

# EQUITY EMPHASIS AREA

---

## 2022 Update

Sergio Ritacco  
Transportation Planner

COG's Regional Electric Vehicle Deployment Working Group  
July 20, 2023



# Presentation Overview

---

- What are Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs)
- How are they used at TPB, COG, and the region
- Resources and Tools

# What are Equity Emphasis Areas (EEA) and how does the COG & TPB use them?

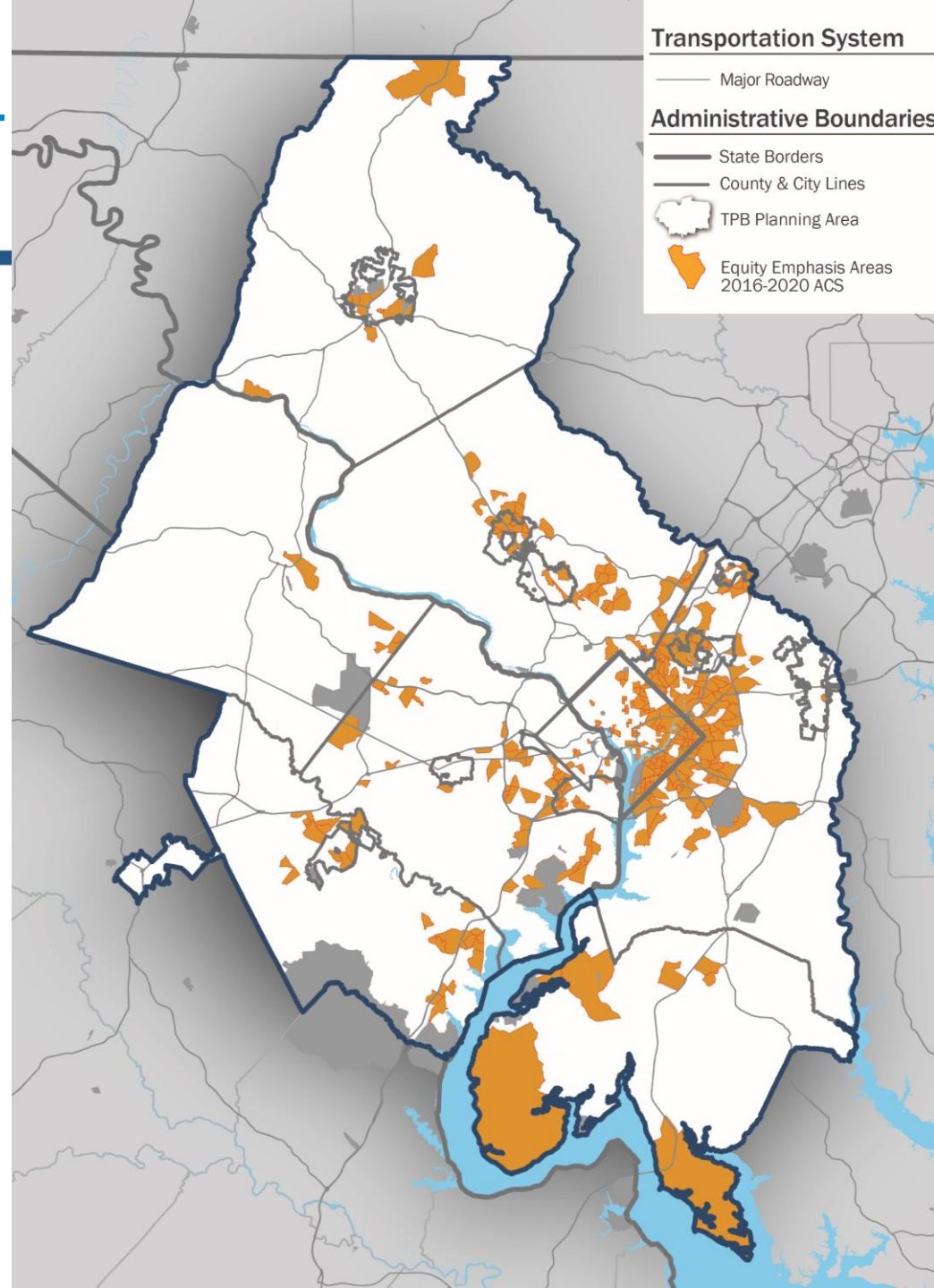
- We identify small geographic areas with higher concentrations of four groups compared to the regional average:
  - Low-Income
  - Black or African American
  - Hispanic or Latino
  - Asian

*Methodology: <https://www.mwcog.org/transportation/planning-areas/fairness-and-accessibility/environmental-justice/equity-emphasis-areas/>*

- Helps us understand the impact of transportation improvements on these areas compared to the remainder of the region.
- COG and TPB also endorsed use of these areas to help highlight areas of the region to consider with additional sensitivity when developing plans, policies, and programs.

# Equity Emphasis Areas - Updated Overview Map

- Spatial distribution patterns like 2018 designations:
  - East-West Divide
  - Inner-Suburban and Outer-Suburban clusters
  - Handful of large tracts in Outer-Suburban areas – artifact of methodology (sampling requirements for statistically significant data)

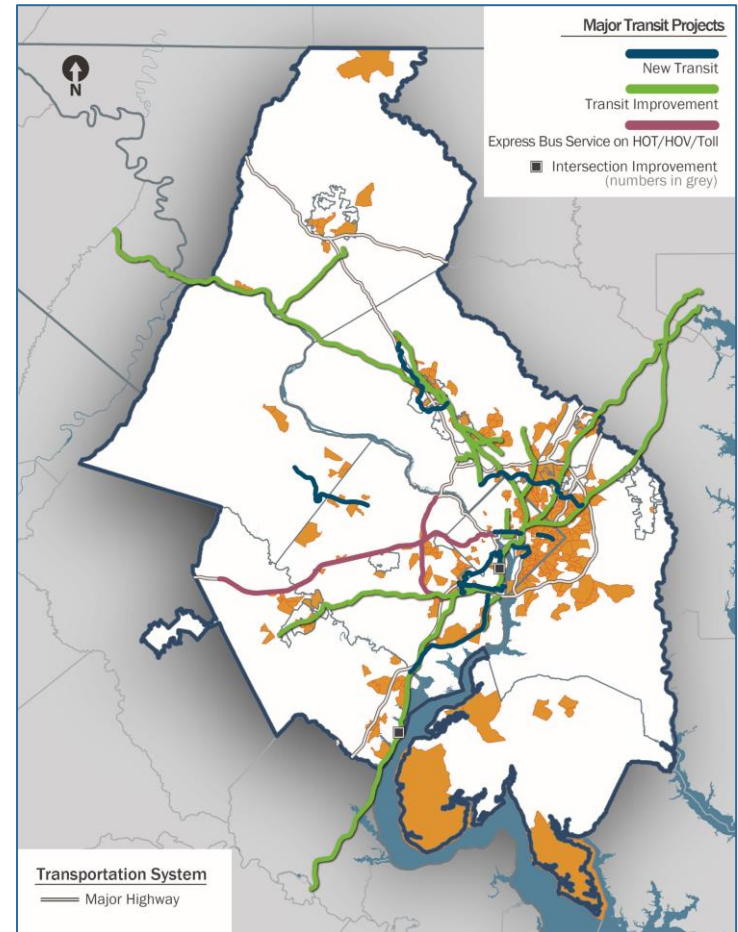
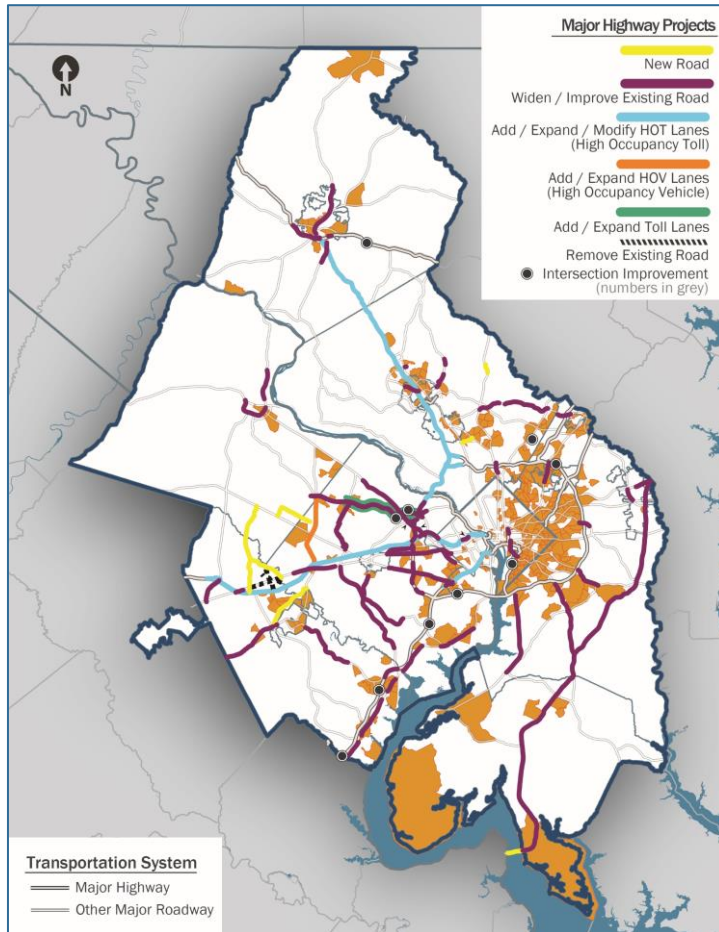


# Details of Changes: U.S. Census Tracts

- Average tract population 4,000
  - Minimum 1,200, Maximum 8,000
- Updated once every ten years to go along with the decennial Census
- Tract is split when population grows over 8,000 inhabitants
- Tract is consolidated with an adjoining one when less than 1,200 inhabitants

	2022
<b>Equity Emphasis Areas</b>	<b>364 tracts 27.4% of region</b>
Share of Low-Income	55.5%
Share of Black or African American	43.2%
Share of Asian	20.1%
Share of Hispanic or Latino	43.3%

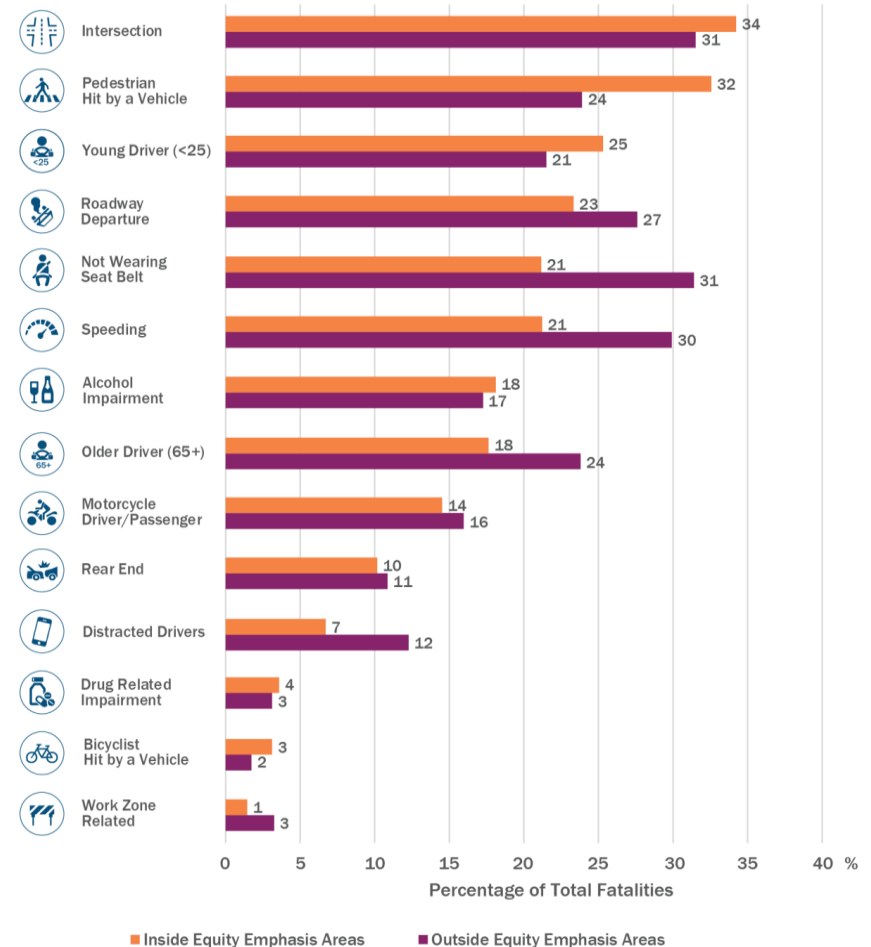
# TPB'S Environmental Justice Analysis Requirements



# TPB'S Transportation Policy Analysis

- Regional Roadway Safety Study
  - Commissioned in 2019 in response to unacceptably high numbers of roadway fatalities
  - Results reported to the TPB in spring of 2020
- TPB Action July 2020
  - TPB Resolution R3-2021: “Safety” Resolution
  - TPB Resolution R1-2021: TPB Equity Statement
- Staff response: Regional Roadway Safety Program (RRSP)

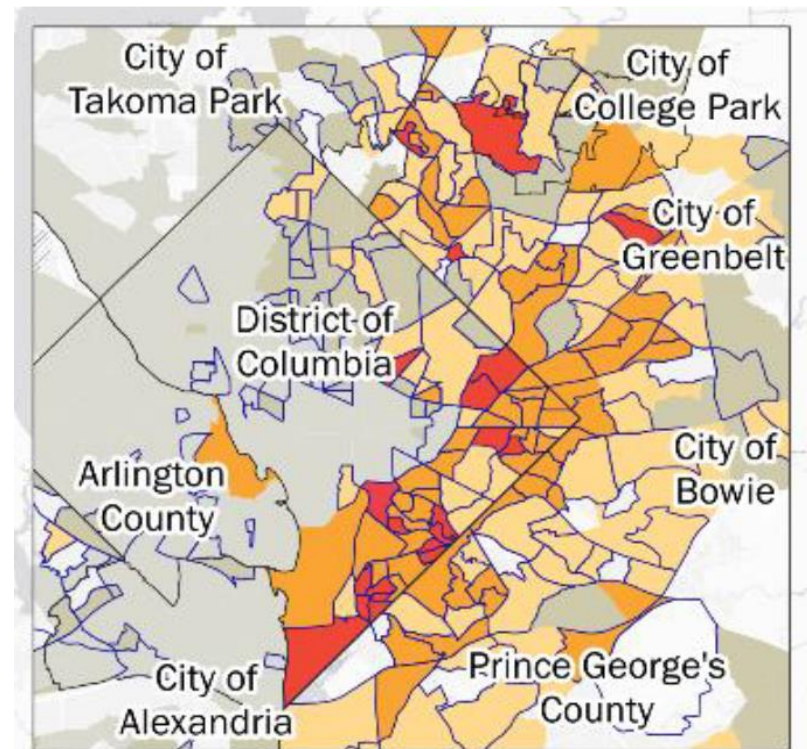
Percentage of Total Fatalities by Contributing Circumstance





# Equity Analysis of Environmental Impacts

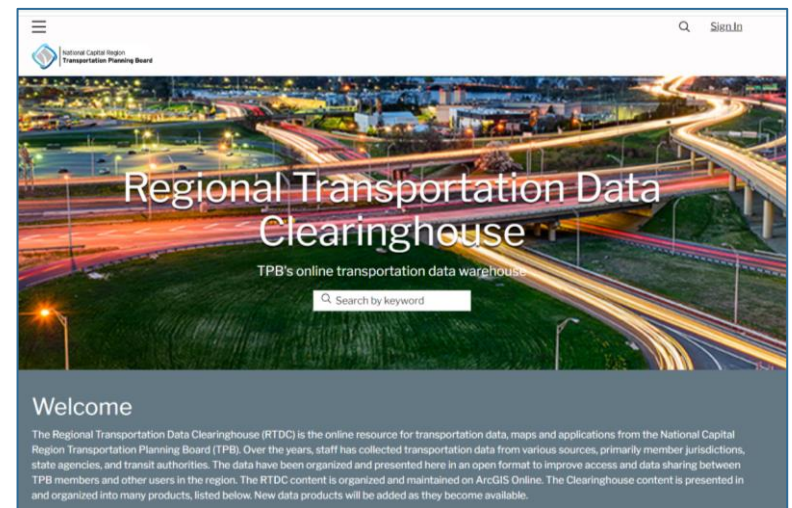
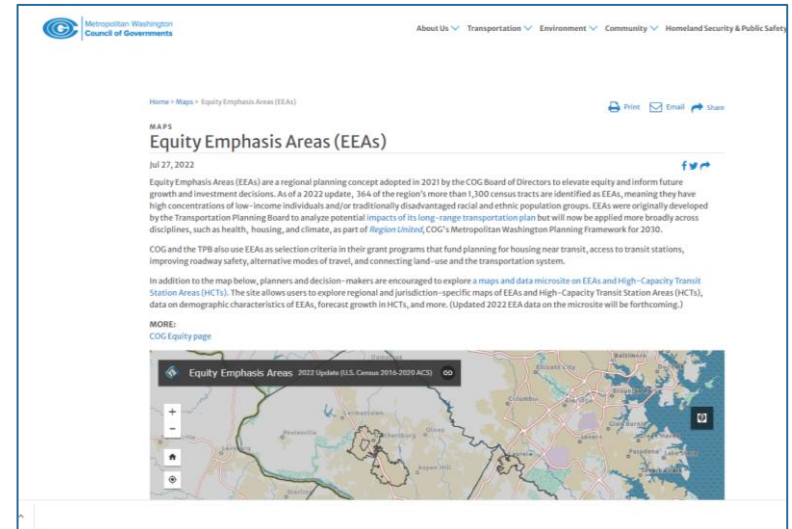
- 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan: EEAs were used to analyze the location of various environmental impacts such as energy burden, extreme heat, and flooding and sea level rise.





# Tools and Resources

- COG's EEA interactive:  
<https://www.mwcog.org/maps/map-listing/equity-emphasis-areas-eeas/>
- Download GIS data at TPB's Regional Transportation Database Clearinghouse:  
<https://rtdc-mwcog.opendata.arcgis.com/>



## Sergio Ritacco

Transportation Planner

(202) 962-3232

[sritacco@mwkog.org](mailto:sritacco@mwkog.org)

[mwkog.org](http://mwkog.org)

---

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20002



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments