Environmental Justice + Transportation Equity

BRTB Public Advisory Committee March 2, 2016











WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE + TRANSPORTATION EQUITY





"Access to affordable and reliable transportation widens opportunity and is essential to addressing poverty, unemployment, and other equal opportunity goals such as access to good schools and health care services.

Providing equal access to transportation means providing all individuals living in the United States with an equal opportunity to succeed."

- The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

Title VI, Discrimination

No person in the United States shall on the ground of race, color, or national origin be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. – 42 USC 2000d

...action or inaction, whether intentional or unintentional, in any program or activity of a Federal aid recipient, subrecipient, or contractor that results in disparate treatment, disparate impact, or perpetuating the effects of prior discrimination. – FTA C 4702.1B





Executive Order 12998

"Each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income population."

- Executive Order 12898 (1994 Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations)





Environmental Title VI Justice



Transportation Equity

"Transportation is a critical link to opportunity, connecting people to jobs, schools, affordable housing, health care, grocery stores, and more. For many Americans, mobility can make all the difference in their ability to meet basic needs, participate fully in community life, and connect and contribute to our national economy."

Transportation Equity Caucus







Effect on peoples lives...

Low- and moderate-income households

42% of total annual income on transportation Middle-income households

less than 22%

-Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey 2000

Nearly 2/3 of all residents in small towns and rural communities have few if any transportation options: 41% have no access to transit and another 25% have below-average transit services.

- American Public Transportation Association

Effect on peoples lives...

Average American family's expenditure on transportation 19% of income

Car-dependent outer suburbs...

25% of income spent on transportation

Live in a neighborhood with plentiful transit options...

9% of income spent on transportation

<u>Transportation for America, Transportation</u>,
 Economic Opportunity, and America's Future

40% of people with significantly less or no access to transportation are persons with disabilities

<u>DOT Civil Rights Symposium on Environmental Justice</u>







HOW DOES THE BRTB ADDRESS TITLE VI + ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



BRTB + Title VI / EJ

- Title VI Notice, Policy, and Complaint Procedure
- LEP Plan
- Public Participation Plan
- Outreach
- Vulnerable Populations Index Tool





Vulnerable Populations

- Low Income
- Hispanic
- Non-White
 Non-Hispanic
- Limited English Proficiency
- Elderly
- Disabled
- Car-less







Example, Poverty









HIGHLIGHTS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PEER EXCHANGE



EJ Best Practices

- Building Relationships
 - Visits with orgs, leaders; Outreach at events
 - EJ Roundtable
 - Public Involvement Management Team / Peer Exchange
- Mapping Tools for Engagement + Outreach



Hampton Roads



www.hrtpo.org/page/ej-methodology-tool

MassDOT Interactive Tool



PAGE SIZE





NOW WHAT? THE PAC + ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE / EQUITY



"Transportation can be both a means and a barrier to economic development, employment, housing, education and social opportunities..."

- Avoid, minimize, mitigate...
- Ensure full and fair participation...
- Prevent the denial of...



Use equity lens @ transportation investments

- Increased transportation options
- Reduced isolation
- Improved affordability
- Increased access
- **Examine Policies, Metrics**

Performance Measures / Scoring / Prioritization

Learn more...

FHWA: Environmental Justice fhwa.dot.gov/environment/environmental_justice

BMC Regional Transit Needs Assessment www.baltometro.org

Victoria Transportation Policy Institute www.vtpi.org/0_equity.htm

Transportation Equity Network

www.transportationequity.org

Equity Caucus (Leadership Conference + Policy Link) www.equitycaucus.org/home

Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights www.civilrights.org/transportation/

$eq \cdot ui \cdot ty_{ek-wi-tee, noun.}$

Just and fair inclusion. An equitable society is one in which all can participate and prosper. The goals of equity must be to create conditions that allow all to reach their full potential. In short, equity creates a path from hope to change.