

BRIEFING ON THE PROPOSED “COMMUNITIES OF CONCERN”

For TPB’s Title VI/Environmental Justice
Analysis

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National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

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.”

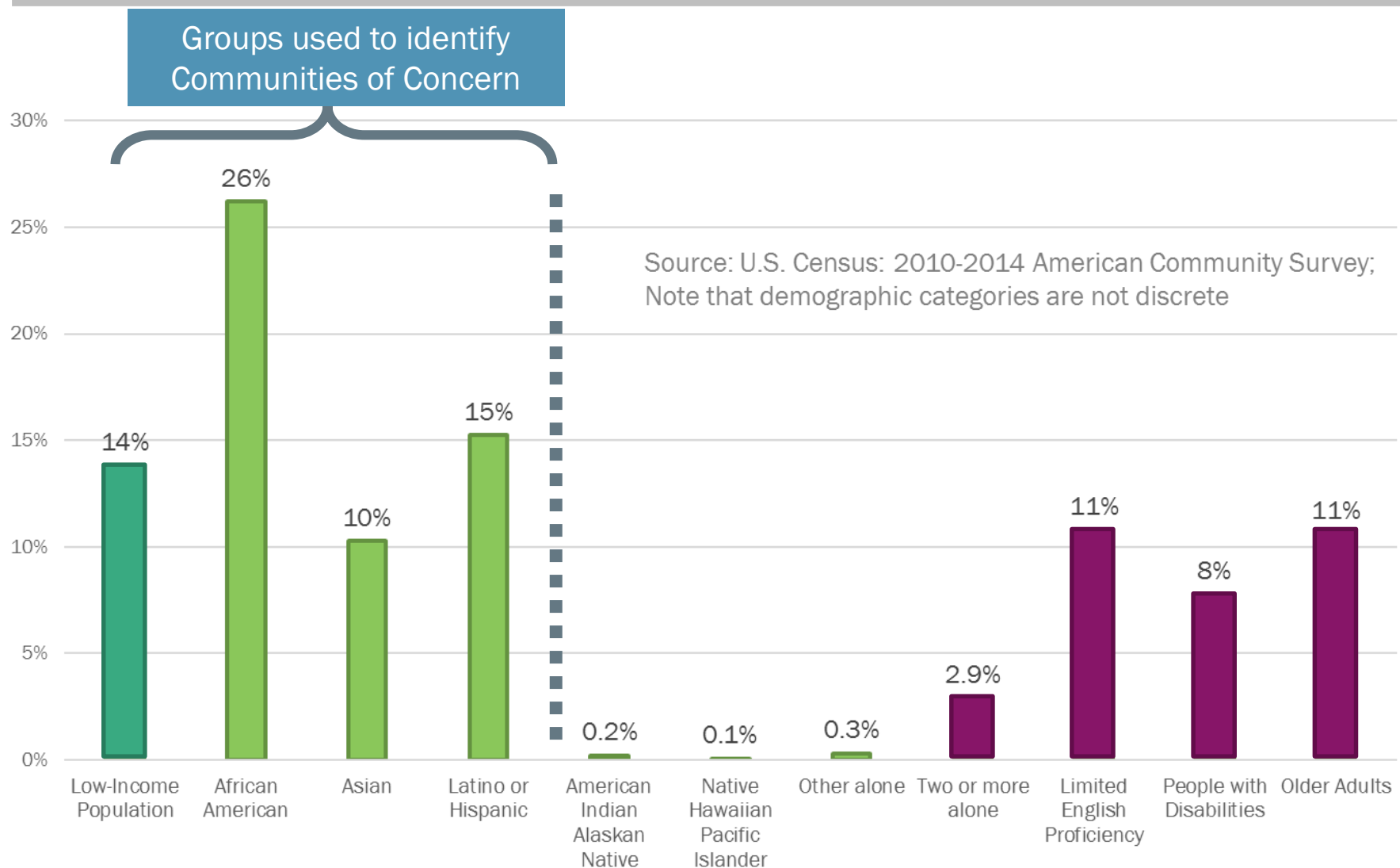
[Source: www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice](http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice)



Purpose of TPB's Title VI/EJ Analysis

- **Federal requirement:**
The “benefits and burdens” of the Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) must be examined for **disproportionately high and adverse impacts** on low-income and minority populations
 - Must also ensure non-discrimination in all MPO programs and activities
- **Inform regional transportation decision making:**
Demographic trends and areas that may need special consideration


Demographic Profile of the Region



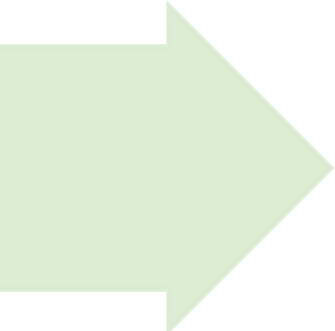
Enhancing the TPB Approach to EJ Analysis

- **Past Approach:** Examined EJ impacts at a regional level and used a single accessibility measure (*Access to jobs*)
- National scan of best practices among metropolitan planning organizations' (MPOs) analyses found:

The TPB's approach is typical and compliant but could be enhanced...



Many MPOs – Examine EJ impacts at smaller area levels (“EJ Ares”) and use multiple accessibility measures.



TPB's Enhanced EJ Analysis: A Two-Phased Process

- **Phase 1: Identification of “Communities of Concern”**

New

- Develop and test methodology
- Vetting with select Jurisdictions
- Stakeholder Briefing (Region's Planning Directors, AFA Advisory Committee)
- Brief Technical Committee and TPB

- **Phase 2: Examine the CLRP for Disproportionate Impact on “Communities of Concern”**

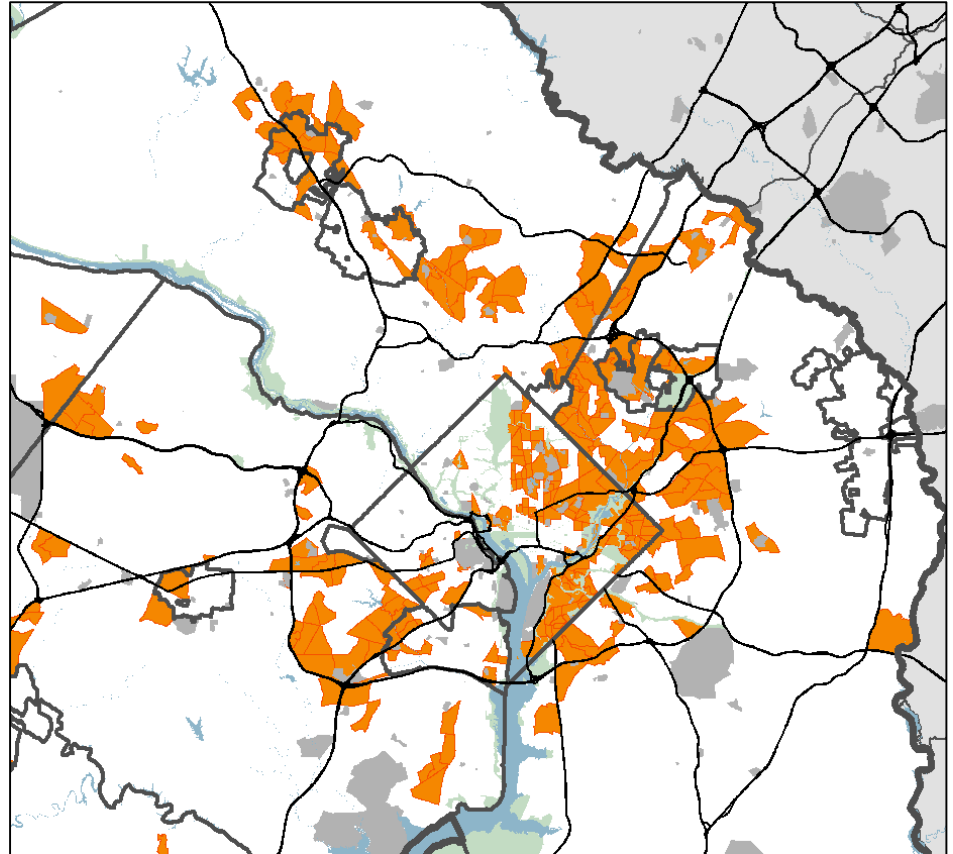
Additional
measures

- “Communities of Concern” will be used to evaluate the CLRP and in other TPB planning activities.
- Opportunity for use in other planning activities by COG and local jurisdictions.



What are “Communities of Concern”?

- Small geographic areas that have significant concentrations of low-income and minority populations
- Identified using an index based on demographic data from the U.S. Census 2010-2014 American Community Survey at the tract-level data



Identifying “Communities of Concern”

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 Communities of Concern any tract with high concentration of low-income populations and more than one minority group.

“Low-income” is defined as individuals with household income less than 1.5 times the Federal poverty level, depending on size.



Index Scoring Methodology

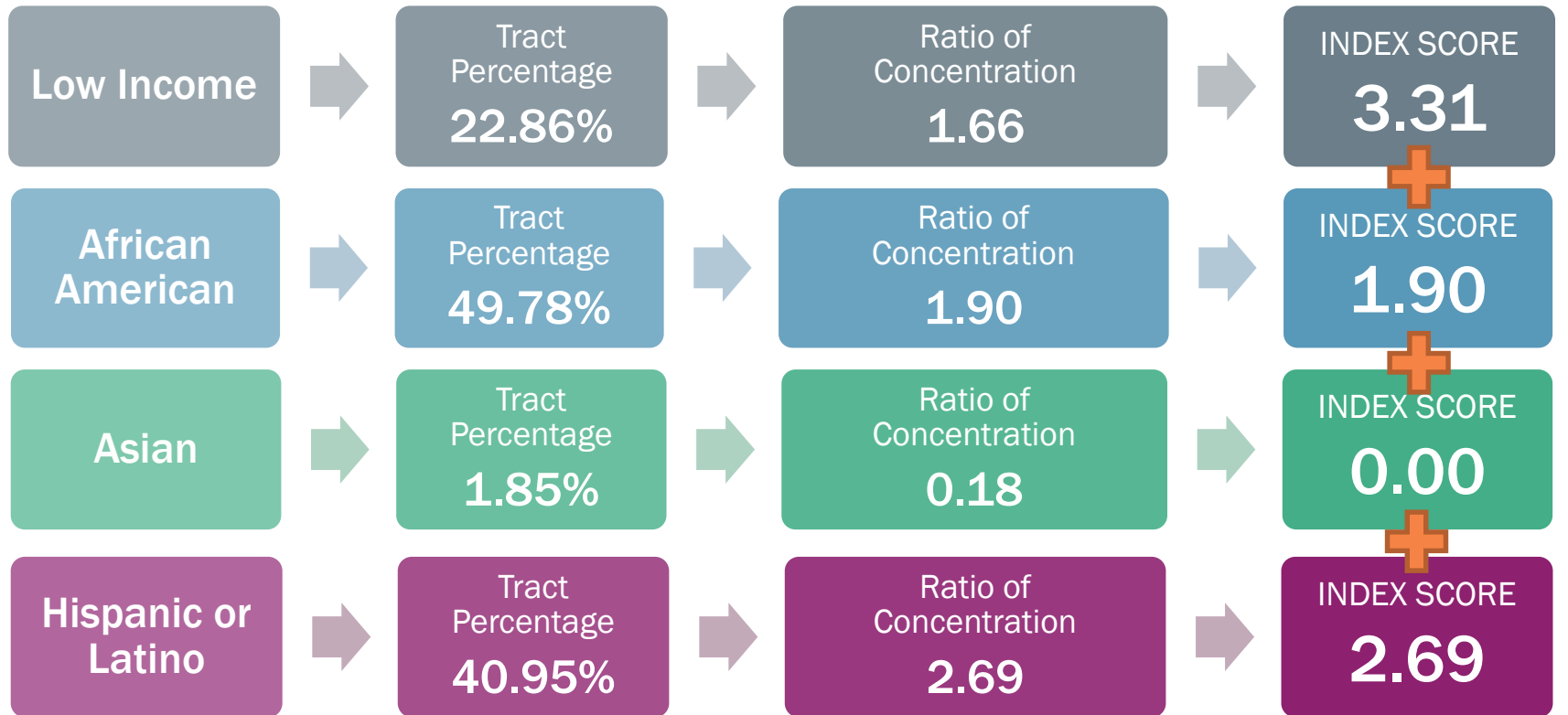
RATIO OF CONCENTRATION (times regional average)	INDEX SCORE
Less than 1.5	Zero
Between 1.5 and 3.0	Low Income: Score twice the Ratio of Concentration*
	Minority: Score equal to Ratio of Concentration
Greater than 3.0	Low Income: Score twice the Ratio of Concentration capped at 6.0
	Minority: Capped at 3.0

- Each of the four population groups receive an Index Score depending on the “Ratio of Concentration”
- The Index Scores for the four groups are summed for a Total Index Score ranging from 0 to 15.
- **Tracts with a Total Index Score greater than 3.0 identified as “Communities of Concern”.**

** Higher index score ensures that low income criteria alone identifies tracts as Communities of Concern.*



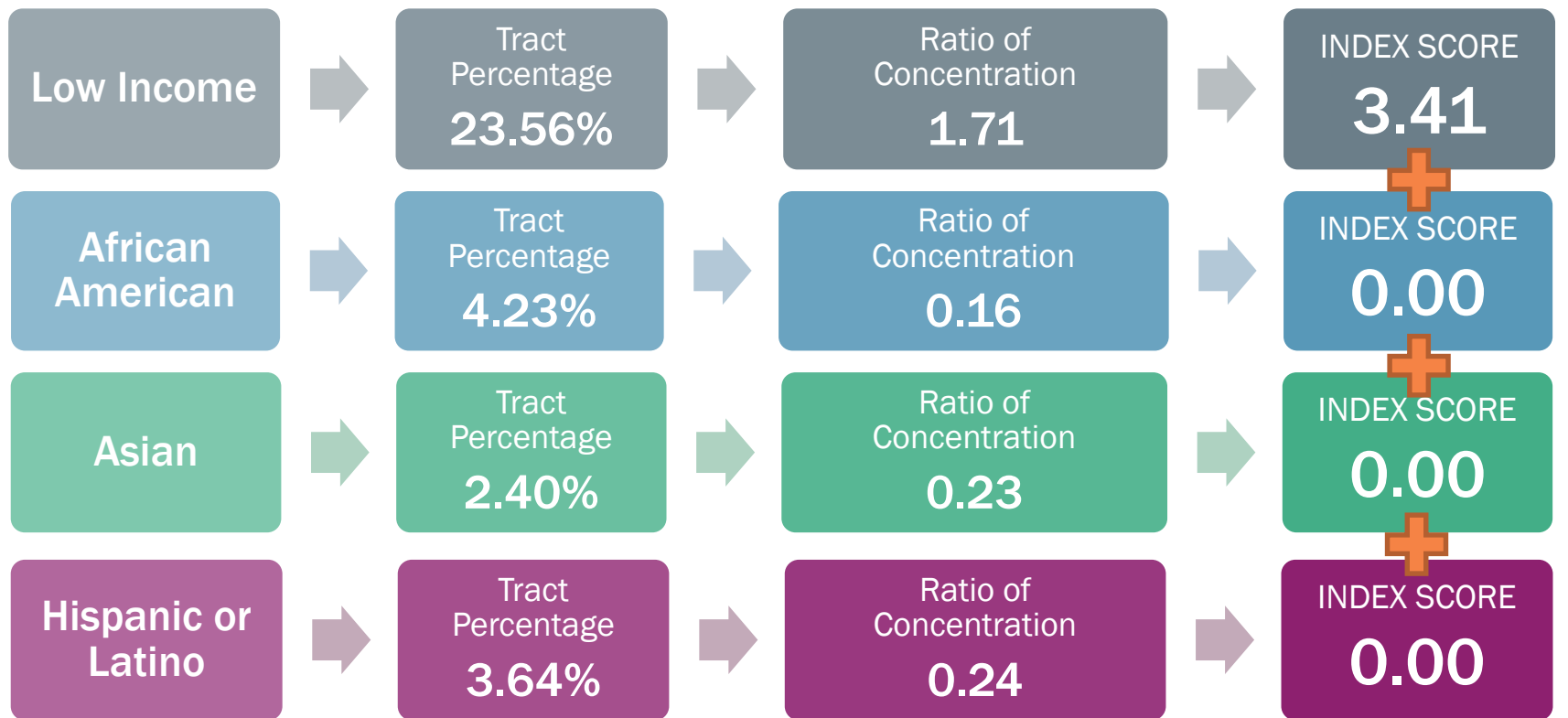
Scoring Example: Census Tract 8038.01



- Community of Concern** (Total Index > 3.00)
- Not a Community of Concern (Total Index ≤ 3.00)

TOTAL INDEX
7.90

Scoring Example: Census Tract 7668



- Community of Concern** (Total Index > 3.00)
- Not a Community of Concern (Total Index ≤ 3.00)

TOTAL INDEX
3.41

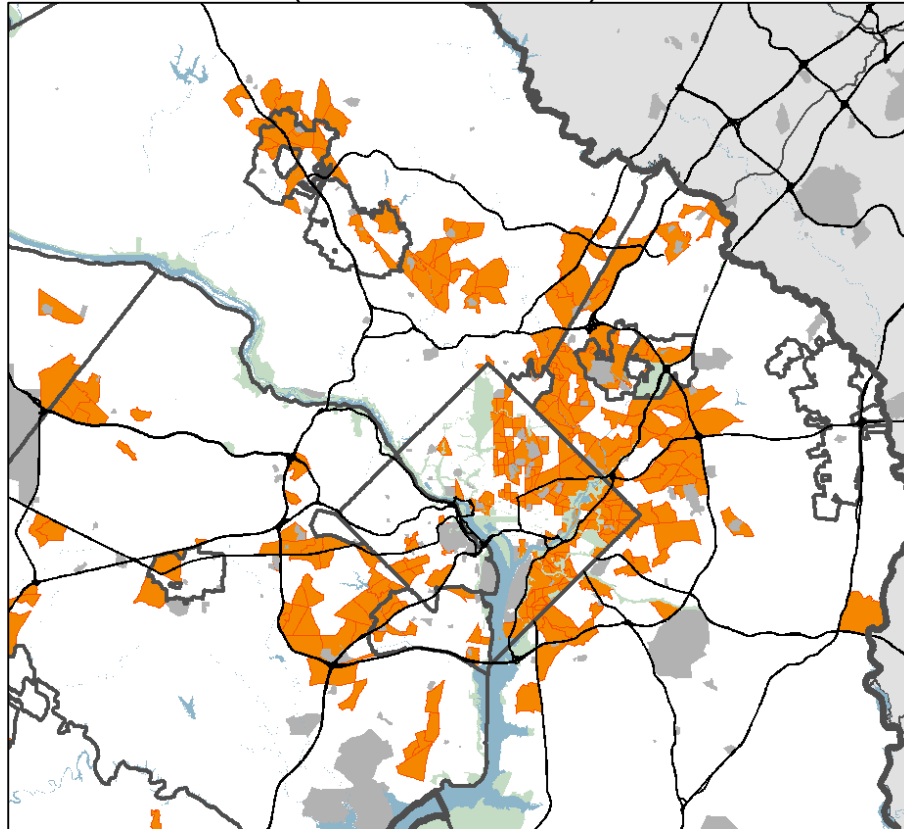


Proposed Communities of Concern

<https://gis.mwcog.org/webmaps/tpb/clrp/ej/>

Username: tpbreview

Password (case sensitive): Review.me



Right click on map to open hyperlink to interactive version



Phase 2: Examine the CLRP for Disproportionate Impact on “Communities of Concern”

- Compare forecast changes in accessibility and travel times for Communities of Concern versus the rest of the region:
 - Existing (2016) and Future (2040) No Build and Planned Build
- Accessibility - Change in accessibility within 45 minutes of travel by automobile and transit:
 - All Jobs
 - Retail Jobs
 - Educational Institutions
 - Hospitals
- Travel - Changes in average travel time to work by automobile and transit

Major Caveat

Locations of population groups in the future are unknown



Phase 2: Identification of Benefits and Burdens

BENEFITS:

Increases in accessibility to jobs, hospitals and educational institutions;
Decrease in travel time

BURDENS:

Decreases in accessibility to jobs, hospitals and educational institutions;
Increase in travel time

Between 2016, 2040 (Plan Build) and 2040 (No Build)
By Transit and Auto Within 45 Minutes



Phase 2: Distribution of Benefits and Burdens

TEST:

Are the Benefits and Burdens fairly distributed between “Communities of Concern” and the rest of the region?

Between 2016, 2040 (Plan Build) and 2040 (No Build)
By Transit and Auto



Next Steps

Phase 1: Identifying “Communities of Concern”

- Ensure comfort level among Planning Directors
- Then Present to the Technical Committee and TPB (October or November?)

Phase 2: Examine the 2016 CLRP Amendment for Disproportionate Impacts

- Late 2016/Early 2017: Staff will conduct the CLRP analysis
- Feb or March 2017: Present results to Technical Committee and TPB

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