

Review of: "#CapTheCrossBronx: Grassroots Advocacy & Public Health Research to Secure Federal Funding for Reimagining the Cross Bronx Expressway (Policy & Practice Commentary)"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is a very interesting and inspiring commentary showing how public health research can contribute to the social and political debate and how it can act as an advocacy tool to redesign public space in order to improve public health. I have a few comments to further improve this commentary.

1. I found the introduction and literature review a bit hard to read. Some of the paragraphs are very short and the content of the paragraphs did not always logically follow up on each other. In the last paragraph of this section, the provision of green spaces is mentioned, but this comes a bit out of the blue since the importance of green space (for reducing air pollution, mental health, physical activity opportunities, etc.) was not introduced previously.

2. It would be interesting for other researchers to learn a bit more about the advocacy process and how researchers can contribute to this process. Were the researchers members of the grass-roots organization? How did this organization get to know about the research paper? How were the results used by the organization to advocate for the cap? Did they use it to convince policy makers during presentations / publications? Did they use it to convince Bronx residents to support the organization? Did they use it for capacity building?

3. The reader needs a bit more information to fully understand the information presented in Figures 1, 2 and 3. In Figures 1 and 3 it is not clear where the Bronx is located. In Figure 2 it is not clear where the Cross Bronx Expressway is located.

4. The Bronx is a very interesting case study since it is a well-known area around the world. Hence, this story would appeal to many. Could you provide a bit more of an international perspective on this topic? In my own country, capping a highway near the city of Antwerp has led to a big social and political debate involving citizen-led organizations as well. Are there other examples? Are there similarities in the processes of introducing deck parks across the world? What could be the role of researchers in this process?