



Patricia Illacanchi Guerra

Patricia is an urban mobility specialist passionate about creating safer, more inclusive transport systems. She pioneered the use of geospatial analysis for road safety within the public sector in Peru, leading award-winning initiatives like the Safe School Environments program. Currently at the Inter-American Development Bank, she supports Peru's transport agencies while promoting sustainable transport solutions for the sector.



Lima, Peru





Transport systems can be considered inclusive only if...

... it is built on an intersectional approach. We can't assume that everyone experiences the city in the same way. Things like gender, age, income, disability, and even where you live all shape how you move or struggle to move. It's about moving beyond "one-size-fits-all" solutions and ensuring the system works for the realities of all users. In my projects, I focus on using data that reflects people's experiences. We need to understand the barriers people face every day so we can design safer, fairer, and more empowering spaces. Only then can transport become a real tool for equity, not just a way to get from A to B.

If I was in power of our transport systems, the first thing I would do is...

... put road safety right at the top of the agenda. We shouldn't imagine any transport system or operation without safety at its core. Lives should not be the price we pay for movement. Road safety is often underfinanced in our countries, even though its impact is huge, both socially and economically. I would make sure that every transport decision is rooted in safety, from designing safer streets to reducing speeds and empowering local leaders with data and tools that help protect people. It's

about creating a culture where protecting lives isn't optional; it's fundamental. Road safety is also closely connected to sustainable mobility policies, and I would work to integrate them.

How does the current transport situation in your city influence your work?

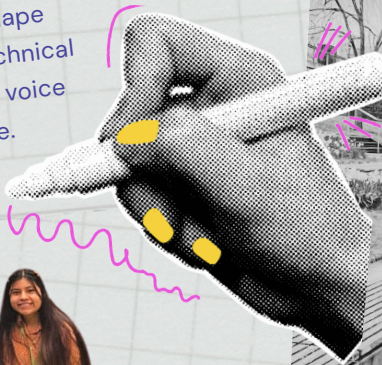
Living and working in a city where mobility presents huge challenges for accessing opportunities has shaped my professional path. It keeps me grounded and pushes me to design projects that embrace diversity. I also understand that, as a professional in transport, we need to break the unconscious biases that often shape our work. Professionally, it's a constant reminder that data and policies need to reflect real people's lives. Personally, it's made me more aware and empathetic asking myself questions like, "Who is being left out of this design?" or "Whose voice is missing here?" It's not just about inclusion on paper; it's about making it a reality through participatory design processes.

What's the main challenge that you face in your daily work?

The biggest challenge I face is the lack of good, detailed data, especially when it comes to gender and diversity. Aggregated data often hides the specific problems faced by each

My work strongly aligns with the Hamburg Charter principles of putting people at the center, ensuring safe mobility for all, and making transport systems inclusive and fair. These values are at the core of every project I take on. Whether it's designing safer school environments or helping local governments improve road safety data, I always try to focus on the real people behind the numbers. I also believe in empowering communities and local actors to shape their own mobility futures. It's not just about technical solutions; it's about giving people the tools and voice to make their streets safer and more accessible.

My work aligns with the Hamburg Charter Principles!



population group. Moreover, many of our decisions depend on data, but if that data doesn't reflect the different realities of people on the ground, we risk designing solutions that miss the mark. This makes it harder to create inclusive policies. However, this challenge motivates me to push for better data collection and analysis. I want to ensure we're not just designing for the "average user," but for the real, diverse communities that shape our cities.

Why is it important to listen to young people?

Because we're not just the future we're shaping our cities in the present. Young people bring other perspectives that are essential for addressing the challenges cities face today. We see things differently because we've grown up with new challenges: climate change, digital transformations, and the urgent need for inclusivity. Listening to young voices helps unlock creative solutions that might not come from other generations. Plus, it sends a clear message that everyone deserves a seat at the table and representation. It's about respect, collaboration, and creating spaces where young

people feel involved and empowered, because we are part of the change.

What would you tell other young people working in the transport field?

First, I would say that I don't need to tell them about the challenges of transport—we've all experienced it, both in good and bad ways. Transport can feel technical, but it's also deeply human, and that's where young people make a real difference. Don't be afraid to question things, bring your fresh ideas, and speak up, even if you're the youngest person in the room. Your perspective matters. Also, find your community. Connect with others who share your passion, because change doesn't happen alone. And remember, every small project, every workshop, every conversation counts. You're shaping the future of mobility, step by step. Keep learning, keep pushing, and always apply an intersectional approach because we all face transport challenges, but not in the same way.

