Elevating Youth Leadership in Community-Centered Programming: Lessons from an Interdisciplinary Partnership



Angel Cheung
Alyssa Brault
Seattle Department of Transportation

Kimberly LaFave
Anjulie Ganti
University of Washington

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Seattle
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Transportation

Introductions



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Angel Cheung (she/her)

Transportation Access Program Partnership & Research Coordinator

Seattle Department of Transportation

Lecturer

University of Washington – Health Systems and Population Health



Kimberly LaFave (she/her)

1st year MHA Graduate Student

University of Washington



Alyssa Brault (she/her)

Transportation Access Program Engagement & Evaluation Intern

Seattle Department of Transportation

2nd Year MPH Student

University of Washington

Seattle Department of Transportation

Special Thank You To



Anjulie Ganti

Program Director for the Public Health-Global Health Major

University of Washington



Liliya Shtikel

Transportation Access Program Manager

Seattle Department of Transportation





Keshet Ronen & Carolin Spice

Honors Cohort Instructors

University of Washington

UW Honors 2026 Cohort

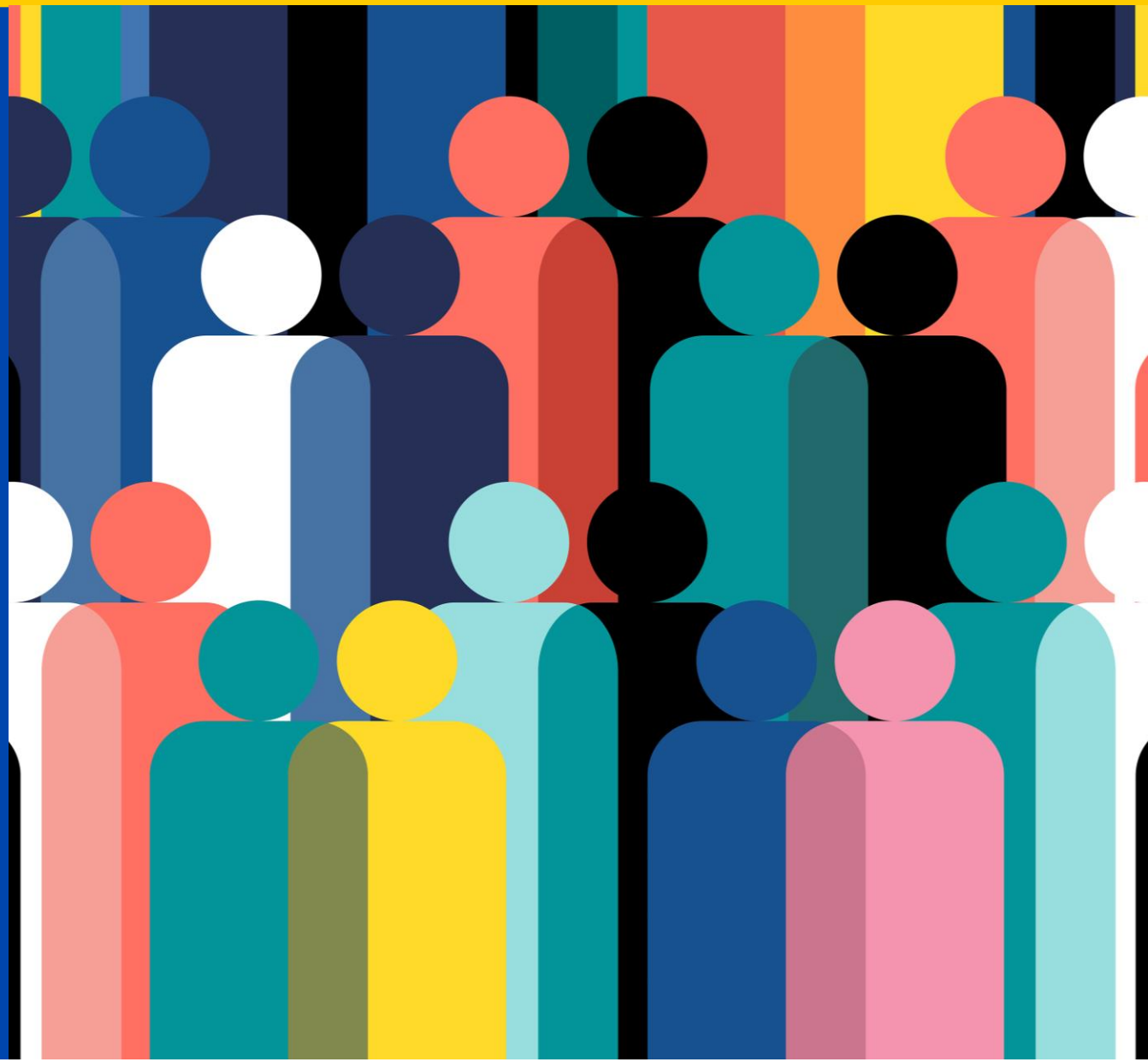
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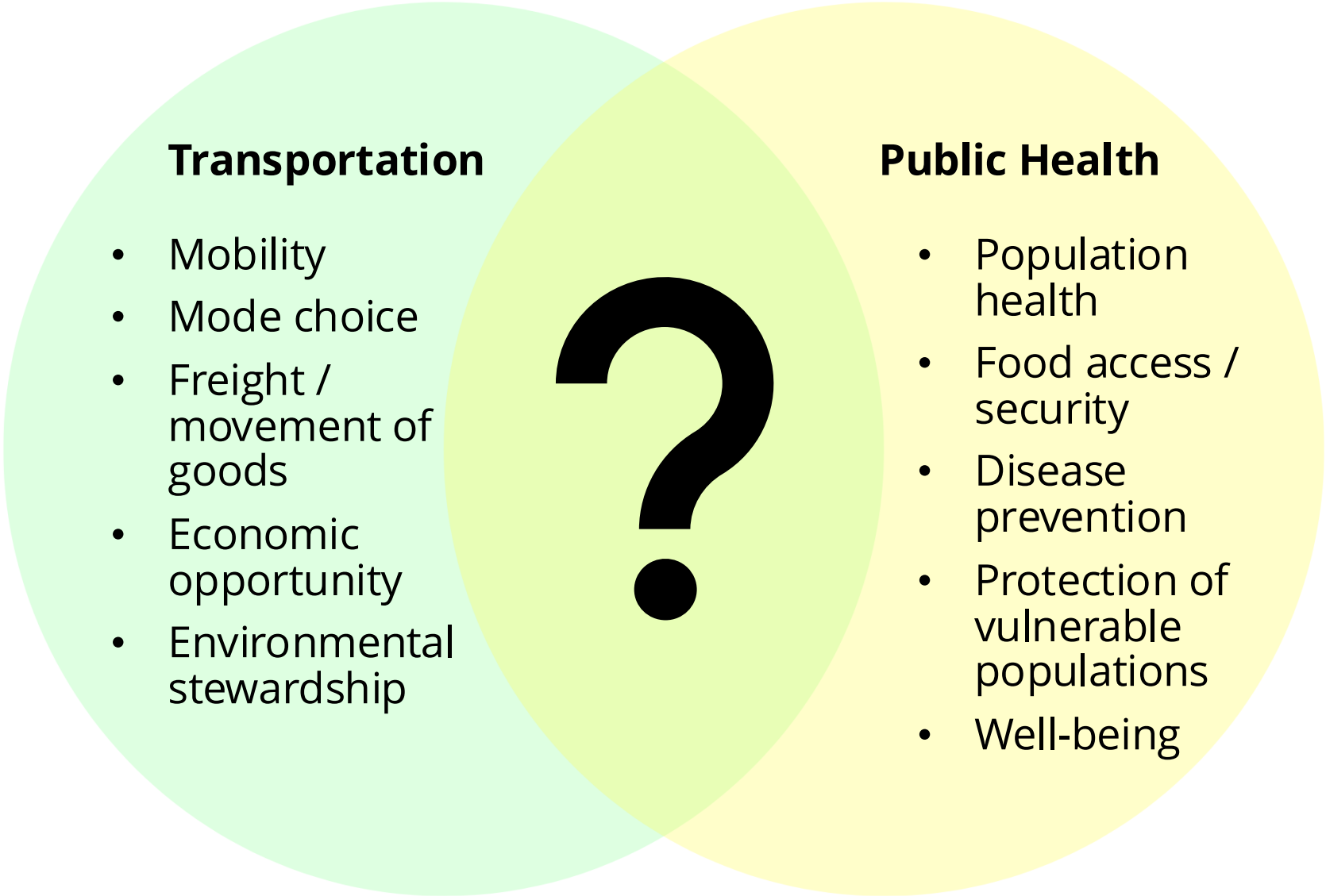
Warm Up Activity

What topics come to mind when you hear "public health"?

Shout them out!

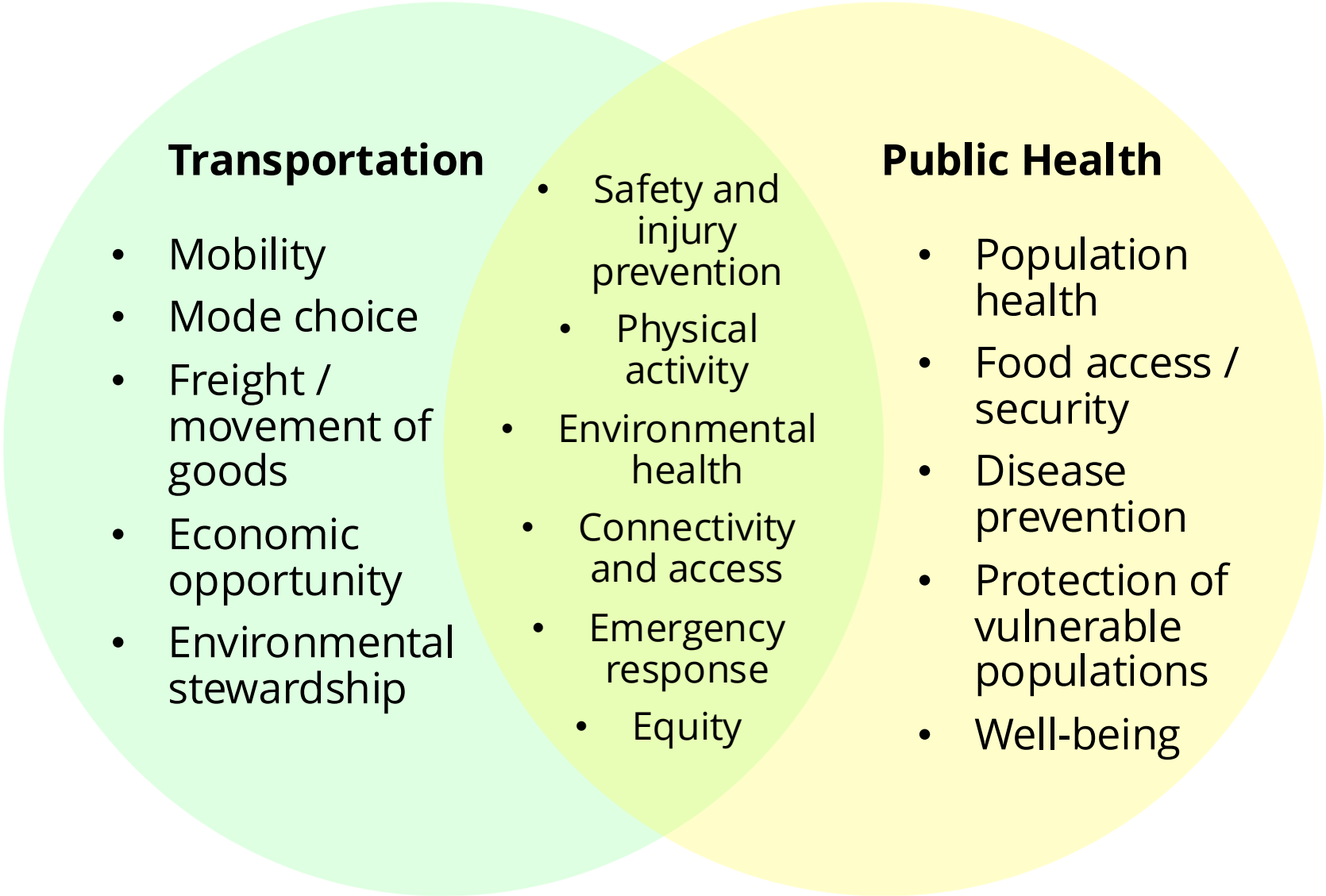


Is Transportation Public Health?



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Is Transportation Public Health? - Yes!



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Presentation Goals:

1. Transportation systems **directly** influence public health, and **cross-sector partnerships help create community-driven solutions**.

2. Government agencies can partner with academic institutions to offer **students career exposure and skill-building opportunities**.

3. Programs are **most effective** when the communities they serve help **shape their design and implementation**.

Who we are? What do we do?



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Transportation Access Programs (TAP) at SDOT

Mission: To provide affordable, safe, and equitable access to public transportation by providing transit resources and community-centered programming to diverse Seattle communities.

$ Fully-funded by the voter-approved Seattle Transit Measure (STM) sales tax

Subsidy Programs

Community Engagement and Education

Research & Emerging Needs

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Transportation Access Programs - Transportation | seattle.gov

TAP's Youth Transportation Summit

Began in 2023 due to Mayoral Executive Order

1st Summit (2023): **Climate justice** and creating a Climate Transportation Action plan

2nd Summit (2025): Creation of SDOT projects and collecting **youth feedback on projects**

3rd Summit (2026): Focus on **transportation safety**



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Partnering with University of Washington



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Honors Project

Honors undergraduate cohort: 25 students; project split across 2 quarters

SDOT		UW Honors
• Project scope		• What skills can students bring to the project? • What skills will students develop?
• Project timeline across two quarters		• How will we maintain project continuity across two quarters?
• Expected deliverables		• What will students deliver on the day-of the event, and after?

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Youth Transportation Summit



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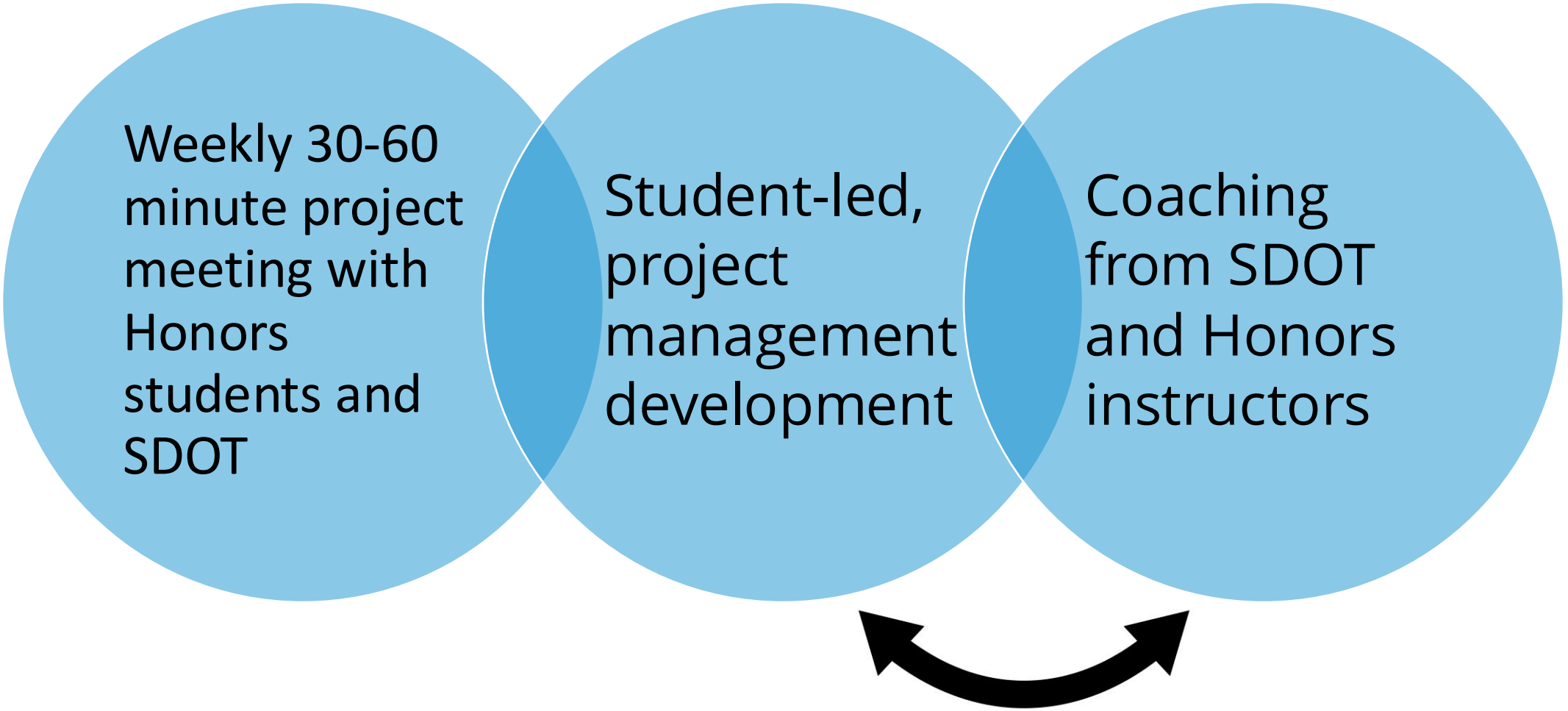
Honors Project – Student Toolbox

Class	Skill
Public Health Research Methods	• Survey development • Mixed-methods analysis
Honors Seminar	• Small and large group facilitation • Lesson planning
All SPH Core classes	• Public Health writing • Health communication

How do we balance being responsive to community partners' needs **while** providing projects appropriate for student-skill level?

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Partnership between SDOT and UW



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Honors Project – Student Toolbox

Class	Skill	Application
Public Health Research Methods	• Survey development • Mixed-methods analysis	★ Explore and explain peer perceptions of transit safety around the University of Washington ★ Create survey for Summit attendees to provide feedback on the event
Honors Seminar	• Small and large group facilitation • Lesson planning	★ Develop **and** facilitate interactive activity to collect participant feedback on transportation safety
All SPH Core classes	• Public Health writing • Health communication	★ Analyze activity findings ★ Create materials describing finings, with concluding presentation to SDOT staff

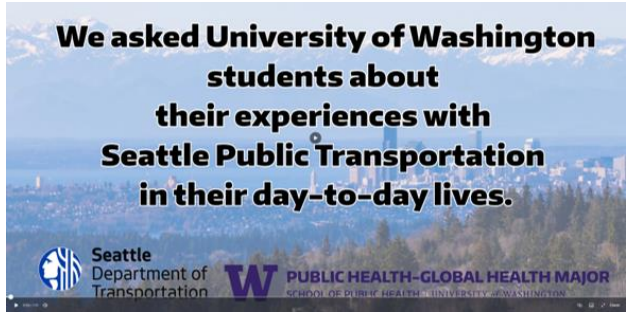
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Proposed Deliverables

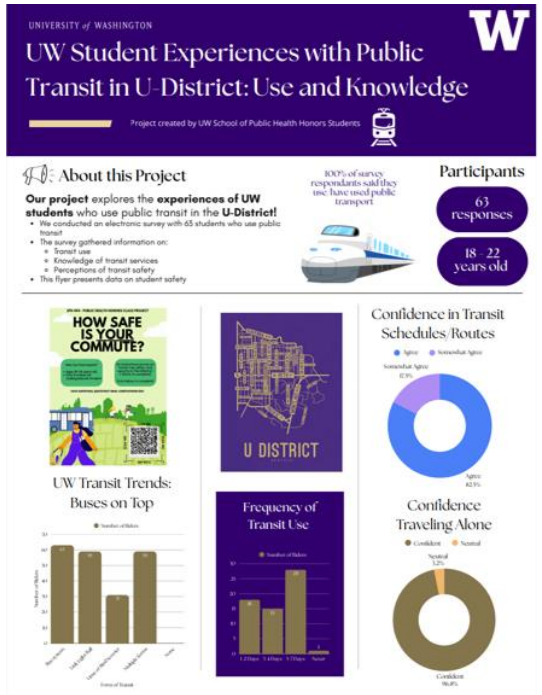
Winter Quarter	Summit Day!	Spring Quarter
Describe peer perceptions of transportation safety around the U-District	Present findings at Resource Fair Hour	N/A
Create post-event survey for Summit attendees	Administer/ distribute survey	Analyze survey data • Create material demonstrating findings
Develop interactive activity to collect feedback on transportation safety from Summit attendees • Develop analysis plan to understand attendee feedback collected from interactive activity	Facilitate interactive activity	Evaluate feedback collected • Create material demonstrating findings • Present findings to SDOT

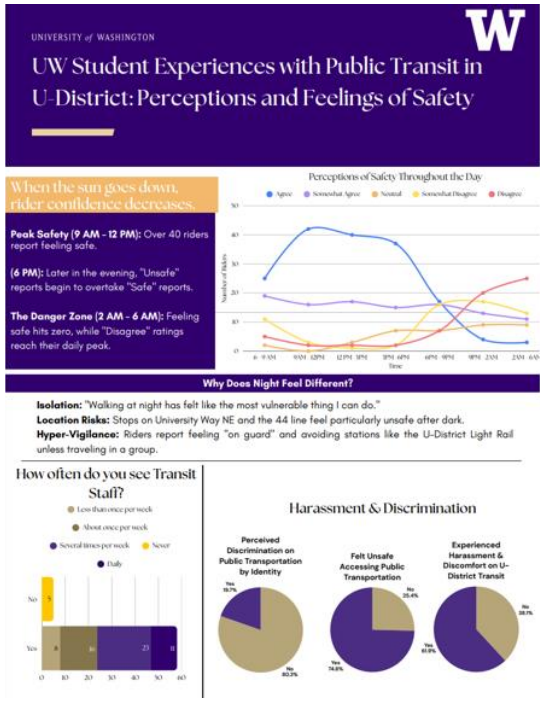
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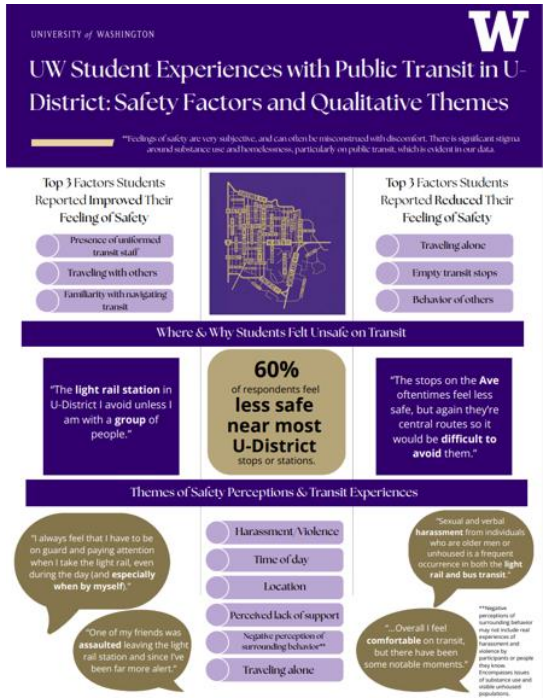
Winter Quarter Deliverables



- Gather feedback from young adults on perceptions of transportation safety around University of Washington
- Create visuals and present findings during Youth Transportation Summit resource fair



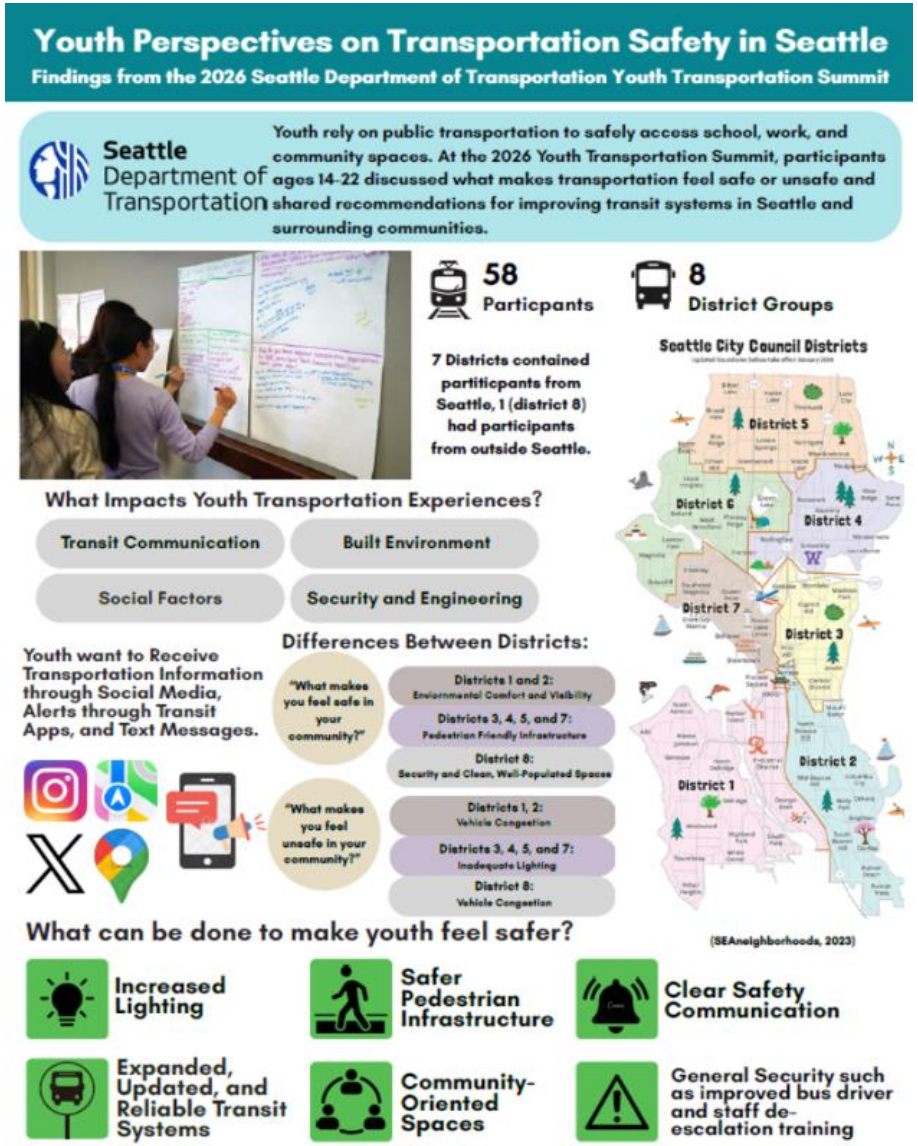




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Spring Quarter Deliverables

- Create a survey for evaluating the participant experience at Youth Transportation Summit
- Develop and lead interactive feedback session on transportation safety at Youth Transportation Summit
  - Compile feedback from session into a one-pager for SDOT use



Hearing from UW Public Health Honors Student

Kimbery LaFave



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My Experience as a Youth Leader

Uncertainty

- Working with a large-scale community partner
- Connecting public health & transportation
- Final project outcomes



Adaptability

- Navigating pivots & changing expectations
- Bridging perspectives
- Learning to contribute without having all the answers



Taking Charge

- Roadmapping future deliverables
- Sustaining project communication



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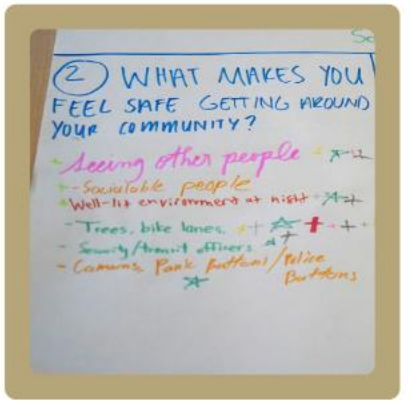
My Experience as a Youth Leader

Skills I Developed

- **Project Management**
  - Planning & executing
- **Facilitation & Communication**
  - Working with community partners
- **Administrative & Organizational Skills**









LEARN. ADAPT. CONTRIBUTE.

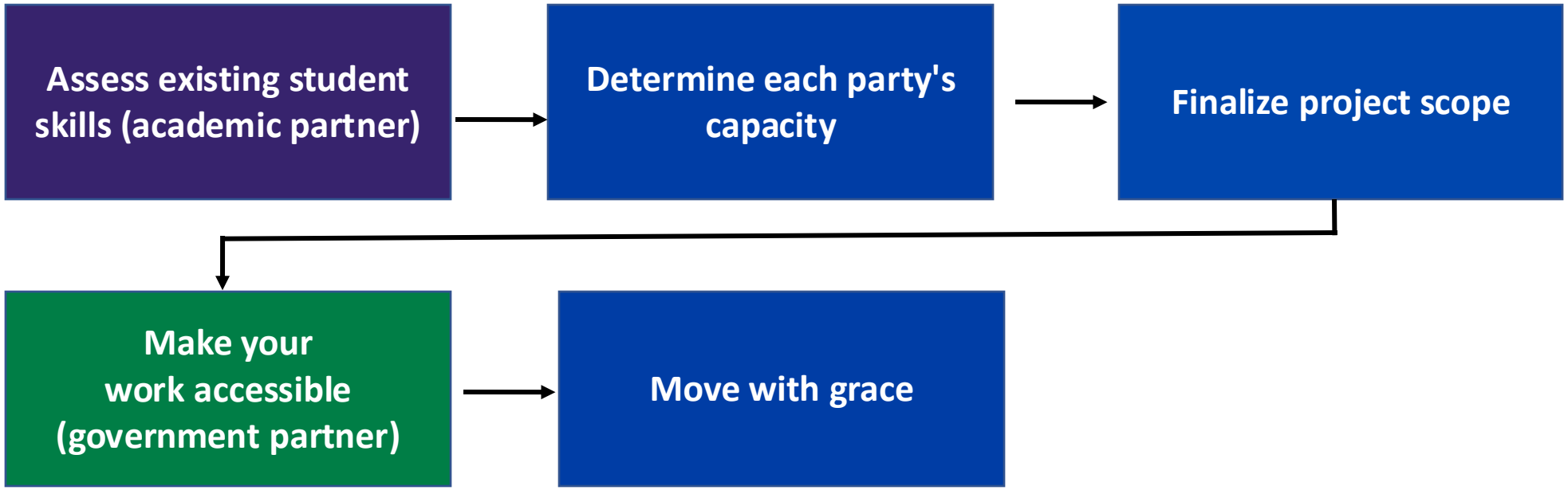
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Government Agencies + Academic Institutions



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Takeaways



If you work for a government agency, we challenge you to think about where it might be valuable to use a public health lens and opportunities for student collaboration.

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Contact Information

Angel Cheung
Angel.Cheung@seattle.gov

Alyssa Brault
Alyssa.Brault@seattle.gov

Kimberly LaFave
Klafav@uw.edu

Scan to learn more about SDOT's Transportation Access Programs

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Thank you! Questions?

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