



TOOL 4

Connect the Dots

TIME COMMITMENT

2–4 hours

PEOPLE

- Park organization staff
- Community stakeholders

SUPPLIES

- Demographic data/infographics
- Community assets map
- Historic timeline
- Horizontal surface (table) or vertical surface (poster board, wall, easel)
- Interactive materials (stickers, sticky notes)
- Pens, pencils, markers

INTRODUCTION

How has your city been impacted by infrastructural racism and racist urban policy of the past?

Merge findings from your demographic review, timeline, and community assets map to build an equity-centered “overlay map.”

Legacies of injustice impact present-day infrastructure reuse projects in ways that can often be difficult to see—hampering efforts to develop targeted racial equity plans. Overlaying takeaways from the demographic review, history timeline, and community assets mapping will help you identify strategic partnerships, develop programming, build advocacy plans, and fundraise. This visual aid can also highlight critical community needs, reveal gaps in your ongoing racial and social equity work, and surface challenges that need to be addressed to ensure a new infrastructure reuse project doesn't reproduce injustices of the past.



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TIPS FOR USING THIS TOOL

- This tool is designed to combine takeaways from Tools 1–3.
- Consider creating multiple overlay maps for different narratives and audiences.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Host a public workshop to share and discuss takeaways from your demographic review, community assets map, and/or historic timeline. Topics may include: long-standing community anchors that should be built upon; important historical events; or data on inequities (health, housing, public space access).
2. Based on the conversation, develop a narrative focused on current racial and social equity (the just and fair allocation of power, resources, and opportunities) within your impact area. Create an overlay map that graphically conveys your narrative. Examples of narratives and what would be shown on the map:
 - “These communities have significantly worse health outcomes than other communities along our park space. We should prioritize opening the park in their areas first and partner with health-focused community assets in order to try to counterbalance those health disparities in the future.”
 - *Map layers: Project geography, health disparity demographics, health-focused community assets*
 - “The park programming hasn’t been attracting the Black residents from the neighborhood directly adjacent to us. There are a whole set of cultural assets that the local Black community identified as important; we should build partnerships with them, and collaborate to shape future inclusive programming.”
 - *Map layers: Project geography, racial demographic data, Black community-identified cultural assets*



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CONNECT THE DOTS EXAMPLES 1 & 2

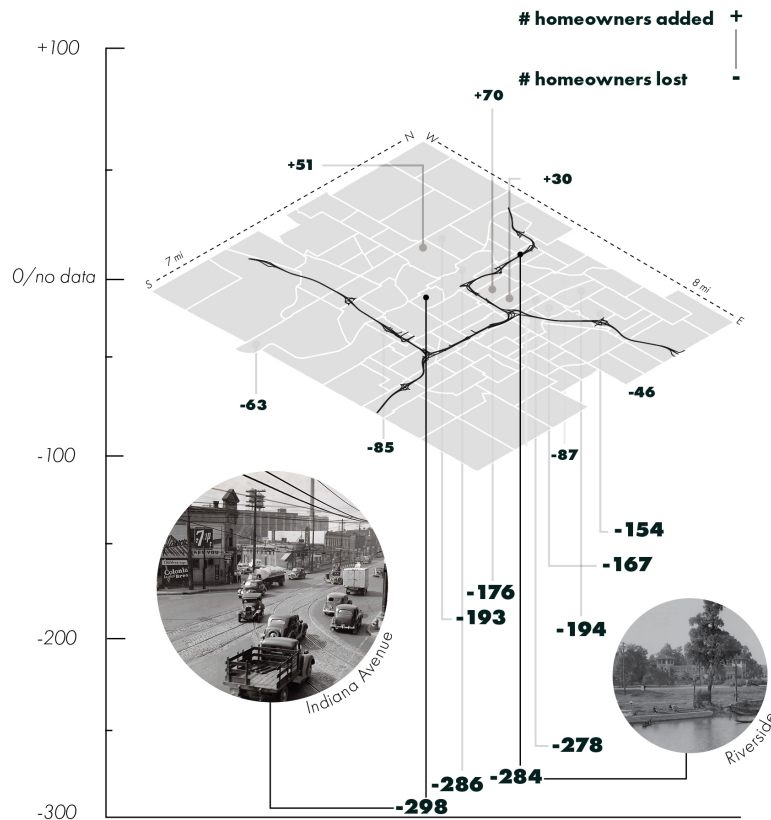
Indianapolis: Conveys how interstate highways have influenced Black homeownership, from 1960 to 1970 and 2010 to 2018

IMAGE CREDITS

Image by: Jiaie Azad & Asher Kaplan
Courtesy of Urban Design and the Color Line, Harvard Graduate School of Design

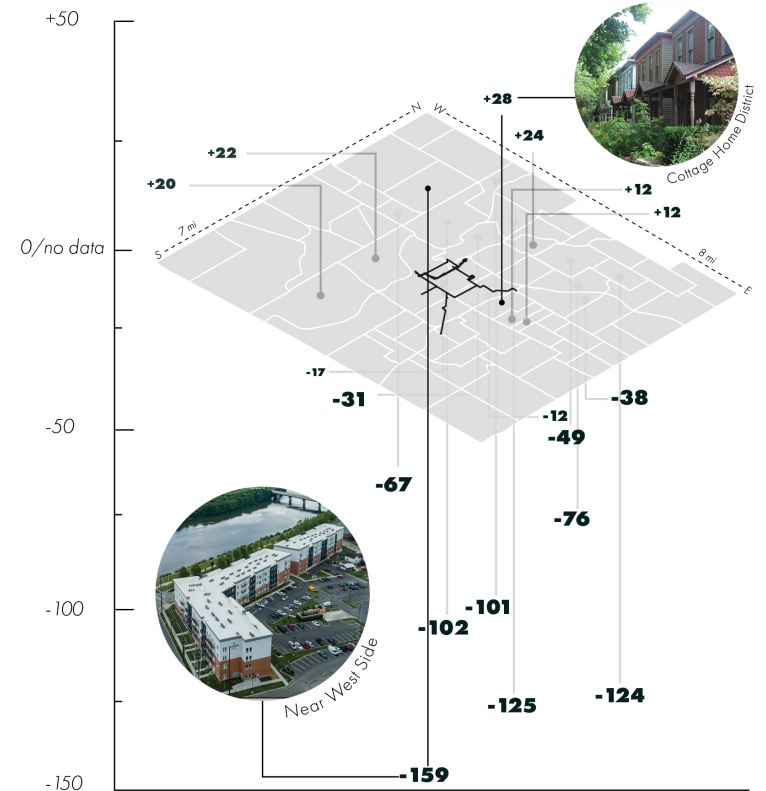
Interstate Highways and Black Homeownership by Census Tract, 1960 to 1970

The construction of Interstate highways I-65 & I-70 directly displaced a large number of Black homeowners – note that this graph is measured at a larger scale than the graph to the right.



The Indianapolis Cultural Trail and Black Homeownership by Census Tract, 2010 to 2018

The ICT broke ground in 2007 and was completed in 2013. Though construction did not directly displace residents, its development progressed in parallel to a smaller-scale but still noticeable downward trend in the number of Black homeowners nearby.





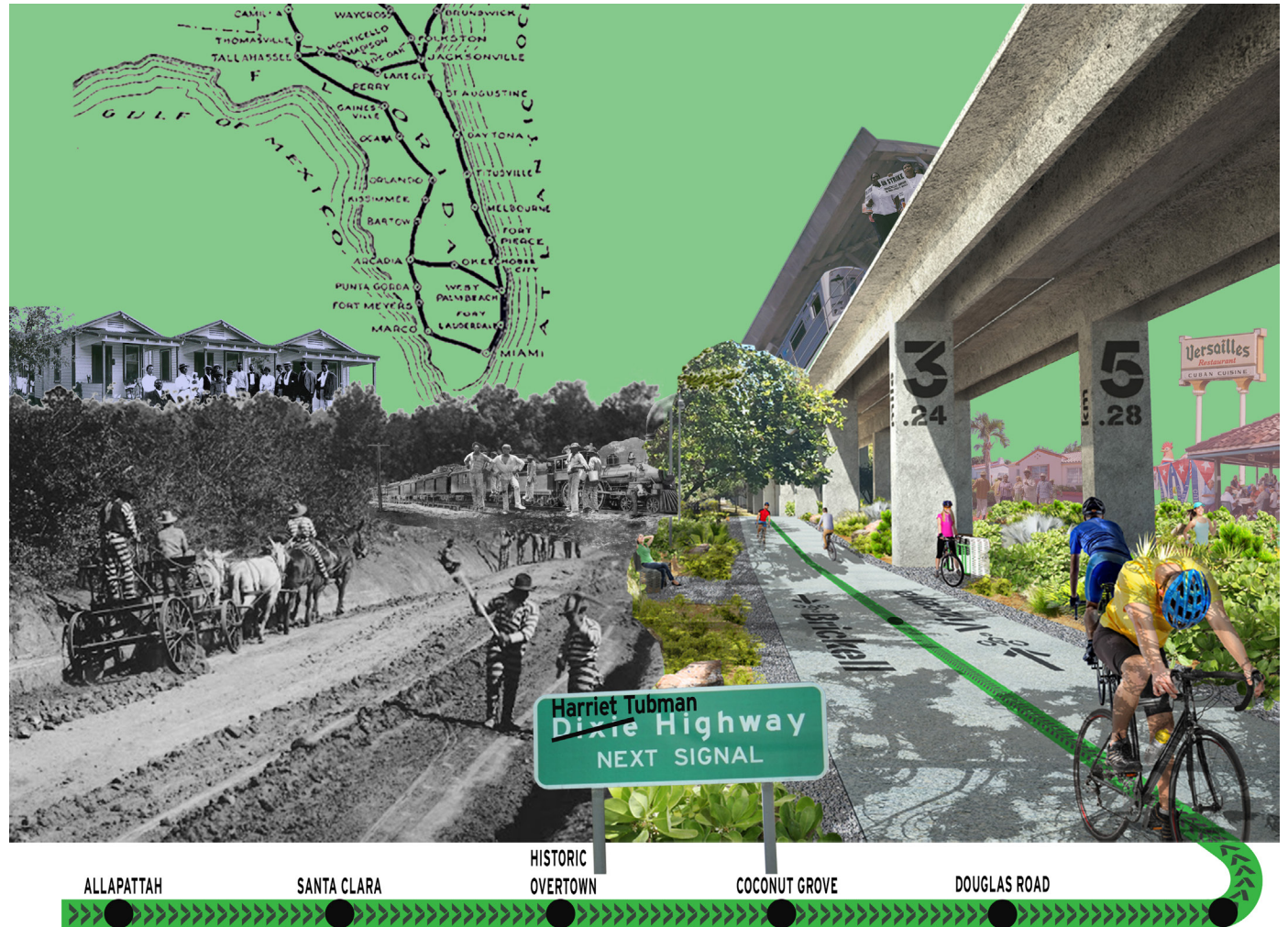
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CONNECT THE DOTS EXAMPLE 3

Miami: Layers of history have shaped the city's public space

IMAGE CREDITS

Image by: Rogelio Cadena & Austin Pritzkat
Courtesy of Urban Design and the Color Line, Harvard Graduate School of Design



**HIGH LINE
NETWORK**



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CONNECT THE DOTS EXAMPLE 4

Houston: Industrial neighborhoods within the East sector

IMAGE CREDITS

Image by: Ciara Stein & Michele Turrini
Courtesy of Urban Design and the Color Line, Harvard Graduate School of Design

