

# BRIEFING ON MODIFIED “EQUITY EMPHASIS AREAS”

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## for TPB’s Title VI/Environmental Justice Analysis

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Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee  
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# Structure of Presentation

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- Update the PDTAC since the September meeting
- Solicit feedback on proposed staff modification to the methodology in response to comments received during TPB's comment period



# What is Title VI and Environmental Justice (EJ)?

- **Title VI Law:** Prohibits discrimination based on **race and national origin**
- **Environmental Justice Executive Order:** Requires pro-active approach to ensure no disproportionate impact on **low-income and minority** populations

EPA defines Environmental Justice as...

“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 ....laws, regulations, and policies.”

Source: [www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice](http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice)



# Requirement and Proposed Analysis

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**Federal Requirement:** The TPB must examine the Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan for any disproportionately high and adverse impacts on low-income and minority populations.

**Proposed Enhanced Analysis** includes:

1. Identification of concentrations of low-income and minority populations (“Equity Emphasis Areas”, previously “Communities of Concern”)
2. Multiple accessibility and mobility measures



# Since September - New Name “Equity Emphasis Areas”

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- Feedback from TPB Technical Committee, AFA, and CAC: “Communities of Concern” has a negative connotation and does not convey the intent of the analysis.
- Revised to **“Equity Emphasis Areas”** (EEA): Input from these committees and TPB found this term more inclusive and descriptive of the intent of TPB’s analysis.



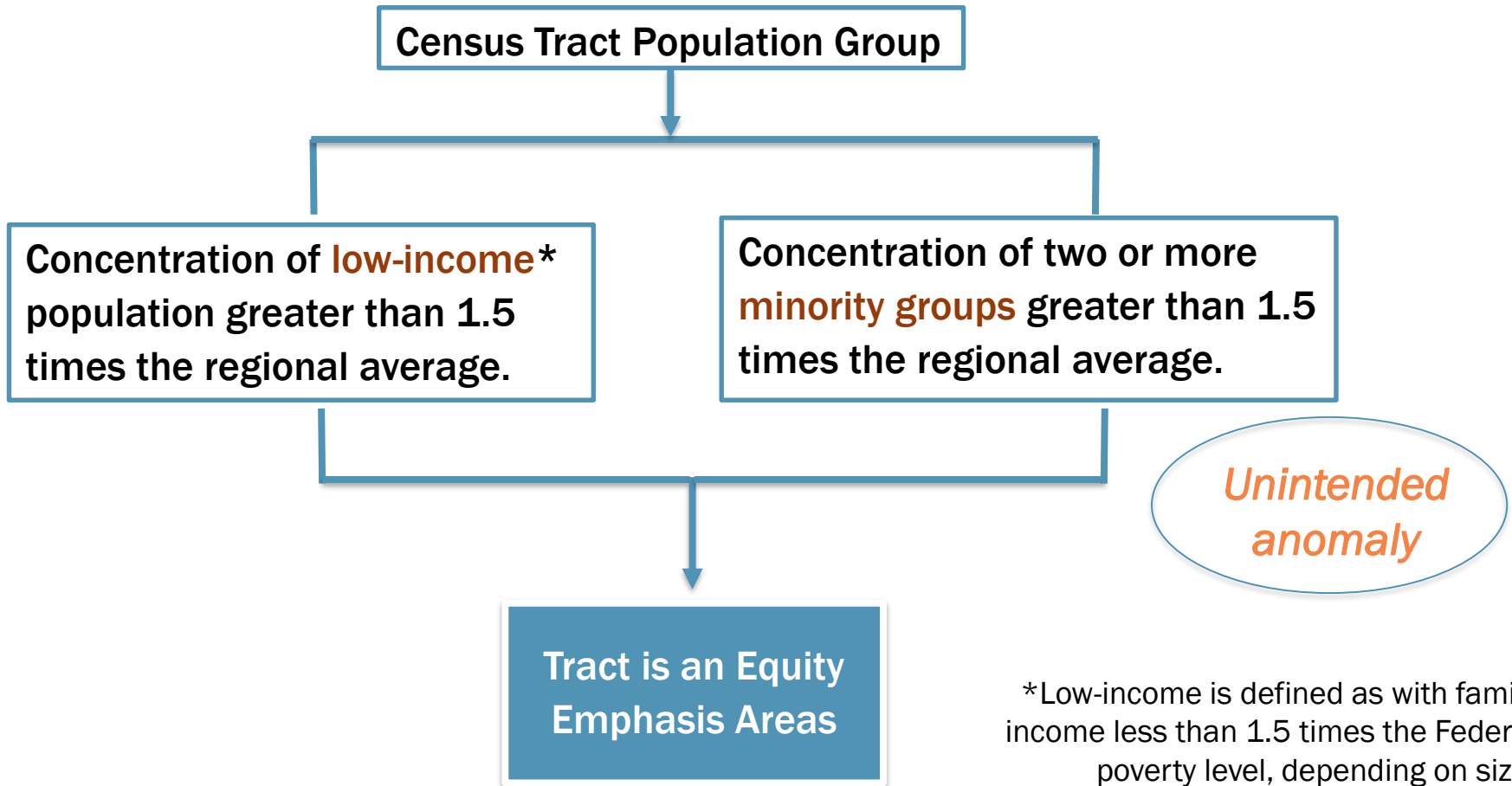
# Since September - Proposed Modification to the Methodology for the Map

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- Last September, PDTAC reviewed and supported the index-based methodology used to identify U.S. Census tracts with high concentrations of Title VI and EJ population groups including index placing greater weight on low-income populations.
- Since September, during the TPB's comment period and at the January TPB meeting an anomaly in the results was identified and staff worked to re-examine the EEAs.



# Original Approach for EEAs



# Unintended Anomaly

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- Census tracts with high concentrations of two minority population groups but with **lower than regional average** concentrations of low income populations were being identified as EEAs; while,
- Tracts with high concentrations of only one of three minority population with **higher than regional average** concentrations of low-income population were not being identified as EEAs.





# Proposed Modification to the Methodology for the Map

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- Revise second criteria to take into account areas with high concentrations of one or more minority population groups together with low income concentrations at or above the regional average.
- Still considers tracts with high concentrations of two or more minority population.



# Quantitative Method (Index scores)

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- 1. Determine the percentage** of each Census tract’s population that falls into each of the following four groups:
  - **Low Income**
  - **African American**
  - **Asian**
  - **Hispanic or Latino**
- 2. Calculate the “Ratio of Concentration”** for each group in each Census tract. (“Ratio of Concentration” is the tract-level percentage divided by the total regional percentage.)
- 3. Use Index Scoring methodology** to designate as Equity Emphasis Areas any tract with high concentration of low-income populations and more than one minority group.



# Criteria 1: Low-Income

Criteria 1 identifies tracts with concentration of low-income populations greater than or equal to one-and-a-half times the regional average and applies an index score to ensure all are considered Equity Emphasis Areas.

RATIO OF CONCENTRATION (ROC or times the regional average)	INDEX SCORE
	Low-Income
Between 1.5 and 3.0	4.5 to 9.0
Greater than 3.0	9.0
Index Score	4.5 to 9.0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equity Emphasis Area (Total Index $\geq$ 4.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Not an Equity Emphasis Area (Total Index $<$ 4.00)	



# Criteria 2: Minority Population and Secondary Low-Income

Criteria 2 identifies tracts with 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.

RATIO OF CONCENTRATION (ROC or times the regional average)	INDEX SCORE			
	Low-Income*	African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino
Less than 1.0	0	0	0	0
Between 1.0 and 1.49	1.0 to 1.49			
Between 1.5 and 3.0	See Criteria 1 (4.5 to 9.0)	1.5 to 3.0	1.5 to 3.0	1.5 to 3.0
Greater than 3.0	See Criteria 1 (9.0)	3.0	3.0	3.0
Total Index Score	Index scores are totaled (ranging from 0 to 10.49)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equity Emphasis Area (EEA) (Total Index $\geq$ 4.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Not an Equity Emphasis Area (EEA) (Total Index $<$ 4.00)				



# Maintaining important tenets

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1. **Income as the predominant factor:** Income is a more important demographic factor than minority status when evaluating someone's ability to access transportation; and
2. **Multiple and overlapping factors:** A person who identifies as a racial or ethnic minority does not automatically mean that this person is transportation-disadvantaged.



# Scoring Example: Census Tract 8019.08 (in Prince George's County, MD)

	Tract Percent	Ratio of Concentration	Index Score
Low Income	18.6%	1.347	1.35
African American	80.6%	3.077	3.00
Asian	1.2%	0.115	0.00
Hispanic or Latino	10.8%	0.712	0.00
			<b>Total Index Score</b> 4.35

- Equity Emphasis Area** (Total Index  $\geq$  4.00)
- Not an Equity Emphasis Area (Total Index  $<$  4.00)



# Scoring Example: Census Tract 4913.03 (in Fairfax County, VA)

	Tract Percent	Ratio of Concentration	Index Score
Low Income	12.3%	0.892	0.00
African American	12.5%	0.478	0.00
Asian	26.7%	2.605	2.61
Hispanic or Latino	29.3%	1.919	1.92

**Equity Emphasis Area (Total Index  $\geq$  4.00)**

Not an Equity Emphasis Area (Total Index  $<$  4.00)

**Total Index Score  
4.53**





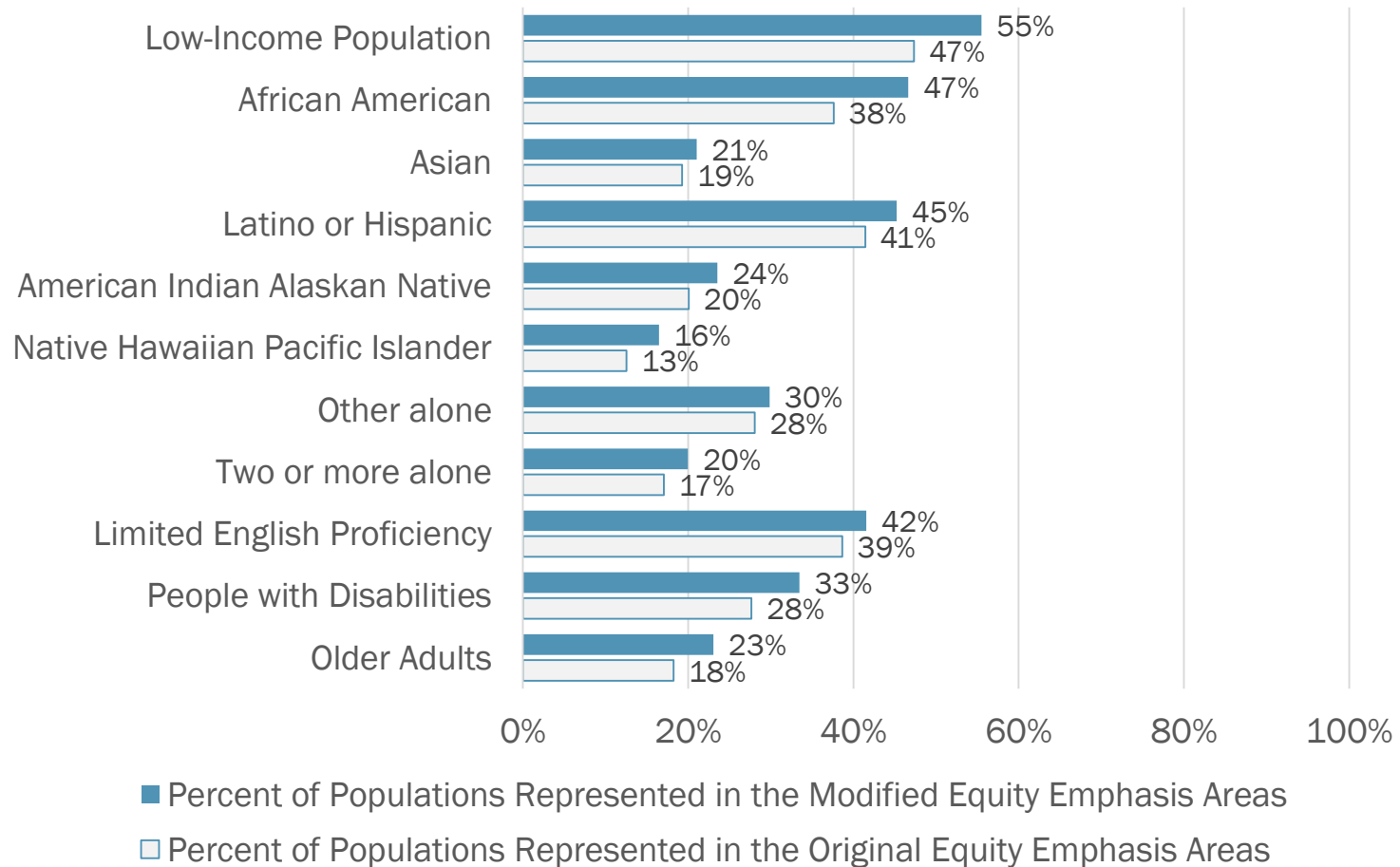


# Jurisdiction Net Changes

Jurisdictions	Original EEAs Tracts	Modified EEA Tracts	Net Change
Alexandria, Virginia	11	11	0
Arlington County, Virginia	10	10	0
Charles County, Maryland	4	4	0
District of Columbia	99	106	7
City of Fairfax, Virginia	1	1	0
Fairfax County, Virginia	49	46	(3)
Falls Church, Virginia	0	0	0
Fauquier County, Virginia	0	0	0
Frederick County, Maryland	11	11	0
Loudoun County, Virginia	4	5	1
Manassas, Virginia	3	3	0
Manassas Park, Virginia	0	1	1
Montgomery County, Maryland	49	46	(3)
Prince George's County, Maryland	79	103	24
Prince William County, Virginia	11	13	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>29</b>



# Change in Population Captured



# Next Steps

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**After TPB approval endorsing the Equity Emphasis Areas, TPB staff will:**

- Revise Interactive Online Tool with additional data and make widely available (Feb-March)
- Conduct the Title VI/EJ analysis of the 2016 CLRP (Feb-March)
- Consult with committees and stakeholders on draft findings (March-April)
- Brief the TPB (May-June)
- Develop a report documenting methodology and findings (By June 30)



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