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

40% of people with significantly less or no access to transportation are persons with disabilities
- DOT Civil Rights Symposium on Environmental Justice

– Transportation for America, Transportation, Economic Opportunity, and America’s Future
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 Justice

Title VI

- Low-Income
- Minority
- Race
- National Origin
- Color
- Gender
- Age
- Disability
“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 second image, individuals are given different supports to make it possible for them to have equal access to the game. They are being treated equitably.

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
• 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
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
cnt.org

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

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

HUD Housing + Transportation Report
huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdr_edge_research_071414.html

Dr. Robert D. Bullard