



DISABILITY IN 3 REVOLUTIONS

ALEX GHENIS

ACCESSIBLE CLIMATE
STRATEGIES

ALEX@ACCESSIBLECLIMATE.COM

1) INTRO TO DISABILITY RIGHTS & MODELS OF DISABILITY



DISABILITY IS DIVERSE

Main Categories & Definitions

- Broad “categories” used by government & public health
- Mobility; visual; hearing; cognitive; psychological & emotional; self-care; independent living

Sub-Categories

- Could be medical specifics – e.g. cerebral palsy or spinal cord injury
- Timeframe & severity
- Personal use of medical equipment etc.

Intersectionality

- Interactions with other characteristics, e.g. race, gender, age, income, etc.
- Potential for multiple disabilities
- Onset of disability & stage in life (employment, \$\$\$, etc.)

Personal Experience

- “Relationship” to disability – sadness or pride?
- Training & practice on independent living
- Understanding of disability rights
- Results of micro-traumas?

MODELS OF DISABILITY

Medical Model

- Able-bodied is “normal” & others inferior
- “Undesirables” often outcast or hidden away
- Disability treated medically, “cure” is ideal
- Adaptive equipment viewed as medical
- Built environment need not be accessible
- Economic oppression & unemployment
- “You are broken, not the system.”

Social Model

- Range of abilities; status could change
- Goal of inclusion & independence
- Positive disability identity & community
- Equipment & services as accommodations
- Use principles of “universal access”
- Economic empowerment & supports
- “The system is broken, not me.”



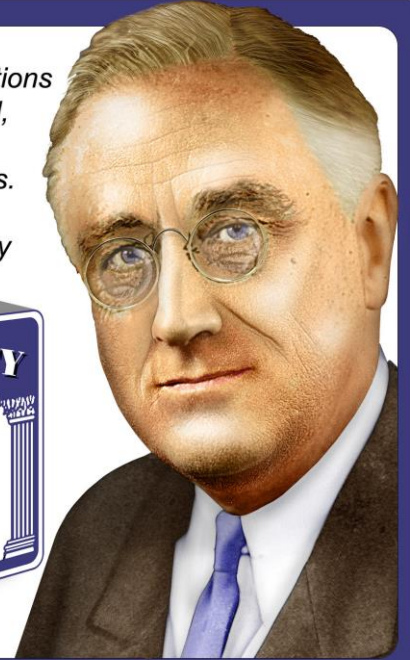
ACCESSIBILITY & THE SOCIAL MODEL

- The social model identifies physical, economic & social barriers as causes of oppression
- Barriers include physical inaccessibility, economic conditions, stigma
- Break down barriers through physical, economic & social accessibility & supports
- Physical accessibility: mobility supports (e.g. wheelchairs, guide dogs), accessible physical environment (e.g. ramps, elevators, door openers & restrooms), signage & notifications
- Economic accessibility: education & employment opportunities; adaptive technology & equipment; financial supports (e.g. SSI & SSDI); career, personal & financial supports as needed
- Social accessibility: awareness, inclusion, breaking down stigma & oppression

VITAL PIECES IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



FDR said, "We put those pay roll contributions there so as to give the contributors a legal, moral, and political right to collect their pensions and their unemployment benefits. With those taxes in there, no damn politician can ever scrap my social security program."



Independent Living Supports

- Cash Assistance & Other Benefits
- Attendant Care
- Employment & Related Training
- Nonprofits, e.g. Independent Living Centers

Healthcare System

- Public & Private Funding
- Health Maintenance for Independent Living
- Acute Medical Care
- Outpatient Services: no Institutionalization

Social & Economic Inclusion

- Oppression & Stigma
- Accommodations
- Legal Rights & Enforcement

Accessible Environments

- Buildings & Housing
- Transportation
- Infrastructure
- Technology as Needed

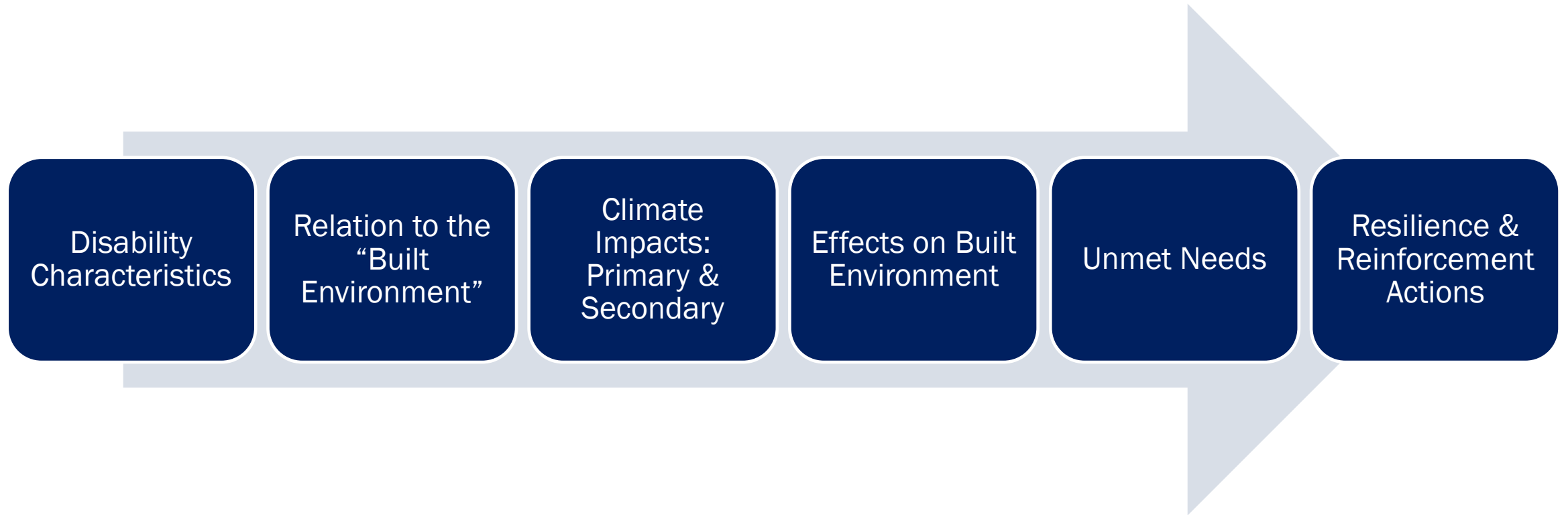
2) CLIMATE JUSTICE IN A GREEN TRANSITION



EVALUATION METHOD: MITIGATION



EVALUATION METHOD: ADAPTATION



TRANSPORTATION: MAJOR FOCUS AREAS

- Ridehailing & ridesharing
- Bikes & scooters
- EVs & micro-mobility
- AVs

RIDEHAILING & RIDESHARING

- Ridesharing:
 - Few to no accessible vehicles (van with ramp; van or car with hand-controls)
 - Potential financial barriers
- Ridehailing:
 - Originally, no accessible vehicles
 - Some driver discrimination, especially involving service dogs
 - Difficult to regulate accessibility given business model (“communications platform”)
 - In CA, expanded use of wheelchair-accessible-vehicles; contracted out; needed legislation

BIKES & SCOOTERS

- Not all people with disabilities can use bicycles or scooters: presents a significant barrier
- Potential barrier for “cash-less” and “unbanked” individuals (regarding digital payment)
- Improperly parked bikes & scooters create accessibility barriers on sidewalks etc. This leads to safety issues: running into the scooters, or using unsafe paths to get around them (e.g. down a driveway and on the street’s shoulder)
- Adaptive cycles as an alternative (reclined and hand-operated). Careful: one size doesn’t fit all!
 - Balance transportation v. recreation: what’re the logistics? Is there a “start” and “stop” point?
 - Example: limited hand cycles, available by reservation, focused on recreation (stored in shed)

EVS & MICRO-MOBILITY

- First off – make some electric accessible vehicles! Could be a sticking point in the “green transition.”
- Provide subsidies to financially-limited individuals to purchase electric vehicles.
- Micro-mobility:
 - Sufficient wheelchair-accessible vehicles; make all vehicles “universally accessible” if possible
 - Elevated structures (e.g. for pod-cars) MUST be fully accessible. Cost is not a justification to ignore the Americans with Disabilities Act re: elevators and other accessibility.
 - Remember: it’s cheaper to build accessible and to retrofit later!

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

- HUGE potential for improving mobility for people with disabilities, especially Stage 4 & 5 AVs
 - Wheelchair-accessible vehicles without need for a driver vastly improves independence
 - Non-accessible vehicles still helpful for many other disabilities, e.g. blind/low vision
- Accessible considerations include, but not limited to:
 - Physical accessibility, including securing mobility equipment
 - Digital accessibility, especially for blind/low vision. Consider audio features on touch-screens, and guarantee that cell phone applications work with text-to-speech features.