

## ABSTRACT

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Title: Justice Dilemmas of Public Transportation and Infrastructure in New Haven, CT: A Public Policy Analysis

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Since its inception, New Haven, Connecticut, has been a metropolitan economic hub dealing with vast socio-economic inequalities. This inequity has been realized through increased redlining, crime, unequal financial investment, significant university monopolization of tax-free real estate, and poorly managed public transportation. Understanding that underserved communities are at a higher risk of experiencing the effects of climate change and other inequities, this study analyzed how successful Connecticut's policy leaders were in recommending policies for the New Haven CT *transit* bus system to increase accessibility and equity. Unlike other investments in transportation infrastructure projects (e.g., highway maintenance, bridge construction, electric charging stations, and parking lots), investing and improving public transportation directly tackle social justice and equity issues through a thorough policy analysis of the three reports: *New Haven Alternatives Analysis* (2014), *Final Phase 1 report: Existing Conditions and Evaluation of the Greater New Haven Bus System* (2017), *Move New Haven Transit Mobility Study Final Report* (2019). The objective was to assess these reports through the lens of three forms of justice: recognition, procedural, and distributional justice. By approaching the justice analysis of these policies in chronological order, the study identified areas of these reports where sufficient considerations of justice implications were overlooked. The areas of interest were Cost Considerations, Infrastructure (Efficiency & Accessibility), Efficacy of Public Participation & Qualitative Data, and Sustainability & Environmental Justice. The findings conclude that public participation was overwhelmingly utilized but not equally valued. This statement is validated when looking at the stark differences between community recommendations gathered in the 2014 report and what became the finalized policy proposal by the last report of 2019. Further research that expands the scope of this study to the entirety of the Connecticut bus transit system is recommended to identify if the issues seen with New Haven transit are also systemic state-wide.