Equitable Development Principles & Scorecard: a tool for communities, planners, & more

http://thealliancetc.org/equitable-development-scorecard/

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Alliance for Metropolitan Stability (The Alliance)

• The Alliance’s mission is to advance justice and equity in economic growth and land development in the Twin Cities region. We are a coalition building shared power around the intersections of racial justice, economic justice, environmental justice, and health equity.

• Since 1994, the Alliance has united organizations across issues and geographies to advocate for racial equity and equitable development. Over the years, the Alliance evolved to center a race equity analysis, co-creating campaigns and coalitions addressing structural racism and centering BIPOC communities’ visions and values.
Today’s Objectives

• Affirm why equity is important in transportation.
• Understand importance of intentionality and planning.
• Walk through the elements of the Equitable Development Principles and Scorecard.

How do you understand equity as it relates to transportation?
Equity understanding

**IS NOT**
- Equality or Parity
- A synonym for Diversity or Inclusion
- A euphemism for People of Color
- A set of tweaks or isolated in a single action
- Time limited
- Justice

**CAN BE**
- An outcome
- A process
- Human-centered
- Relative
- Reparative
- Regenerative

Equity is...
EQUITY IS A HUMAN RIGHT.

- Equity is about **providing opportunities and creating positive outcomes for everyone**. Policies and practices that restrict or exclude certain communities in order to maintain the status quo violate this principle.
- Policies and practices must **assume communities have the right** to safe, healthy, and dignified housing, employment, and neighborhoods.
- Equity promotes practices that **support healing** from centuries of exploitive, disenfranchising and destructive policies and practices.

EQUITY MUST BE CLAIMED AND DEFINED BY THOSE MOST HARMED BY SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION.

The inequities in our region are rooted in an imbalance of power between white people and people of color, Indigenous, immigrant, and low-income communities. This imbalance of power occurs across systems and decision-making spheres, effectively omitting our communities from visions of a prosperous region. **It is about restorative and regenerative practices** that undo that harm as defined by us.
EQUITY MUST FUNDAMENTALLY BE ABOUT BUILDING POWER, CAPACITY & LEADERSHIP TO ANNUL STRUCTURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL RACISM.

Strategies must implicitly center the engagement and inclusion of people of color, Indigenous, immigrant, and low-income communities to assert power and mitigate further harm, while promoting healing from past harm with targeted strategies for our communities’ well-being.

EQUITY EFFORTS MUST BE INTERSECTIONAL.

People’s identities are made up of many overlapping pieces such as race, gender, class, sexual orientation, ability, and ethnicity. Thus, patterns of oppression are interrelated and bound together. To undo one form of oppression, we must fight all its forms.
Big concepts, some seemingly unrelated to transportation or your role and authority.

Reflections?

Example: LRT Station Area (Hypothetical)

- **Human Right** – Benefits are accessible to everyone and exclusionary
- **Human Centered** – community input and needs around livability define and drive the project
- **Centered in Communities historically harmed** – recognize the history of decision-making and unmitigated harm that provided unfair benefits or harm
- **Intersectional** – patterns of oppression are interrelated and bound together. Gender, Immigration status, Language, Race, etc.
- **Shifts & Builds Power** – engagement equals a commitment by process to implement what community decides
- **Reparative** – learn from history and repair the harm
- **Regenerative** – Investments in and along the line strengthens community today and for generations
Exercise: Your Road Project

- Human Right
- Human Centered
- Centered in Communities historically harmed
- Intersectional
- Shifts & Builds Power
- Reparative
- Regenerative

The Equitable Development Principles & Scorecard

A TOOL TO SHIFT POWER AND SUPPORT ANSWERING THE QUESTION “HOW EQUITY RELATES TO THIS PROJECT” WITH COMMUNITY
The Equitable Development Principles & Scorecard

- Developed by community over several years
- Creates shared definitions, framework, and vision
- Enforces intersectionality and comprehensive approach across principles
- Tool for conversations that puts community at center – NOT to be just used “off the shelf”

- It’s only as good as its users. The Scorecard is reliant on community engagement and strong equity lens
- Scores are not final, rather facilitate discussion
- It’s about shifting how development happens
- Creates intentionality and centers community in the purpose and mission of the project
EQUITABLE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT practices involve the local community members most affected in the development project (especially low-income people, people of color, neighborhood groups, community organizations, people living with disabilities, and new immigrants).

EQUITABLE LAND USE practices require that the overall vision, plan, and implementation includes local communities’ assets, aspirations, potential, and preferences. They aim to keep current residents in the area and develop projects that promote people’s health, well-being, and prosperity.

EQUITABLE TRANSPORTATION practices integrate transit into walkable, livable, and affordable land use practices to enhance healthy living within low-income communities and communities of color.

EQUITABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT practices require evidence that policies and programs work to prioritize community based financial intelligence, sustainable wealth creation, and high quality job opportunities that prevent unwanted displacement of residents and small businesses from low-income communities and communities of color.

EQUITABLE HOUSING practices give families of all income levels access to housing that costs no more than 30% of their household income.

Coming Soon: Livability Principle

Using the Scorecard

1. Score the 1-5 (or 1-10) scale values using the full context of occupations for the project.
2. Add up the scores for each community engagement.
3. Divide the total score by the number of community engagement practices.
4. The score value is the “score” value on the next page.

Glossary of Development Terms
**PRINCIPLES**

**Local Vision**
Safe and inclusive communities respect the vision and culture of all neighbors. Bicycle, pedestrian, and transit infrastructure takes into account all priorities of a community, especially those that are more urgent and immediate. Plans enhance and complement a community's vision and public subsidies result in concrete and measurable benefits for residents as defined by the community.

**Community Power**
True decision-making power is given to communities that live, work, or have cultural connections to the land that will be impacted by the project. Planners and developers center and value the visions of Indigenous people, people of color, working class, low wealth, low-income communities, youth and elders, immigrants, refugees, people with disabilities, and caregivers.

**Inclusive Design**
Inclusive design ensures streets work for all people, promoting safe, inviting, and accessible ways for people to get to where they need to go. Equitable, rooted design respects neighborhood history and culture and includes public space for community members. It is beautiful, functional, uses good materials and is well-maintained.

**Priority and Connectivity**
The travel needs of youth, the elderly, people with disabilities, those without cars or unable to get drivers licenses are prioritized first. A connected network of transportation options safely and efficiently links community members to the resources, opportunities, and neighborhoods important in their lives.

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**"IMPORTANT TERMS"**

**COMMUNITY**: When governments use the word community they are often referring to cities and municipalities. We use the term to refer to a group of families and individuals who are in relationship to each other either by culture or geography.

**PUBLIC TRUST**: Public transportation in the form of buses, subways, light rail, and monorails.

**"IMPORTANT TERMS"**

**RESPECTFUL**: When a building is beautiful, it promotes an inclusive culture. The building must be accessible to all people, regardless of their background or ability.

**CLARITY**: The building must be accessible to all people with disabilities, people of color, working class, low wealth, low-income communities, youth and elders, immigrants, refugees, people with disabilities, and caregivers.

**HOBBS**: Inability to participate in system such as transportation due to the high cost of living.

**UNITY**: Measures of a community quality of life — including the built and natural environments, economic, property, and cultural, educational opportunities, and cultural, transportation and recreation facilities.

**GENTRIFICATION**
When new developments are not safe and accessible places to live, work and walk, transit systems, green space, parks for fun and play, and more. People of color and low-income groups are often the last to experience the improvements that come with development.

**ANTI-GENTRIFICATION STRATEGIES**:
1. **Housing affordability**: Requiring a certain percentage of units to be affordable or affordable units in every project, and ensuring that affordable housing is available to all communities.
2. **Community engagement**: Ensuring that community members have a voice in the decision-making process and that their needs and concerns are considered.
3. **Preservation of cultural assets**: Protecting and preserving cultural assets and landmarks that are significant to the community.
4. **Equitable access to transportation**: Ensuring that new developments provide access to transportation and public transit systems.
5. **Economic development**: Encouraging economic development that benefits all communities and ensures that everyone has access to the same opportunities.

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**EXPO REVITALIZATION**:
When area parks and public spaces are redeveloped, it provides a place for people to socialize, relax, and connect with nature. These spaces can be used for a variety of activities, from picnicking to playing basketball. Public spaces are an important part of community life and can help to promote social cohesion and physical activity.

**PUBLIC REUSE**: Public transportation in the form of buses, subways, light rail, and monorails.

**TRANSPORTATION**
Transportation systems provide a means for people to travel from one place to another. Public transportation systems, such as buses and subways, are essential for connecting people to jobs, schools, and other important destinations. Public transportation also helps to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution.
Scorecard Enthusiasm!

- Scorecard Enthusiasts – Community of Practice learning table
- Government Scorecard Enthusiasts – partnership Met Council & The Alliance

Thank you!

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