

# KARSON P. HEGRENES *he/him*

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## EDUCATION

**Masters in Urban Planning and Policy, University of Illinois Chicago** | Spring 2027

- Specialization in Transportation.
- Coursework: Planning Skills, Urban Spatial Analysis and Visualization, Theories of Urban Design; Urban Space, Place, and Institutions; and more.

**B.A. in Geography, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN** | May 2022

- Concentration in Urban Studies. GPA: 3.91/4.0, *summa cum laude*.
- Coursework: GIS, World Urbanization, City Life, Transportation Geography, Urban Public Spaces, and more.

## PROJECTS

**Capstone Research Project: Hennepin Avenue Redesign** | Spring 2022

- [Analysis](#) of online comments identifying themes of contention around Minneapolis' Hennepin Avenue redesign project, such as impact of reduced parking on businesses, safety emphasis, and mobility issues. Presented at [2022 Midwest Undergraduate Geography Symposium](#).

**Transit-Oriented Development in Minneapolis and St. Paul** | Fall 2021

- [Two-page graphic spread](#) and [StoryMap](#) analyzing county parcel data and Metropolitan Council grant data to identify transit-oriented development trends along the Twin Cities' light rail lines.

**Field Guide to Public Spaces: Como Park Pavilion** | Summer 2021

- Observational research project [as part of larger online field guide](#) analyzing accessibility and inclusivity of the lakeside pavilion area in St. Paul's Como Park.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Livable Communities Intern, Metropolitan Council, St. Paul, MN** | May 2022 – May 2023

- Built a dataset and stakeholder-informed Tableau interactive to support NOAH preservation and policy efforts in the Twin Cities region.
- Contributed to the 2050 Regional Housing Policy Plan, focusing on anti-displacement policy, affordable housing need, and civic engagement.
- Updated data repositories, conducted ad hoc data analysis, and presented to Councilmembers and various other stakeholders, demonstrating flexibility and adaptability.

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois Chicago** | August 2025 – Present

- Helping two classes of 25 students learn ArcGIS software for GIS for Planning and Policy class.
- Providing campus-wide ArcGIS and QGIS support as part of the Urban Data Visualization Lab.
- Grading, facilitating workspaces, updating class materials, and answering student questions.

**Volunteer, Bikes del Pueblo Bicycle Co-op, San Diego, CA** | January 2024 – July 2025

- Provided weekly bicycle services and education to youth, unsheltered, refugees, migrants, and other disadvantaged communities in San Diego.
- Designed walk and bike audit materials for 6 corridors and conducted community engagement with at-risk youth in Spring Valley, CA as part of San Diego County's SEEDS Grant Program.
- Participated in grant application writing processes and created maps and other media to support the co-op's grant deliverables.

**Preceptor/GIS Lab Assistant, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN** | January 2020 – May 2022

- Helped deliver instruction for GIS, Metro Analysis, and Political Geography courses, supporting several classes of over 25 students across 5 semesters.
- Assisted students with mapmaking, data analysis, and GIS/Excel softwares; facilitated discussions, reviewed class materials, graded assignments, and answered student questions.
- Converted instructional materials from ArcGIS Pro to ArcGIS Online during COVID-19 pandemic, enabling students to continue learning GIS virtually.

## SKILLS

### Technical

Adobe Creative Suite, ArcGIS Pro, ATLAS.ti, ESRI StoryMaps, Google Suite, Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, Word, QGIS, Rhino, Tableau, and more.

### Research

Argumentative and technical writing, data analysis and manipulation, interviewing, observational research, oral presentation, qualitative methods, statistical methods, surveys.

### Language

English (native)  
Spanish (read, write)  
Norwegian (read, write)

## AWARDS

**Macalester College**

[2022 David A. Lanegran Award](#)

[2021 Hildegard Binder Johnson Award](#)

## MEMBERSHIPS

**GTU International**

**Geographical Honor**

**Society** | 2021 – Present

**American Planning**

**Association, Student**

**Member** | 2025 – Present

## LEADERSHIP

**President, Macalester Quiz Bowl** | March 2020 – May 2022

## ABOUT ME

My name is Karson and I'm passionate about active transportation. I'm dedicated to shaping greener and safer built environments that prioritize human-scale mobility while centering underserved communities' needs. I enjoy bike camping, playing guitar, and growing my music collection.