



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Planning Committee

DATE: October 7, 2011

FR: Executive Director

RE: Plan Bay Area Equity Analysis

Background

MTC has conducted an Equity Analysis of the last three Regional Transportation Plans in accordance with federal guidance on civil rights and environmental justice. The basic approach is to identify communities of concern for analysis, and then use a set of equity performance measures to compare how different scenarios benefit or adversely affect communities of concern relative to the remainder of the region. Past analyses have relied on a framework based mainly on consideration of minority and low-income status to satisfy federal civil rights and environmental justice requirements.

For Plan Bay Area, staff recommends a similar overall Equity Analysis approach of identifying communities of concern and comparing a set of equity performance measures to the remainder of the region. However, we also recommend key refinements and modifications as described in this memorandum. In addition to the proposed approach for the Equity Analysis, staff proposes to analyze minority status alone, using the same set of performance measures, in order to comply with federal civil rights requirements.

Engagement with Equity Working Group and Development of Performance Measures

Last December, staff presented a three-step approach to conducting the equity analysis of Plan Bay Area to the Regional Advisory Working Group (RAWG) and MTC Policy Advisory Council Equity & Access Subcommittee. We solicited participation by members of these groups in the formation of a regional Equity Working Group, which has met monthly since February 2011 to advise staff on the development of the equity analysis (Attachment A lists Working Group participants). The three-step Equity Analysis approach is as follows:

- **Step 1:** Assess the outcome of the Initial Vision Scenario (*completed March 2011*)
- **Step 2:** Review the analysis framework used for the Initial Vision Scenario and update for use on the Alternative Scenarios assessment (*recommended approach is the subject of this memorandum*)
- **Step 3:** Complete the equity assessment of the Preferred Scenario based on the evaluation methodology developed in 2011 and consistent with federal guidelines (*beginning early 2012*)

In February, MTC's Policy Advisory Council recommended that the Equity Analysis also consider seniors and people with disabilities. Since then, staff has been working closely with

Equity Working Group members and other interested stakeholders to revise the Equity Analysis framework for the Alternative Scenarios. The proposed framework consists of a set of equity performance measures that address a range of themes identified in discussions with the Equity Working Group, summarized in Attachment B.

Revised Definition of Communities of Concern

MTC has defined “communities of concern” for the past three RTP Equity Analyses as areas with concentrations of either 70% minority or 30% low-income residents. Given overall regional trends of increasing minority and low-income populations since the 2000 Census, this definition would now include roughly 40% of the region’s population based on updated data from the Census Bureau, up from 34% of the region analyzed in *Transportation 2035*.

In response to Equity Working Group feedback that the analysis would be more informative with a more focused definition of communities o concern, staff proposed a revised definition which identifies communities with multiple overlapping factors instead of any one factor. The list of factors, reviewed by the Equity Working Group, are as follows:

Disadvantage Factor	% of Regional Population¹	Proposed Concentration Threshold
1. Minority	54%	70%
2. Low Income (<200% of Poverty)	23%	30%
3. Limited English Proficiency	9%	20%
4. Zero-Vehicle Households	9%	10%
5. Seniors 75 and Over	6%	10%
6. Population with a Disability	18%	25%
7. Female-Headed Families with Children	10%	15%
8. Cost-burdened Renters ²	10%	15%

¹Source: 2005-09 American Community Survey tract-level data; data for population with a disability is from 2000 Census, the most recent available.

²Defined as the share of housing units occupied by renters paying more than 50% of income for rent.

Attachment C illustrates the varying degrees to which these 8 factors overlap throughout the region, ranging from communities having 0 to up to 7 out of 8 possible factors.

Input Received

Both the Equity Analysis performance measures and the revised “community of concern” framework reflect feedback received over the past several months from numerous stakeholders. Equity Working Group members generally support the proposed framework, but many recommended adding communities that are both low-income and minority to the four-factor definition described above. This recommendation adds 2% more of the region to the definition and has been incorporated into the final staff proposal. Numerous stakeholders also recommended a measure of particulate-matter emissions instead of the “VMT Density” measure recommended by Equity Working Group members. The Policy Advisory Council will review staff’s proposal at its meeting on October 12 and their input will be reported at your meeting.

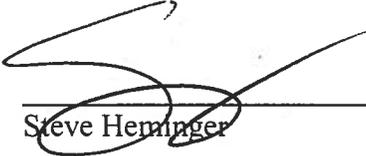
Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the proposed Equity Analysis performance measures for the Alternative Scenarios and the revised definition of communities of concern to include communities that are characterized as having 4 or more factors listed above, or that have concentrations of both low-income and minority populations. This approach produces a community-of-concern definition that is much more targeted than the existing definition (encompassing 22% of the region's land area and 20% of the population compared to 40% using the existing approach). Staff is also recommending the revised definition be incorporated into MTC's other work areas that currently use the existing definition, such as the Lifeline program and Community Based Transportation Planning Program.

Attachment D illustrates the difference between communities included under the previous approach versus the revised approach.

Next Steps

Following Committee approval of the Equity Analysis framework, analysis of the Alternative Scenarios will proceed with results anticipated to be available alongside other analysis results in December.



Steve Heminger

Attachments

PowerPoint Presentation

Attachment A: Equity Working Group Membership Roster

Attachment B: Proposed Equity Measures for Alternative Scenarios

Attachment C: Sum of 8 Possible Overlapping Disadvantage Factors by Census Tract

Attachment D: Proposed Equity Analysis Communities of Concern: Difference Between Existing and Revised Definitions

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Attachment A

OneBayArea

RTP/SCS Equity Working Group Roster

First	Last	Title	Agency/Org	Public	NGO	Health	Transport	Housing	Community	Geography
Carl	Anthony	Founder	Breakthrough Communities		X				X	Regional
Naomi	Armenta	Disabled Community Representative	MTC Policy Advisory Council				X		X	Alameda Co
Rajiv	Bhatia	Director of Occupational and Environmental Health	San Francisco Department of Public Health	X		X			X	San Francisco
Richard	Burnett	Disabled Community Representative	MTC Policy Advisory Council						X	Solano Co
Brent	Butler	Planning Manager	City of East Palo Alto	X				X		San Mateo Co
Carlos	Castellanos	Economy Representative	MTC Policy Advisory Council					X		Alameda Co
Gen	Fujioka	Senior Policy Advocate	Nat'l Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development		X			X	X	San Jose, San Francisco
Sandi	Galvez	Senior Associate	Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative		X	X			X	East Bay
Allison	Hughes	Disabled Community Representative	MTC Policy Advisory Council						X	San Francisco
Lindsay	Imai	Transportation and Housing Program Associate	Urban Habitat		X		X		X	Regional
Dolores	Jaquez	Senior Community Representative	MTC Policy Advisory Council						X	Sonoma Co
Randi	Kinman	Low-Income Community Representative	MTC Policy Advisory Council						X	Santa Clara Co
Nathan	Landau	Senior Planner	AC Transit	X			X			East Bay
Tess	Lengyel	Manager of Programs and Public Affairs	Alameda County Transportation Commission	X			X			Alameda Co
Federico	Lopez	Disabled Community Representative	MTC Policy Advisory Council						X	Contra Costa
Evelina	Molina	Low-Income Community Representative	MTC Policy Advisory Council						X	Sonoma Co
Nick	Pagoulatos	Co-Executive Director, Dir. of Community Planning & Development	Dolores Street Community Services		X				X	San Francisco
Gerald	Rico	Minority Community Representative	MTC Policy Advisory Council						X	Napa Co
Frank	Robertson	Minority Community Representative	MTC Policy Advisory Council						X	Contra Costa
Michael	Wright	Director of Concord Community Reuse Project	City of Concord	X						Contra Costa

Attachment B

Proposed Equity Measures for Alternative Scenarios

Measure/Theme	Key Questions Addressed	Target Population Breakout
Theme: Affordable Housing and Transportation Choices		
1. Housing + Transportation Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is the extent of any current and future-year disparity between target and non-target populations?</i> • <i>Which scenario(s) reduce the share of income spent on housing and transportation by the greatest amount for the target population?</i> • <i>Which scenario(s) provide similar or better results for the target population compared to the rest of the population?</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income households (all) vs. all other households • Communities of concern vs. all other communities
Theme: Growing Equitably		
2. Displacement Analysis 2a. Poverty Concentration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Which scenario(s) result in the smallest displacement of low-income households?</i> • <i>Which scenario(s) accommodate the greatest number of low-income households?</i> • <i>Which scenario(s) reduce concentration of low-income households by the greatest amount?</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income households (all)
Theme: Making the Jobs/Housing Connection		
3. Commute Travel Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is the extent of any current and future-year disparity between target and non-target populations?</i> • <i>Which scenario(s) reduce commute travel time by the greatest amount for the target populations?</i> • <i>Which scenario(s) provide similar or better results for the target population compared to the rest of the population?</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income households vs. all other households • Communities of concern vs. all other communities
Theme: Healthy Communities		
4. VMT Density	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is the extent of any current and future-year disparity between target and non-target populations?</i> • <i>Which scenario(s) reduce VMT Density by the greatest amount for the target population?</i> • <i>Which scenario(s) provide similar or better results for the target population compared to the rest of the population?</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities of concern vs. all other communities
Theme: Equitable Mobility		
5. Non-commute Travel Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is the extent of any current and future-year disparity between target and non-target populations?</i> • <i>Which scenario(s) reduce average trip time to non-work destinations by the greatest amount for the target populations?</i> • <i>Which scenario(s) provide similar or better results for the target populations compared to the rest of the population?</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income households (all) vs. all other households • Communities of concern vs. all other communities