

Equity Evaluation of Regional Transportation Investments

Scope of Work and Study Overview
Equity Advisory Committee
September 21, 2021



Project Overview

- Funded by the Council as one of 7 pilot projects to advance racial equity
- Consultant work kick-off early 2022; 18-month project
- Focused on populations defined in federal Title VI and environmental justice laws that include Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities and low-income communities
- Equity evaluation of regional transportation investment processes – evaluate up to 5 transportation “project-types” across modes
 - how regionally significant transportation projects are planned, funded, selected and implemented
 - develop a prioritized set of strategies and actions to reduce inequities in the planning funding, selection, implementation processes and in the distribution of project benefits and burdens

Project Policy Group

- Work will be community-centered and -led through use of a project specific Transportation Equity Policy Group
- Members representing a cross-section of stakeholders representing Black, Indigenous, Asian, African, Latina/o, immigrant/refugee, and low-wealth communities, also members from the Metropolitan Council, Council's Equity Advisory Committee (EAC), Transportation Advisory Board, and MnDOT
- Estimating 25 members; majority will identify as Black, Indigenous, Asian, African, Latina/o, immigrant/refugee, and/or low-wealth
- Potential members submit letters of interest expressing familiarity with the Council, some experience with a transportation investment process or outcome, statement of interest in the evaluation
- Select members representing various racial/cultural backgrounds and community types across the region



Policy Group Work

- Primary decision-making body for the project; will approve all deliverables and prioritized recommendations
- Work with consultant to develop a group charter and project decision-making chart
- Meet at least monthly to review and provide direction on the consultant work
- The group, with the consultant as facilitator, will:
 - Determine its operating processes and format, select a chair
 - Develop shared definitions and principles to guide the work
 - Co-create the equity framework and tool for use in evaluating the transportation investment processes
 - Create and prioritize the recommendations and outcomes of this work



Main Project Tasks

1. Finalize the project work plan and schedule
2. Establish policy and stakeholder involvement and decision-making processes and points
3. Review and map regional transportation investment processes
4. Create an equity evaluation framework and tool
5. Pilot equity evaluations of selected investment processes
6. Prioritize strategies and actions for implementation; identify actors
7. Provide recommendations and identify next steps

Questions for the EAC

- Any feedback on the main work we've described?
- On the project's Policy Group
 - EAC interest in participating as members?
 - Recommendations for the best ways to identify potential participants?
Groups to reach out to?
 - Thoughts on what we should be asking for in a letter of interest from potential group members?
 - How to best balance representation of different groups and ensure representation across the region?

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