



2018 Transportation Equity Analysis

Informing an equitable regional transportation network

The transportation choices that we make as a region today can have profound impacts on our region's historically marginalized communities tomorrow.

What is transportation equity?

How we get around the Portland region can have a large effect on our daily lives and broad implications for the environment we live in.

Many of us have options and tools available as we go from place to place to help make the choice that best suits our travel needs. But many communities face substantial disparities when it comes to transportation options. As a result, it becomes harder to get to work, school or essential services without making difficult tradeoffs.

Understanding the impacts

As the greater Portland region prepares to make its next set of investments in the transportation system, a Transportation Equity Analysis can help show how our investments affect communities where people have the fewest options for travel to meet everyday needs.

Understanding these effects helps us make more informed, equitable decisions about where transportation dollars go, especially as the region weighs many competing priorities for our system of roads, bridges, transit, bikeways and walkways.

Helping those who have been left out

This analysis will evaluate social equity outcomes of proposed short- and long-term transportation investments for five population groups:

- people of color
- people with low income
- people with limited English proficiency
- older adults
- youth

Metro identifies these groups as being historically marginalized communities.



Voices from around the region

Metro is working with communities to better understand how more ethnically diverse voices can be included in policymaking. This is some of what was shared in a 2016 survey:

"Make the benefit to the community clear. Toot your own horn, and let the community know that the changes are directly in response to their concerns."

"Working directly with community organizations may help connect with a more diverse audience."

"Make a greater effort to reach out to our communities. Make an effort to make information available in others languages."

"Include ethnically diverse people from the affected areas in the decision making process."

"If they won't come to you, go to them! Maybe at workplaces during lunch break, maybe at apartment complexes. Provide childcare and food, and presenters from their cultural group and in their language. Provide interpreters, and make sure your invitation is translated."

"Everybody can respond. But are you showing that you hear them?"

Why focus on transportation equity?

The Transportation Equity Analysis provides a better understanding how near- and long-term transportation investments benefit – or don't benefit – these five historically marginalized communities.

Members of these communities have identified their barriers to mobility and things they would like to see in a transportation system. These have consistently focused on increased access, affordability, safety and health.

A regional measuring stick

During 2016, Metro developed six evaluation measures to determine how transportation investments can remove these barriers to mobility. These measures include access to jobs and travel options, exposure to high levels of vehicle traffic and impacts to the environment. The analysis will take place in fall 2017. With the results of the Transportation Equity Analysis slated for winter 2018, policymakers will have the information to better inform and identify strategies to correct existing inequities in access, affordability, safety and health outcomes experienced by these communities within the transportation system.

Moving in the right direction

There's good news: If the region moves forward with its planned transportation investments, these evaluation measures will inform and lead to improvements for historically marginalized communities in our region.

But there is much more work that needs to be done to move from planning to reality. The 2018 Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Equity Analysis will lay out a path to meet the region's needs for ensuring transportation investments serves and provides benefits to historically marginalized communities.

Find out how to be involved – and more – at oregonmetro.gov/rtp.

