

# Planning Podcasts

In this issue, we are excited to bring you two older podcasts on topics that are very relevant today. In “Dense Roads – Road Allocation and Beyond”, we hear from Dr. Meghan Winters, an epidemiologist sharing her in-depth study on Covid-19 and street reallocation. This is especially relevant now with the recently released Bill 16. In the second podcast, we hear from Dr. Leela Viswanathan, CIP Fellow, planner and educator who shares her passion, experience and lessons learned from leading and guiding the planning process through an empathetic lens.

**Got a podcast about planning you want to share? Contact us with your podcast summary at [editor@pibc.bc.ca](mailto:editor@pibc.bc.ca)**

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## Dense City – Road Reallocation and Beyond (Episode 9)

**Run time 51:00 (April 2021)**

Podcast summary by Steffi Sunny, Communications Committee Member

**Host:** Rebecca Mayers, Planner (Street Planning) at Translink & Post-Doctoral Fellow, School of Planning, University of Waterloo

**Guest:** Dr. Meghan Winters, Associate Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University

### Podcast link\*

<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/densecitypod/episodes/9-Road-Reallocation-and-Beyond-eun4qu>

### Podcast Summary

In the Dense City podcast, host Rebecca Mayers chats with academics about their research on cities. In this episode, Rebecca chats with Dr. Meghan Winters, an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at SFU. She is an epidemiologist interested in the link between health, transportation, and city design. She is the founder and lead of the Cities, Health, and Active Transportation Lab at SFU (CHATR). This episode specifically focuses on her paper entitled “COVID-19 street reallocation in mid-sized Canadian Cities: socio-equity patterns,” published in the *Canadian Journal of Public Health* with her co-author Jaimy Fischer.

Paper: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.17269/s41997-020-00467-3>

CHATR Site: <https://chatr.ca/>

Room to Move Storymap: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/6c8ee50c32e043a0b635426c366aac0c>

### Why Planners Should Listen

Dr. Meghan Winters is well known for her research projects on pedestrian safety, school active travel, health equity and city policies, micro mobility, bike sharing, and more.

In this episode, she talks in depth about her paper, “COVID-19 street reallocation in mid-

sized Canadian Cities: socio-equity patterns.”

This podcast is recommended for anyone wanting to know more about this paper, especially the background literature studies and data analysis, and planners interested in transportation planning.

Street reallocation is defined as diverting street space away from cars and giving it to people who use active modes of transportation like walking and biking. This paper focuses on street allocation during the Covid-19 pandemic in three medium-sized Canadian cities - Victoria, Kelowna, and Halifax.

With the new provincial regulations, especially Bill 16, and the support for road allocation plans to support more sustainable forms of transportation, I think we have come a long way since the recording of this podcast. However, the topic of equity when considering road allocation is still a very relevant topic of discussion.

## 360 Degree City Podcast – Planning with Empathy (Episode 35)

**Run time 49:00**

Podcast summary by Steffi Sunny, Communications Committee Member

**Host:** John Lewis, President & Founder, Intelligent Futures

**Guest:** Dr. Leela Viswanathan, PhD, RPP, FCIP, Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning at Queen’s University and Associate Faculty at Royal Roads University

### Podcast link\*

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Cuzv3R7Q43s>

### Podcast Summary

Urban planners, designers, architects, and other city builders can often experience tension between acting as an expert and learning from the community. We are understanding more and more the importance of designing great places from a point of empathy and co-creation. John reached out to someone who is doing all sorts of great planning work with communities by putting empathy at the forefront of their work. Dr. Leela Viswanathan, PhD, RPP, FCIP is an Associate Professor at the School of Urban Planning at Queen’s University. Her research explores the intersection of planning, equity, and diversity.

### Why Planners Should Listen

Empathy in public engagement and planning practice in general has been a hot topic of discussion, especially when it comes to reconciliation work. In this episode, Dr. Leela Viswanathan shares the approaches she uses in her community development work and talks about the tension between the expert-based and community-based knowledge of a planner. She shares her personal challenges, lessons learned, and approaches to nurture empathy in planning practice.