# **Environmental Justice + Transportation Equity**

#### BRTB Public Advisory Committee February 1, 2017











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

# **Transportation Matters...**

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

Car-dependent neighborhoods...

25% of income spent on transportation

Live in a neighborhood with biking/walking/transit options...

9% of income spent on transportation

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

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

- DOT Civil Rights Symposium on Environmental Justice





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

# **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



# **Equality vs. Equity**



In the first image, it is assumed that everyone will benefit from the same supports. They are being treated equally.





In the third image, all three can see the game without any supports or accommodations because the cause of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.





## 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**







# **MassDOT Interactive Tool**







# NOW WHAT? THE PAC + ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE / EQUITY



#### eq.ui.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.



### Equity Subcommittee

Apply equity lens @ transportation investments

- Increased transportation options?
- Reduced isolation and increased access?
- Improved affordability?

#### **Examine Policies, Metrics**

Performance Measures / Scoring / Prioritization

## Learn more...

FHWA: Environmental Justice fhwa.dot.gov/environment/environmental\_justice

BMC Regional Transit Needs Assessment + Vulnerable Populations Index baltometro.org

Transportation Equity Network transportationequity.org

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

Housing + Transportation Affordability Index <u>cnt.org</u>

Victoria Transportation Policy Institute <a href="https://www.vtpi.org/0">vtpi.org/0</a> equity.htm

Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights <u>civilrights.org/transportation</u>

HUD Housing + Transportation Report huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdr\_edge\_research\_071414.html

Dr. Robert D. Bullard





edited by Robert D. Bullard