

ITEM 6 – Action

July 22, 2020

Draft Resolution to Establish Equity as a
Fundamental Value and Integral Part of all
Transportation Planning Board’s Work Activities

Action: Adopt Resolution R1-2021.

Background: TPB will be asked to explicitly adopt an equity statement to codify the TPB’s equity considerations into all of its activities.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002

DRAFT RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH EQUITY AS A FUNDAMENTAL VALUE AND INTEGRAL PART OF ALL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD'S WORK ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) has been designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Washington Metropolitan Area by the Governors of Maryland and Virginia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the work of the TPB has been guided by its policy documents starting with the TPB Vision statement through the Visualize 2045 Aspirational Initiatives, which emphasize multi-modal, affordable, and safe mobility options to promote prosperity, accessibility, livability, and sustainability throughout the region, as espoused in COG's *Region Forward Vision*; and

WHEREAS, the TPB Vision, adopted in 1998, embraced equity as a key principle by, among other things, calling for a transportation system that would "provide reasonable access at reasonable cost to everyone in the region"; and

WHEREAS, the TPB in 2017 identified Equity Emphasis Areas, which are geographically defined places in the region with high concentrations of minority and low-income populations that should receive focused attention for transportation analysis and planning, at both the regional and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the TPB as part of its long-range plan development, uses the Equity Emphasis Areas as part of an Environmental Justice analysis to examine the impacts of the region's transportation investments on minority and low-income population groups; and

WHEREAS, the TPB promotes transportation projects and programs in disadvantaged communities by giving focused attention to the Equity Emphasis Areas in the region's Transportation/Land Use Connections and Transportation Alternatives programs; and

WHEREAS, the TPB seeks the input of traditionally underserved population groups through its Access for All Advisory Committee and its Citizens Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the TPB believes equity is a fundamental value defined as the commitment to promote fairness and justice in the development and implementation of projects, programs and policies, and;

WHEREAS, the TPB member governments and agencies are increasingly committing to intentionally consider equity when making policies or delivering programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the TPB condemns inequitable treatment of any group of people, on any basis, and reaffirms its commitment to equity in all aspects of transportation planning and programming;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD THAT:

The TPB and its staff commit to being guided by the following statement on equity:

Every action that the TPB considers - including every debate we have, and every decision we make as the region's MPO - must be viewed through the lens of justice, equity, and fairness. We must recognize past actions that have been exclusionary or had disparate impacts on people of color and marginalized communities, and we must take actions to correct or mitigate the resulting unfairness. From infrastructure to education and enforcement, we must act fairly to ensure equitable and true access to safety, accessibility and mobility.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Kanti Srikanth, TPB Staff Director
SUBJECT: Draft Resolution to Establish Equity as a Fundamental Value and Integral Part of all Transportation Planning Board's Work Activities
DATE: July 16, 2020

As part of her remarks during the June 17, 2020 TPB meeting, Chair Kelly Russell spoke with regard to the social unrest following the death of George Floyd at the hands of the police, on May 25, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Ms. Russell said that "as fellow humans living and working together in our communities, it is our responsibility and obligation to conduct our daily activities thoughtfully; with fairness and respect for one another." Speaking on behalf of the board she said that the "TPB will not just continue our commitment to Equity, we will work diligently and deliberately to enhance our conscious efforts toward Equity in all we do" and "in developing plans and programs focused on providing fair and equitable transportation and mobility, and meeting accessibility needs of the residents and travelers in this region".

The TPB concurred with the sentiments and supported Ms. Russell's call to explicitly adopt an Equity statement to codify the TPB's equity considerations into all of its activities. To this end, Chair Russell plans to put forward the attached Resolution R1-2021, during her remarks at the July 22, 2020 meeting, that would further spell out and reinforce that the TPB as an organization is fully committed to conducting all of its activities in a manner that not only promotes equity, but is anti-racist.