



TO: RAWG

FR: Doug Johnson, MTC and Miriam Chion, ABAG

RE: Equity Analysis Framework for Sustainable Communities Strategy/Regional Transportation Plan (Plan Bay Area)

Background

MTC has conducted an equity analysis for each of the last four regional transportation plans, with the last three conducted consistent with the U.S. Federal Highways and Federal Transit Administration's guidelines in response to 1994 Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations). MTC has conducted the RTP equity analysis near the end of the RTP process to determine the allocation of benefits and burdens for low income and minority households for the various transportation alternatives included in the RTP environmental assessment.

In addition to the RTP equity analysis in 2010, staff worked with the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee to prepare a "Snapshot Equity Analysis", a compendium of indicators for the region's 40+ Communities of Concern. ABAG prepared the Development without Displacement report to document the potential risks of displacement at transit-oriented development sites and Priority Development Areas and to suggest strategies to address local and regional displacement pressures. Links to these reports are available below.

Proposed Equity Analysis Approach for Plan Bay Area

As outlined in MTC's Public Participation Plan (pages 47-48), staff are planning to take a revised approach to equity planning and analysis for the RTP/SCS. This process will be guided by a Regional Equity Working Group that combines members from the Regional Advisory Working Group (RAWG) and MTC's Policy Advisory Council Equity and Access Subcommittee (see item on the Regional Equity Working Group).

The new approach relies on three steps. After each of these steps a summary would be prepared and presented along with other assessment reports on each of the scenarios to the RAWG, Executive Committee, and the joint ABAG/MTC/JPC Committee.

Step 1: Assess the outcome of Initial Vision Scenario in February 2011. These would initially draw primarily from the RTP/SCS performance targets (to be adopted in January 2011) disaggregated by income and/or mode and/or community of concern to offer a preliminary assessment that can be effectively modeled for various horizon years. In cooperation with the Regional Equity Working Group, staff will develop other targets based on their usefulness in assessing equity implications of the scenarios.

Step 2: Review the analysis framework used for the Initial Vision Scenario and update for use on the Detailed SCS Scenarios assessment that will start in March 2011 and continue into early 2012.



Step 3: Complete the equity assessment of the preferred SCS/RTP alternative in 2012-13 based on the evaluation methodology developed in 2011 consistent with federal guidelines in concert with the RTP EIR process.

The above process will allow the regional agencies and the RAWG to better understand and to have ample opportunity to help develop the SCS/RTP equity analysis process for the various scenarios that will be examined over the next 12-18 months, well in advance of final agency approval on a preferred SCS/RTP alternative. Staff will work with the Regional Equity Working Group to assist with the development of the analysis framework, the review of the analysis, and supplementary policy and research work to address key issues as they are identified. All findings and recommendations would come to the RAWG and MTC/ABAG policy committees for review and discussion.

Staff welcomes the feedback from members of the RAWG on the proposed approach.

References:

Development Without Displacement

<http://www.bayareavision.org/initiatives/equitabledevelopment.html>

T2035 Regional Transportation Plan Equity Analysis

http://www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/2035_plan/equity.htm

Communities of Concern Snapshot Equity Analysis

<http://www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/snapshot/>

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