DCTC, DPR, DHCD, DOH, DPW, OP, ODR, FEMS, DCOA, HSEMA, DCPS, DOEE, DGS, and more



December 2015







# DC Vision Zero

- Data
  - focused on methods of collecting, sharing, maintaining, and improving data collection, availability, and use in enforcement, education, and engineering strategies
- Enforcement
  - focused on strategies to more effectively enforce traffic laws and regulations.
- Education
  - identified tools to educate District residents about traffic laws and safe behaviors for travelers of all ages and abilities
- Engineering
  - developed road design techniques and infrastructure to make streets safe for all users

**Leverage skill sets, converge perspectives, empower collaboration**



# Resources



<https://smartgrowthamerica.org/dangerous-by-design/>

<https://smartgrowthamerica.org/program/divided-by-design/>



# Connect with Us

[www.t4america.org](http://www.t4america.org)

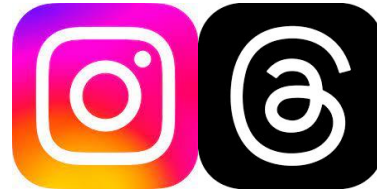
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