



Proposed Circular 4703.1 Environmental Justice Policy Guidance for FTA Recipients



What is Environmental Justice?

- Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.



Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice

Directs federal agencies to “*make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.*”





Examples of Transit Decisions

- Service Cuts, Changes or Restructuring
- Constructing a new rail line or extending an existing rail line
- Establishing a multi-modal transit station
- Increasing fares
- Building a new bus garage
- Developing long-range and short-range plans





Proposed EJ Circular Organization

Chapter I: EJ and Public Transportation

Chapter II: Tools and Techniques for
Conducting an EJ Analysis

Chapter III: Achieving Meaningful Public
Engagement with EJ Populations

Chapter IV: Integrating EJ Principles in
Transportation Planning & Service Delivery

Chapter V: Incorporating EJ Principles into the
NPEA

Chapter VI: Differences & Similarities
Between Title VI and EJ



Principles of Environmental Justice

- To avoid, minimize or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects on EJ populations
- To ensure the full and fair participation in the transportation decisions
- To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by EJ populations





Proposed Analytical Framework

Three-step Analysis

1. Determine whether there are any EJ populations potentially impacted by the activity or project
2. If EJ population is present, consider the potential effects of the activity on the EJ population
3. Determine whether the adverse effect may be avoided, minimized or mitigated





Meaningful Public Engagement

- Formal Meeting



- Traditional



- Engaged Dialogue

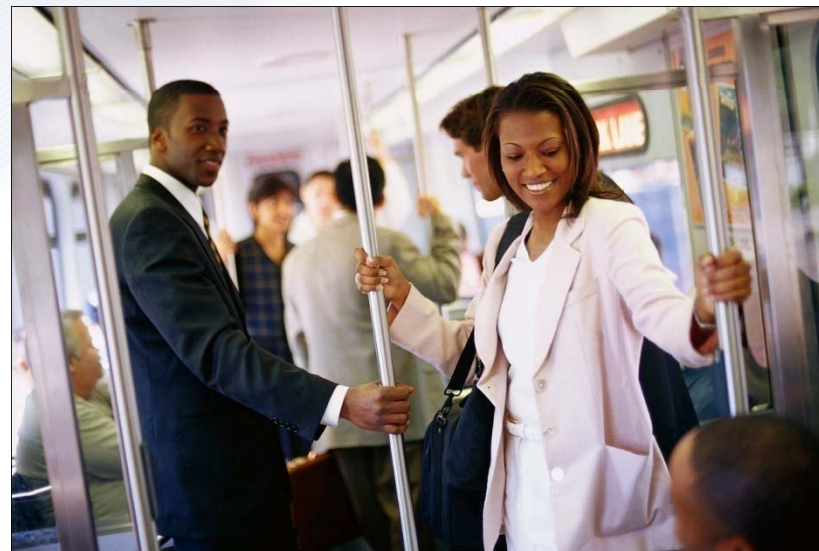


- Non Traditional





Application of EJ Analysis





Transportation Planning Process

- 3 major plans that need to address EJ concerns:
 - State long range plans,
 - Regional/metropolitan long range plans, and
 - Transit infrastructure and service plans
- Planning process fundamentally needs to address:
 - **WHY** should we invest in transportation projects: the short and long range GOALS for transit?
 - **WHAT** projects best address those goals?
 - **HOW** do we choose among projects given limited resources?
- EJ Community needs to be at the planning table to ensure its views on WHY, WHAT and HOW are meaningfully addressed.



Questions to Consider During Transportation Planning - State/Regional



- What are the goals and visions of the future of EJ communities
- What are the current transportation options for serving the mobility and access needs of EJ populations?
- How does transit serve those needs compared to other modes?
- What are the projects and strategies for addressing those needs, and the priorities for implementing them?
- How will future revenues for capital investment and operations be invested?



Questions to Consider During Transportation Planning- Transit Service



- How are facilities and systems operated and maintained?
- How are new resources, like new buses, distributed to routes?
- Do service changes disproportionately affect EJ populations?
- Where are new bus garages or rail yards being located?
- Is accessibility via transit to key employment, medical, educational opportunities at equivalent levels?



NEPA and Environmental Justice

- Environmental Review is required for all federally-funded projects and includes:
 - Reviewing important adverse effects of the project to determine whether those adverse affects are significant.
 - Determining whether adverse effects can be avoided, minimized or mitigated.
 - Assessing the Project's benefits versus its burdens on the environment.




Factors to Consider When Evaluating A Project's Effects



- Whether a high or substantial impact exists which adversely affects an EJ population;
- Whether effects on EJ populations exceed those borne by non-EJ populations;
- Whether cumulative or indirect effects would adversely affect an EJ population;
- Whether mitigation and enhancement measures will be taken; and
- Whether there are off-setting benefits to EJ populations.



Title VI  Environmental
Justice





Tell Us What You Think!

For more information about the Proposed Circular or to submit comments, go to:

www.FTA.DOT.gov/FTAInformationSessions

Comments on FTA's Proposed Circular 4307.1 are due by December 2, 2011.