Center for Environmental Excellence by AASHTO Environmental Justice (EJ) Peer Exchange

February 17-18, 2016
Hall of the States, 444 North Capitol St. NW
Washington, D.C.
To all Environmental Justice Peer Exchange Participants:

Thank you for your participation in our 2016 Environmental Justice Peer Exchange, hosted by the Center for Environmental Excellence by AASHTO. This will be the first gathering of its kind hosted by the Center for Environmental Excellence, and it is designed to assist State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in sharing environmental justice best practices and lessons learned. We are excited to have this opportunity to bring our state DOT and MPO Environmental Justice experts together with AASHTO and FHWA. This is a unique opportunity for us all to collaborate and seek effective solutions in considering Environmental Justice during the planning and project development of our transportation facilities. After the completion of the peer exchange, a roadmap that documents strategies and highlights MPO and State DOT Environmental Justice/Title VI efforts will be prepared to guide the state of the practice over the next 2 – 3 years. The roadmap will include key take-aways from the exchange, technical assistance needs, research gaps, and recommendations for FHWA and AASHTO.

Participation and collaboration are the two primary components that will combine to make this meeting a success. Our meeting will consist of 20 participants from State DOTs and MPOs, 13 of whom will be presenting their best practices. There will also be a variety of and small group discussions and action planning sessions that have been designed to include all participants and generate feedback for the roadmap. We encourage everyone to be actively engaged and to share the best practices in Environmental Justice that you have employed, as well as your challenges and lessons learned. Our objective is for you to gain value and insight from this meeting, develop effective and efficient solutions to the issues faced in your day to day activities, and learn from the experiences of your colleagues.

We look forward to working with you over the next two days to help lead the way to solving the challenges of addressing Environmental Justice in planning/programming and project development. Each attendee is an integral part of our cumulative success in addressing these challenges to sustain the future of our nation’s resources and the stewardship of our transportation programs.

Sincerely,

Kate Kurgan

Senior Program Manager for Environment
Peer Exchange Participants

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Peer Exchange Agenda - Day 1

7:30 am   Breakfast

8:00 am   Welcome and Introduction

Kate Kurgan, AASHTO; Fleming El-Amin, FHWA
Anne Morris, Anne Morris and Associates

Purpose: To introduce participants, set the expectations for the Peer Exchange, and provide a quick overview of participant questionnaire responses, highlighting major themes.

Outcome: A list of expectations from participants of what they hope to get out of the peer exchange.

9:00 am   A Success Story

Kendall Miller, Hampton Roads TPO (HRTPO)

HRTPO’s 2008 certification review identified 11 corrective actions, 7 of which dealt with public involvement. This session will share HRTPO’s story of recreating themselves to become an example for other MPOs, and the role of their EJ Roundtable. This presentation will also provide information on their Four-Step Environmental Justice Evaluation process, highlighting their approach to addressing benefits and burdens as part of their State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) review process. (30 minutes, including Q&A)

9:30 am   Break

9:45 am   Addressing Environmental Justice as part of the Project Development Process

Purpose: To share effective practices and lessons learned from projects and associated processes which have addressed EJ and Title VI considerations as part of project development, highlighting both outreach and quantitative analysis methods.

Outcome: Participants will share experiences and lessons learned as part of the project development process, as well as generate ideas to improve the state of the practice with other agencies.

South Mountain EIS: How Did ADOT Respond to Title VI Legal Challenges?

Kerry Bernard, Arizona DOT (ADOT)

In 2013, members of the Gila River Indian Community filed a Title VI Civil Rights complaint against ADOT over the South Mountain Freeway. This presentation will focus on ADOT’s experience surrounding Native American and tribal issues, and the intersection of EJ with the Section 106 process. (15 minutes + 10 minutes Q&A)

Alston Avenue (NC 55 Widening) Project: Using a Context Sensitive Solution Approach to Address EJ Concerns in Durham, NC

Harrison Marshall, North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)

The Community Impact Assessment process identified disproportionately high and adverse effects from a proposed road widening on a historic African American community with a growing Hispanic presence. This presentation will share information on how NCDOT engaged a diverse public in decision-making, exercised design flexibility, and used other strategies to mitigate these impacts. (15 minutes + 10 minutes Q&A)

Using EPA’s EJScreen Mapping Tool: Lessons Learned

Veronica Trecazzi, Ohio DOT (ODOT) and Tai Ling, EPA’s Office of Environmental Justice

ODOT recently revised and codified agency guidance to ensure compliance with state and federal EJ requirements, effectively screen projects that would affect EJ communities, and identify potential impacts. This presentation will provide information on how ODOT’s environmental division is using EJScreen to comply with these requirements, including lessons learned for project development, followed by a broader overview of the EJScreen tool and its capabilities. (30 minutes, including Q&A)

11:10 am   Break

11:25 am   Incorporating Environmental Justice in Planning and Programming

Purpose: To showcase EJ planning process tools and techniques for both long range planning and STIP development activities.

Outcome: Provide ideas to participants about how to improve the processes associated with long range planning and STIP development.

Incorporating EJ into MAPA’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Michael Felschow, Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)

MAPA recently revised their TIP to incorporate Environmental Justice considerations, especially with regard to mobility and access for EJ communities in the region. This presentation will outline these changes, and highlight opportunities and challenges of the process. (15 minutes +10 minutes Q&A)

Connecting Short-Term Needs with Long-Term Planning

Monica Haines Benkhedda, Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB)

The BRTB recently approved the region’s long-range transportation plan, entitled Maximize2040: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan. Throughout the 18 month planning process, the BRTB collected over 1,100 public comments through a multi-faceted public engagement strategy. Many of the ideas and comments generated were of limited applicability to the long-range plan, instead focusing on short-term needs and small scale projects. This presentation will outline the successes of the Maximize2040 planning process, as well as the opportunities and challenges for working with local and regional transportation partners to transmit and implement public input. (15 minutes + 10 minutes Q&A)
Purpose: To explore participants’ reactions to the approach taken by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) and FHWA to address indirect and cumulative impacts to low-income and minority communities who would be adversely impacted by the Newtown Pike Extension.

Outcome: Address issues, concerns and questions that participants have related to the approach used by KYTC and FHWA.

Jeff Moore from KYTC will provide some comments on the project and respond to participant questions.

1:45 Innovative, Meaningful Public Involvement

Purpose: To showcase successful innovative, meaningful engagement strategies for addressing EJ as part of planning and project development.

Outcome: Shared lessons learned and experiences among participants in order to help address issues that other participants are facing as well as provide ideas to improve the practice with other agencies.

Transportation Outreach Planning Tool
Elizabeth Rockwell, Miami-Dade MPO
The Transportation Outreach Planner is an interactive online tool used to ensure the social, economic, and geographic characteristics of an area is reviewed before public involvement efforts are initiated. This presentation will review the tool’s components, and how Miami-Dade MPO uses this tool in their planning process. (15 minutes + 15 minutes Q&A)

Environmental Planner Academy
Peter Bond, California DOT (Caltrans)
This presentation will showcase Caltrans’ major training tool and capacity builder, and how knowledge learned was instrumental in outreach to the Hmong population and the development of creative mitigation strategies. (15 minutes + 15 minutes Q&A)

2:45 Break

3:00 Strategic Discovery

Purpose: Participants will work in small groups to identify key challenges and opportunities their agencies face when attempting to implement the effective practices shared throughout the day. This discussion will be guided by questions and assisted by a facilitator.

Outcome: Discussion results will inform the EJ Roadmap.

Small Group Topics:
- Engaging EJ Populations in Meaningful Public Involvement
- Disproportionate Impacts and Appropriate Mitigation Strategies
- Better Data, Better Tools
- Using Planning Products and Outcomes for Better Project Development Outcomes
- Inter-agency Synergy for Better Results

4:30 Wrap Up

6:00 Dinner

Preparation for Day 2: Participants will be asked to identify at least one interesting practice which they think would benefit their transportation agencies.

DINING ESTABLISHMENTS
We encourage you to have dinner together and continue the conversations begun today.

Union Station has a variety of casual dining options that can be accessed from the Columbus Circle Entrance.

Other nearby restaurants include:
- The Monocle: 107 D Street NE
- Armand’s Chicago Pizzeria: 226 Massachusetts Avenue NE
- Kelly’s Irish Times: 14 F Street NW
## Peer Exchange Agenda - Day 2

### 7:30  
**Breakfast**

### 8:00  
**Day 1 Observations and Expectations for Day 2**

*Purpose:* To identify key takeaways from the first day as well as set expectations for Day 2.

*Outcome:* Set Day 2 expectations and identify interesting improvements to practice that each participants took away from Day 1.

### 8:30  
**FHWA EJ Initiatives**

*Purpose:* Provide participants with information on FHWA policy initiatives.

*Outcome:* Participants gain a clearer understanding of FHWA priorities and how that may affect their planning and project development processes.

*Fleming El-Amin, Office of Human Environment Livability Team*

This presentation will provide an overview of current FHWA initiatives in EJ and Civil Rights. *(15 minutes + 15 minutes of Q&A)*

### 9:15  
**Break**

### 9:30  
**Emerging Issues**

*Purpose:* Present information to participants which reveals the issues that are emerging in the industry. Discuss the implications of these emerging issues on process considerations and consequences to the planning and environmental review process. Prepare the participants to provide input into the discussion on training needs as well as the EJ Road Map.

*Outcome:* Generate a list of issues, concerns, and approaches to addressing emerging issues in the industry, which will help the participants to think about future approaches to address EJ considerations as part of planning and product development processes.

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### Recurring and Cumulative Community Impacts:

**Pleasant Hill Community and I-16/75 Interchange Improvements**

*Gail D’Avino, Georgia DOT (GDOT)*

The presentation will explore how GDOT is developing effective and cost-appropriate community and historic resource mitigations to address recurring impacts to a historic, low-income, African-American community. The I-16/75 Interchange Improvement project exemplifies the challenges many DOTs face in addressing these impacts as the interstate system ages and requires repair, renovation and upgrades. *(15 minutes)*

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**Health Impacts and Transportation Projects: The Environmental Justice Perspective**

*Kevin Walsh, Massachusetts DOT (MassDOT)*

In 2013, MassDOT implemented a healthy transportation policy directive that requires all state transportation projects to increase bicycling, transit and walking options. This presentation will outline this policy, and present a case study on the McGrath Boulevard Project, a project for which the implementation of this policy resulted in benefits to adjacent minority and low-income communities. *(15 minutes)*
EJ Index and Applications in MTP and Regional Tolling Analysis
Kendall Wendling, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)
The Environmental Justice Index (EJI) was developed to map concentrations of low-income and minority groups in the region. This presentation will share NCTCOG’s experience in using this data to assess the impacts of the recommended transportation system in the long-range transportation plan and Regional Tolling Analysis. Participants will also have the opportunity to provide feedback to inform the ongoing peer review of NCTCOG’s EJI. (20 minutes)

1:00 EJ Roadmap: What will be our Focus Moving Forward?
Purpose: A facilitated workshop will be conducted to allow participants to identify the key focus areas for moving the state of the practice forward and better incorporating EJ considerations into planning and project development decision-making processes and outcomes. A consensus workshop method will be employed to ensure a participative, interactive experience by all participants.
Outcome: Key topics which the EJ Road Map should address.
The consensus workshop will be guided by the focus question:

Given the lessons learned and emerging issues described over the last day and half, what do we absolutely have to do in the next 2-3 years to fully integrate EJ considerations as part of the transportation planning and project development decision-making processes?
The answer to this question informs the EJ Roadmap.

2:45 Break

3:00 Action Planning
Purpose: To identify short-term critical action items to implement in the next two years
Outcome: A prioritized list of action items for each topic area.
Participants will work in small groups to complete an action planning worksheet for each key focus area identified in the EJ Roadmap workshop. One focus area will be assigned per group. Groups will report out major action items. Participants will be assigned to a focus area based on their unique interests or perspectives relative to the focus areas. Once all action items are presented the participants will vote on the 3 to 5 most critical action items to address in the next two years.

4:30 Wrap Up

11:30 Working Lunch: Environmental Justice Knowledge and Skills: What Do We Need To Know and Do?
Purpose: Participants will break into small groups over lunch to discuss the training needs of transportation practitioners. The discussion will be guided by a series of questions around three areas: what to (knowledge), how to (skills), and want to (desire).
Outcome: List of training topics.

Our Changing Demographics: What are the Consequences?
Gloria Jeff, Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO)
This presentation will summarize the consequences of demographic changes to the planning and project development processes, and summarize the takeaways and challenges for the emerging issues presented during this session. (20 minutes)

Discussion (30+ minutes)

Discussion (30+ minutes)
LIST OF RESOURCES

TITLE VI

- 23 CFR 200, Title VI Program and Related Statutes—Implementation and Review Procedures: [http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=5bb1fb660701f36694ae4123f0bb748&mc=true&node=pt23.1.200&rgn=div5](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=5bb1fb660701f36694ae4123f0bb748&mc=true&node=pt23.1.200&rgn=div5)

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP)


NEPA


OTHER LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

- 23 USC 109(h), Federal Highway Aid, Standards to avoid adverse impacts: [https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/23/109](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/23/109)

OTHER RESOURCES

Cover Photo credits

Protected / Separated bicycle lane on Dunsmuir Street, downtown Vancouver, Canada. Photo courtesy of Paul Krueger, obtained from https://flic.kr/p/8PE7rP under CC BY 2.0

Oklahoma’s “Rebuilding Together” Construction Derby is a race of non-motorized vehicles that occurs annually in the fall on NW 5th Street between Walker and Shartel in downtown Oklahoma City. Rebuilding Together is a volunteer group that improves housing for low-income, and elderly homeowners. Photo courtesy of AASHTO Faces of Transportation 2015, http://facesoftransportation.org/#jp-carousel-1617

Conducting surveys at Plaza Fiesta mall, Atlanta Georgia (Photo courtesy of Anne Morris)

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