

# AGENDA ITEM VI - INFORMATION

November 18, 2009

Environmental Justice Projects

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Environmental Justice is a federal requirement designed to promote equal treatment for low-income and minority groups in the transportation planning process. In planning for future transportation facilities, the MPO has a responsibility to ensure that there is not a disproportionately high and adverse effect on minority and low-income populations. The MPO must ensure that Environmental Justice issues are addressed and a complaint procedure is included into the public involvement process. To address this requirement, the MPO followed these steps:

1. Identify low-income/minority populations relevant to environmental justice issues;
2. Define the geographic areas where the noted low-income/minority conditions exist in the MPO area, utilizing data from the 2000 Census, and other relevant data sets;
3. Examine the existing transportation and transit system as it relates to the areas noted above;
4. Examine the location of future transportation projects via the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and study the correlation of these future projects to the areas noted above;
5. Create maps, and/or charts, and/or other relevant graphics to depict the existing and potential future conditions relevant to environmental justice, utilizing GIS and other automated tools; and
6. Reference these maps in the MPO's/TPB discussion of its Title VI activities (UPWP, MTP, Public Involvement Policy);
7. Annually review the map by the Transportation Policy Board;
8. Present the map to the public periodically as part of public involvement activities; and
9. Consider the map when organizing public involvement activities and consulted during project selection.
10. Create a summary report that documents the process and findings of this analysis.

The findings of this analysis should be taken into consideration for future transportation planning and capital projects in the MPO study area.

## ***NO ACTION REQUIRED:***

*The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) is requested to review the document. No action is required for this item. This item is for informational purposes only.*

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Project Distribution Tables