

EAC work in 2022

What we are charged with

From our bylaws:

- On October 14, 2015, the Metropolitan Council (the “Council”), established the Equity Advisory Committee (the “Committee”). The Committee shall advise the Council regarding the development of policy and appropriate processes for assessing and monitoring the Council’s performance against such policies in the Council’s efforts to advance equity in the region . As requested by the Council the Committee shall provide advice regarding various policy issues, and the Committee may also identify additional policy topics for the Council’s consideration to address.

What our 2021 priorities were

Priority area	Highlighted priorities	Accomplishments
Affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold regional convenings on affordable housing • Housing plan update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed special funding opportunity • Made recommendations for LHIA pilot project
Public transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation policy decision making • Transportation tracking systems • Build a relationship with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) • Work more directly with Metro Transit on equity related goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed relationship with equity manager • Provided input for defining “equity” in the context of transportation • Gave input on BLRT community engagement plans • Contributed to transit safety planning
One Metro partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Council partnerships • Support Equity initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to BIPOC committee
Council operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Council D&I Strategy • Review DBE and MCUB programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed Council’s Affirmative Action plan • Reviewed Council’s contracting and employment data and its planned dashboard • Informed Council’s ideas for using special allocation to improve contracting • Recommended an audit of Council’s efforts • Began planning for event to build relationships between businesses and purchasing managers

Ideas for 2022

Initial ideas shared in November 2021

- Ensure that the Met Council is operating in a way that demonstrates equity
 - Hiring, retention and advancement of employees from protected groups
 - Spending more contract dollars/increase purchasing from entrepreneurs that come from underutilized groups. This includes taking steps to help entrepreneurs grow their businesses through support, collaboration with other organizations, and clear guidance.
- Establish common definitions, terms and targets that will support equity
- Keep working on 2021 priorities, recognizing increasing urgency due to disparities that have been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic, the increasing mobilization arising out of Mr. Floyd's murder, and the flow of federal funds to our region
- Address how our advice gets received and implemented by staff and the Council

How we are structured

- Use subcommittees to dig into issues more deeply
 - Housing
 - Operations
 - Transportation
- Use standing committee meeting to identify agenda items
 - From our members
 - From Council staff
- Use meetings to give advice, pass resolutions, discuss challenges

Asks for EAC members

- Advocate for full Met Council participation – reach out to your Met Council members
- Advocate for a change in how we are staffed (by regional administrator, not EEO)
- Contribute to shaping our 2022 workplan
- Participate in subcommittees, bring topics forward that we should be addressing
- Amend bylaws – we will send in writing and would like feedback by phone or email by 2/4/22