Title VI Equity Analyses/
Regional TIP Project Distribution
FFY 2018-2022

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The SMMPO is equally committed to implementing federal Executive Order 12898, entitled “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.” In this capacity, the SMMPO identifies and addresses disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. The SMMPO carries out this responsibility by involving minority and low income individuals in the transportation process and considering their transportation needs in the development and review of the SMMPO’s transportation plans, programs and projects.

Portuguese: Caso esta informação seja necessária em outra idioma, favor contar o coordenador em Título VI do SRPEDD pelo telephone (508) 824-1367.

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Haitian / French Creole: Si yo bezwen enfòmasyon sa a nan yon lòt lang, tanpri kontakte Koòdonatè Tit VI SRPEDD a pa telefòn nan (508) 824-1367.
Introduction

As a recipient of federal funds The Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD), acting as staff to the Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964. Title VI prohibits discrimination based upon race, color and national origin. Additional federal nondiscrimination laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, sex and disability.

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SRPEDD routinely maps minority, low-income (below poverty level) and LEP populations / areas for our Transportation Evaluation Criteria, for public outreach purposes, for the Title VI submissions of our regional transit agencies, for transit route equity analyses and evaluations, and for other general planning purposes. As part of the requirements for the TIP we have extended these efforts into a regional project distribution / Title VI equity analyses.

Methodology

This Equity Analyses is based on projects that are programmed with regional target funds in the FFY2018-FFY2022 TIP in the SRPEDD region. SRPEDD defines a Title VI/EJ community and Title VI/EJ Census tracts as such if they are greater than the regional average for minority, as calculated in the U.S. Census, greater than the regional average for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) or below the regional average poverty level, as calculated in the American Community Survey (ACS). (The Census Bureau uses a set of dollar
value thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who
is in poverty.)

Minority is defined as those persons who identify as other than white in the
2010 Census and this includes Hispanics. This population is protected under
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Limited English Proficient (LEP) refers to any
person age 5 and older who reported speaking English less than 'very well'
in the 2010 Census. Low-income (poverty) is defined as persons living below
the regional average poverty level. LEP and low-income populations are
ensured participation and consideration of their transportation needs with
Federal Executive Order 12898, otherwise known as Environmental Justice
(EJ). For minority populations the regional average was 10.98%, and for LEP
populations the regional average was 7.40%. The low-income (or percent
below the poverty level) is 12.13%.

Minority, low-income (or below poverty level) and LEP areas were mapped
for each of the 27 communities in the SRPEDD region, with low income (or
below poverty level) and LEP using 2010-2014 ACS data, and minority using
2010 Census data with the intent to determine the level of project
distribution equity in areas designated as Title VI/EJ and in areas not
designated as Title VI/EJ in our region. We mapped the geographical
distribution of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects and
compared the number of projects in identified Title VI and EJ census tracts
versus the number in non-Title VI and EJ census tracts.

If a project was located directly adjacent to one of the areas designated as
low-income (poverty), minority or LEP or if that project directly connected
and /or served the designated area, we counted / included the project as
falling within one of these areas. There were 19 projects in the FFY2018-
2022 TIP that were located within or directly adjacent to these designated
areas. (Please see map entitled 2018-2022 Project Locations and Title VI /
Environmental Justice.)

We also determined the number of projects in a community, the total dollar
amount of funding per community and per capita to analyze the distribution
of TIP projects and funding in our region. Both data sheets and mapping of
project data was utilized.

Regardless of the results of this analysis, there are a number of factors that
would affect one or more communities having a disparate number of projects
or funding compared to other communities in this region. Although the SMMPO (SRPEDD) offers a myriad of services and technical assistance to all 27 communities in the region on request, including intersection analysis, signal warrants analysis, safety and congestion studies for intersections and corridors, as well as road safety audits, including the accompanying public outreach efforts, some communities simply do not take advantage of this, whether by indifference or design.

Some communities have expressed concern regarding the length of the TIP process, as well as their own unwillingness to be held to MassDOT’s stricter design standards that now include Complete Streets, and significantly raise the scope and the cost of a project. Those communities not seeking this assistance will not benefit in the number of projects and amount of funding to the same extent that communities in this region that are proactive.

Results

The total number of projects programmed in the existing FFY2018-2022 TIP, total 19 in 12 communities, leaving 15 communities out of the 27 in the SRPEDD region with no projects. However, 4 of these 15 communities (Carver, Fall River, North Attleborough and Westport) had projects programmed in the FFY2013-2017 TIP. The remaining 11 communities (Acushnet, Berkley, Dighton, Fairhaven, Freetown, Marion, Mansfield, Plainville, Rochester, Somerset, Swansea) have had no recent or future projects in the TIP.

Anecdotal observations are that 8 out of these 11 communities have had limited or no presence at Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG) meetings nor have they taken advantage of the array of services and technical assistance offered by the staff of the SMMPO. The exceptions to this are the towns of Fairhaven and Mansfield which have always been, and continue to be, active participants in the JTPG and the town of Plainville, which has recently become more active in participation.

Of the 12 communities with projects in the FFY2018-2022 TIP, there are 8 communities with 1 project in the TIP. These communities are Attleboro, Lakeville, Mattapoisett, Middleborough, Norton, Seekonk, Rayham, and Rehoboth. There are 2 communities, Taunton and Wareham, with 2 projects in the TIP. One community, Dartmouth, has 3 projects in the tip and the city.
of New Bedford has 4 projects in the current TIP. (Please see maps entitled Number of 2018-2022 Projects by Municipality and Number of Projects and Title VI / Environmental Justice.)

The location of each FFY2018-2022 TIP project was mapped and overlaid with the areas that met the criteria previously discussed and designated as low-income (poverty), minority and LEP areas. As far as the geographical distribution of projects, out of the 19 total projects in the region, 11 projects fell within areas designated as meeting the criteria for low-income (poverty), minority or LEP populations. (Please see map entitled 2018-2022 Project Locations and Title VI & Environmental Justice & please see Table entitled 2018-2022 TIP Projects.)

Five of the SRPEDD communities met the criteria to be designated as Minority Municipalities. These communities are Attleboro, Fall River, New Bedford, Taunton and Wareham. (See map entitled 2018-2022 Minority Municipalities.) Attleboro has 1 project in the FFY2018-2022 TIP, New Bedford has 4, Taunton has 2, Wareham has 2, and Fall River has 0, although Fall River had 1 projects in the previous FFY2013-2017 TIP.

The median per capita spending for the 12 communities with projects programmed in the FFY2018-2022 TIP is $245. Three of the minority communities, Attleboro ($153), New Bedford ($183), and Taunton ($194) show per capita spending below the median and one minority community, Wareham ($1082) is well above the median per capita spending. The remaining minority community, Fall River, has no projects in the existing TIP. (See map entitled 2018-2022 Project Expenditures per Capita in Minority Municipalities.)

Once again, the median per capita for 12 communities with projects programmed in the FFY2018-2022 TIP is $245. Among those communities per capita spending ranges from $45 per capita in Middleborough to $1082 in Wareham. The exceptionally high per capita amount in the town of Wareham is due to the large scope and cost of the Route 6 & 28 reconstruction project. (See the map entitled 2018-2022 Project Expenditures and the Table within the map entitled Municipality Per Capita.)

Total project expenditures were calculated and mapped by community and per capita for minority municipalities, LEP and low-income (poverty) areas. (See maps entitled 2018-2022 Project Expenditures per Capita in Minority
Of the 15 communities with no projects in the FFY2018-2022 TIP, 9 did not meet any of the criteria for minority, poverty or LEP. Of the remaining 6 communities, Acushnet, Fairhaven, Fall River, Mansfield, North Attleborough and Westport; 3 of these, Fall River, North Attleborough and Westport had a total of 5 projects in the FFY2013-2017 TIP; leaving only 3 communities that meet these criteria, Acushnet, Fairhaven, and Mansfield with no recent past or future TIP projects. Two of these communities, Fairhaven and Mansfield, have always been active participants in the JTPG and continue to have a presence in the regional planning process.

Out of the 27 SMMPO communities a total of 15 did not meet the criteria for Title VI or EJ populations leaving 12 communities that did meet that criteria. (See map entitled Number of 2018-2022 Projects and Title VI / Environmental Justice.)

Our results show that 13 out of the 19 projects in the FFY2018-2022 TIP fall within a community that meets the criteria for Title VI or EJ populations, which is 68% of the projects, while 11 out of the 19 projects, which is 58% of the projects, fell directly within minority, low-income (poverty) and LEP areas.
Number of 2018-2022 Projects by Municipality

Number of Projects
- No Projects
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Data Sources:
SRPEDD, MassGIS, MassDOT

Appendix D - Regional Project Distribution / Title VI Equity Analysis FFY 2018-2022
**2018-2022 Project Locations and Title VI / Environmental Justice**

**Title VI / EJ Criteria**
- **Low Income**: Census tracts that are greater than SRPEDD’s low income regional average of 12.13%.
- **Minority**: Census tracts that are greater than SRPEDD’s minority regional average of 10.98%.
- **Limited English Proficiency**: Census tracts that are greater than SRPEDD’s LEP regional average of 7.40%.

**Data Sources:** SRPEDD, MassGIS, MassDOT, 2010 Census, ACS 2010-2014.

**SRPEDD Definitions:**
- **Low Income**: Census tracts that are greater than SRPEDD’s low income regional average of 12.13%.
- **Minority**: Census tracts that are greater than SRPEDD’s minority regional average of 10.98%.
- **Limited English Proficiency**: Census tracts that are greater than SRPEDD’s LEP regional average of 7.40%.

Appendix D - Regional Project Distribution / Title VI Equity Analysis FFY 2018-2022

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**Title VI / EJ Criteria**

- **Limited English Proficiency:**
  - Census tracts that are greater than SRPEDD’s LEP regional average of 7.40%

**Data Sources:**

**SRPEDD Definition:**

- **Limited English Proficiency:** Census tracts that are greater than SRPEDD’s LEP regional average of 7.40%

**Project Spending Per Capita**

- No Projects
- < $300
- $301 — $600
- $601 — $900
- > $900

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Appendix D - Regional Project Distribution / Title VI Equity Analysis FFY 2018-2022

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2018-2022 Project Expenditures Per Capita in Minority Municipalities

SRPEDD Definition:

Minority Municipality: Municipality whose total minority population is greater than SRPEDD’s minority regional average of 10.98%.

Data Sources: SRPEDD, MassGIS, MassDOT, 2010 Census,
Appendix D - Regional Project Distribution / Title VI Equity Analysis FFY 2018-2022

2018-2022 Project Expenditures and Title VI / Environmental Justice

Appendix D - Regional Project Distribution / Title VI Equity Analysis FFY 2018-2022

Title VI / EJ Criteria

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- **Minority**: Census tracts that are greater than SRPEDD’s minority regional average of 10.98%

**Data Sources:**
2018-2022 Project Expenditures

Project Spending Per Capita

- No Projects
- < $300
- $301 — $600
- $601 — $900
- > $900

Municipality | Per Capita
--- | ---
Middleborough | $45
Seekonk | $112
Attleboro | $153
New Bedford | $183
Taunton | $194
Rehoboth | $210
Dartmouth | $280
Norton | $379
Raynham | $402
Lakeville | $427
Mattapoisett | $695
Wareham | $1,082

Data Sources: SRPEDD, MassGIS, MassDOT
Number of 2018-2022 Projects and Title VI / Environmental Justice

Title VI / EJ Criteria

- Low Income
- Minority
- Low Income & Minority
- Limited English Proficiency

Number of Projects

1 2 3 4

SRPEDD Definitions:

Low Income:
Census tracts that are greater than SRPEDD's low income regional average of 12.13%.

Minority:
Census tracts that are greater than SRPEDD's minority regional average of 10.98%.

Limited English Proficiency:
Census tracts that are greater than SRPEDD's LEP regional average of 7.40%.

Data Sources: