

Visualize 2045: Update to the Equity Emphasis Areas

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Item #11





Purpose

Briefing on updated Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs)

Background

- The TPB adopted EEA methodology in March 2017 to enhance how the long-range plan is analyzed for Title VI and Environmental Justice (EJ) considerations
- Using the TPB-approved methodology, the EEAs were updated with the most recent American Community Survey data
- The EEA's will be used to analyze Visualize 2045 for disproportionate impacts on low-income and minority populations
- TPB staff will update the EEAs with the latest data in conjunction with each major plan update (every 4 years)

TPB Approved Methodology

- American Community Survey data by Census tract for 4 groups: Low-Income, African American, Asian, and Hispanic/Latino
- Index scores determined for every tract based on regional averages for the 4 groups
- Index scores are totaled and a tract is an EEA if the total score exceeds established thresholds
- Income is weighted more heavily than race or ethnicity



Methodology for Equity Emphasis Areas March 29, 2017

The Equity Emphasis Areas were developed using tract-level Census data to identify communities that have significant concentrations of low-income and / or minority populations. The methodology used to identify these communities focuses on four minority population groups:

- Low-Income¹
- · African American.
- Asian, and
- · Hispanic or Latino.

Data from the 2010-2014 American Community Survey for each of the four population groups was used. To identify concentration, the tract percent for each group was divided against its respective regional average. This resulted in a tract-level Ratio of Concentration, or the number of times the regional average, for each population group.

To identify tracts with significant concentrations of flow-income or minority population groups, as well as to normalize and compare results across the four groups and region, an Index Score was calculated based on each groups' Ratio of Concentration for every tract in the region. Index Scores for each population group were aggregated to reach an uncapped Total Index Score. Total Index Scores greater than or equal to 4.00 are considered Equity Emphasis Areas.

Tract are identified as Equity Emphasis Areas if one of two criterions are met. Tracts must have a concentration of individuals identified as low-income more than one-and-a-half times the regional average (see Table 1 below) or high concentrations of two or more minority population groups and/or high concentrations of one or more minority population groups together with low income concentrations at or above the regional average (see Table 2 on next page). Index scores are used to

For more detail:

https://www.mwcog.org/transportation/planningareas/fairness-and-accessibility/environmentaljustice/equity-emphasis-areas/



EEAs for Visualize 2045

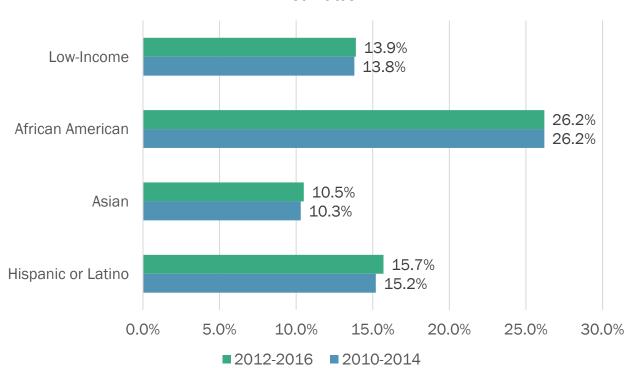
- The original EEA map produced in 2017 used 2010-2014 5-year estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS)
- In preparation for Visualize 2045 analysis, staff updated the EEAs using the latest ACS data: 2012-2016 5-year estimates
- The updated EEA map shows:
 - Some localized changes because values already were close to thresholds
 - Minimal change at the regional level; clusters remain largely the same



Changes in Regional Average

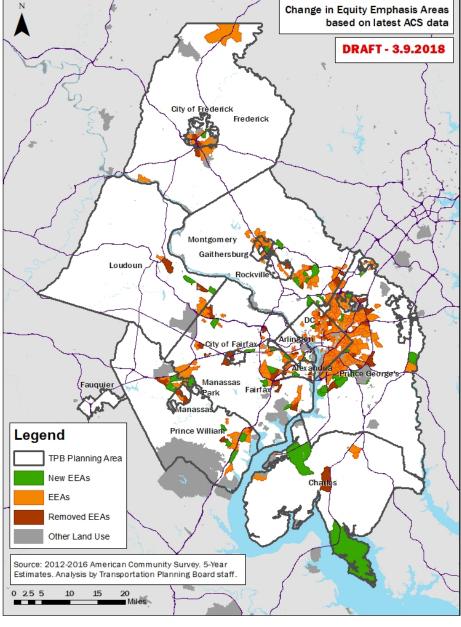
between American Community Survey datasets

2010-2014 versus 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Changes to the EEAs

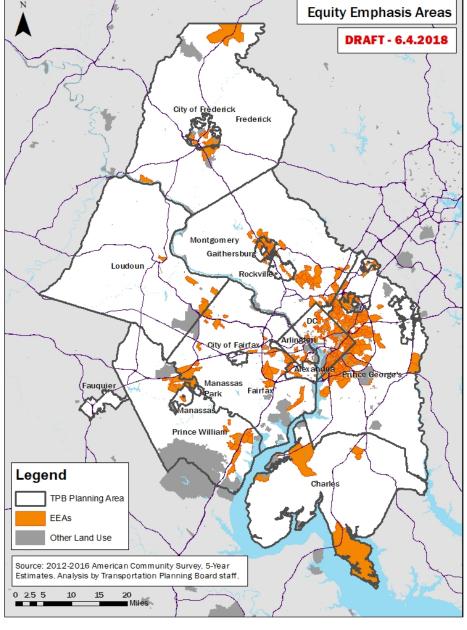
Between Original and Updated EEAs





Updated EEAs

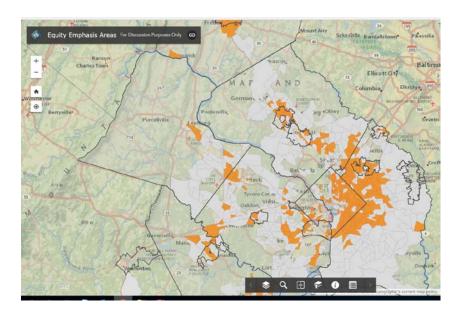
Based on 2012- 2016 ACS 5-Year Estimates and TPB-Approved Methodology





EEA's and Visualize 2045 Analysis

- Staff will revise the online interactive map
- Staff will conduct the analysis of Visualize 2045 and compare regional accessibility and mobility in EEA's versus the rest of the region
- TPB will be briefed on the results in the Oct/Nov/Dec timeframe



Online interactive map: gis.mwcog.org/webmaps/tpb/clrp/ej/

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