



METROPOLITAN
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COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Advisory Council

DATE: January 7, 2009

FR: Jennifer Yeamans

W. I.

RE: Transportation 2035 Equity Analysis – Preliminary Results

Since 1998, MTC has conducted an Equity Analysis (or Environmental Justice Analysis) of each of its Regional Transportation Plans. This assessment of the long-range plan is intended to satisfy federal requirements under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and federal policies and guidance on environmental justice. As a metropolitan planning organization, MTC is required to identify whether low-income and minority populations share equally in the benefits and burdens of proposed investments contained in the regional transportation plan.

There is, however, no standard national policy or guidance related to how an environmental justice assessment or equity analysis should be performed for a long-range plan, nor are there identified standards against which to measure our findings. For each RTP, staff has worked with various stakeholders to update and refine the Equity Analysis methodology, taking into account input from stakeholders including PTAC, MTC's Minority Citizens Advisory Committee (MCAC), and members of the public.

The crux of the Equity Analysis is the comparison of distributional effects of the Transportation 2035 Plan between the region's low-income and minority communities of concern and the remainder of the region. In particular, the analysis is intended to address two key questions:

- (1) Does the Transportation 2035 Plan improve conditions for communities of concern, relative to the No Project scenario?
- (2) Do communities of concern receive similar or greater benefit compared to the remainder of the region under the Transportation 2035 Plan relative to the No Project alternative?

The analysis utilizes five indicators to evaluate the distributional effects of the Transportation 2035 investments between communities of concern and the remainder of the region: (1) Financial analysis of Plan expenditures, (2) Access to low-income jobs in 30 minutes by auto and transit, (3) Access to non-work activities in 30 minutes by auto and transit, (4) Mobile-source air toxics emissions density, and (5) An affordability test measure.

Staff will present and solicit input on the preliminary findings and conclusions from the Transportation 2035 Equity Analysis at your January 14 meeting (see attached PowerPoint slides). The Transportation 2035 Equity Analysis Report is anticipated to be available for review later this month.