Environmental Justice for PEL Studies

Ashley Carle, NEPA Specialist
July 10, 2020
Transportation Matters

Economy
- Washington is one of the most trade-centric states in the nation

Quality of life
- Affordable housing
- Public health
- Access to nature, recreation

Social equity
- Percentage of family income spent on transportation highest for the least well off
- Approximately 20% of Washingtonians don’t hold a driver’s license
- Transit and active transportation investments provide access to opportunity

STATE OF TRANSPORTATION - WSDOT

ROGER MILLAR
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, WSDOT
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.LEG.WA.GOV
“At WSDOT, inclusive engagement means reaching out to all community members, so that they can choose to have a voice in the process and know their ideas were heard and considered.”

- Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar
Benefits of the PEL Process – for Stakeholders and Public

- **Early** identification and engagement
- Building collaborative working relationships with agencies/public
- Collaborate on purpose and need
- Develop additional potential transportation improvement options / alternatives
Benefits of the PEL Process – for Stakeholders and Public

• Early identification and engagement
• Building collaborative working relationships with agencies/public
• Collaborate on purpose and need
• Develop additional potential transportation improvement options / alternatives
Benefits of the PEL Process – for Stakeholders and Public

- Early identification and engagement
- Building collaborative working relationships with agencies/public
- Collaborate on **purpose and need**
- Develop additional potential transportation improvement options / alternatives
Benefits of the PEL Process – for Stakeholders and Public

- Early identification and engagement
- Building collaborative working relationships with agencies/public
- Collaborate on purpose and need
- Develop additional potential transportation improvement options / alternatives
“Planning is Community Engagement.”

- Charlene Kay
  WSDOT Eastern Region Planner
Access to decision-making leads to Opportunity for a healthier life
PEL Milestones

1. Identify transportation need with the community.
PEL Milestones

1. Identify transportation need with the community.
2. Determine reason for PEL study & desired outcomes for whom?
PEL Milestones

1. Identify transportation need with the community.
2. Determine reason for PEL study & desired outcomes for whom?
3. Identify stakeholders and then ask: who isn’t here?
PEL Milestones

1. Identify transportation need with the community.
2. Determine reason for PEL study & desired outcomes for whom?
3. Identify stakeholders and then ask: who isn’t here?
4. Define roles & responsibilities, process, and disperse power.
PEL Milestones

1. Identify transportation need with the community.
2. Determine reason for PEL study & desired outcomes for whom?
3. Identify stakeholders and then ask: who isn’t here?
4. Define roles & responsibilities, process, and disperse power.
5. Define/refine travel corridors (logical termini/independent utility) based on what you have heard.
PEL Milestones

1. Identify transportation need with the community.
2. Determine reason for PEL study & desired outcomes for whom?
3. Identify stakeholders and then ask: who isn’t here?
4. Define roles and responsibilities, process, and disperse power.
5. Define/refine travel corridors (logical termini/independent utility) based on what you have heard.
6. Develop purpose and need, goals, & objectives together.
PEL Milestones

1. Identify transportation need with the community.
2. Determine reason for PEL study & desired outcomes for whom?
3. Identify stakeholders and then ask: who isn’t here?
4. Define roles and responsibilities, process, and disperse power.
5. Define/refine travel corridors (logical termini/independent utility) based on what you heard.
6. Develop purpose and need, goals, and objectives together.
7. Develop performance measures with an equity lens.
PEL Milestones

1. Identify transportation need with the community.
2. Determine reason for PEL study & desired outcomes for whom?
3. Identify stakeholders and then ask: who isn’t here?
4. Define roles & responsibilities, process, and disperse power.
5. Define/refine travel corridors (logical termini/independent utility) based on what you heard.
6. Develop purpose and need, goals, and objectives together.
7. Develop performance measures with an equity lens.
8. Develop alternatives & define travel modes for all.
PEL Milestones

1. Identify transportation need with the community.
2. Determine reason for PEL study & desired outcomes for whom?
3. Identify stakeholders and then ask: who isn’t here?
4. Define roles & responsibilities, process, and disperse power.
5. Define/refine travel corridors (logical termini/independent utility) based on what you heard.
6. Develop purpose and need, goals, and objectives together.
7. Develop performance measures with an equity lens.
8. Develop alternatives and define travel modes for all.
9. Identify environmental impacts and potential mitigation.
PEL Milestones

1. Identify transportation need with the community.
2. Determine reason for PEL study & desired outcomes for whom?
3. Identify stakeholders and then ask: who isn’t here?
4. Define roles & responsibilities, process, and disperse power.
5. Define/refine travel corridors (logical termini/independent utility) based on what you heard.
6. Develop purpose and need, goals, and objectives together.
7. Develop performance measures with an equity lens.
8. Develop alternatives and define travel modes for all.
9. Identify environmental impacts and potential mitigation.
PEL Milestones

1. Identify transportation need with the community.
2. Determine reason for PEL study & desired outcomes for whom?
3. Identify stakeholders and then ask: who isn’t here?
4. Define roles & responsibilities, process, and disperse power.
5. Define/refine travel corridors (logical termini/independent utility) based on what you heard.
6. Develop purpose and need, goals, and objectives together.
7. Develop performance measures with an equity lens.
8. Develop alternatives and define travel modes for all.
9. Identify environmental impacts and potential mitigation.
11. Finalize planning and environmental linkage documents.
Well - Partnered
Well - Designed [engagement]
Well - Informed
Well - Documented

With an emphasis on equity.
Well - Partnered
Well - Partnered

- I-5 Tumwater to Mounts Road PEL Study

Stakeholders
- 7 cities
- 6 Tribes
- 2 counties
- 3 Transit agencies
- Joint Base Lewis-McCord
- Port of Olympia
- South Sound Military Community Partnership
- Thurston Economic Development Council
- Thurston Regional Planning Council
Well - Partnered

Diverse staff
Below is a matrix describing WSDOT's Community Engagement during each planning and project development phase. The purpose of this table is to show how WSDOT's community engagement objectives align within Practical Solutions, which is how we approach this process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function/ Framework</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>What is my role at this stage?</th>
<th>How is WSDOT engaging me?</th>
<th>System Impact for Engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Function</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Framework</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This table outlines the community engagement process.
Well - Designed Engagement
Well - Informed Outcomes

PLACE Making...
Well - Informed Outcomes

► **Goal:** Increase the percentage of everyday short trips made by walking or bicycling.

► **Performance measures:** Percentage of trips by walking/bicycling; percentage of adults meeting physical activity recommendations; children walking/biking to school; ferry walk-on/bike trips; transit access by mode [need more data to track some of these]

► **Equity check:** Do certain populations make a smaller percentage of everyday short trips using active transportation? Do we understand why and whether this is due to issues we can seek to address together?

- Active Transportation Plan
Equity Analysis

Environmental Justice

This page provides technical guidance to project teams for complying with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Environmental Justice (EJ) requirements during NEPA review at all project levels (EIS, EA, CE). This page also contains information useful to staff in other Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) programs as they identify and engage EJ communities.

Before you start

Read Chapter 458: Social and Community Effects of the [Environmental Manual](#) to learn more about considerations we take to assess social, economic, community, equity, and relocation impacts during the project development process.

For Categorically Excluded Projects

Follow this process for Categorically Excluded (CE) level projects to ensure compliance with Environmental Justice requirements.

1. Use our list of [Projects Exempt from Detailed Analysis](#) (pdf 444 kb) to determine if your project is unlikely to have an adverse effect that disproportionately impacts a minority or low income population. Fish passage projects are not exempt from detailed EJ analysis because they usually require a detour or have noise and dust associated with them.
2. Use the two FHWA approved websites [EJScreen](#) and [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)](#) to collect demographic data for your project site. See our [EJScreen step by step instructions](#) (pdf 754 kb).
3. Use our guide to [Collect Demographic Data](#) (pdf 680 kb).
4. Define project effects on EJ populations in the [EJ Memo](#) (docx 33 kb) using [Determining Project Effects on EJ Populations](#) (pdf 811 kb). Use the [Fish Passage EJ Memo](#) (docx 15 kb) template to document your analysis.

For Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statement (EA/EIS) Level Projects

The project team should:

1. Follow the steps outlined in this study area process (pdf 105 kb) to define the project’s study area for Environmental Justice.
Equity Analysis

Impacts Analysis:
- Community cohesion
- Visual impacts
- Cultural Resources
- Noise & Air
- Accessibility
- Safety & Health
- Benefits and more!

Disparate impact? (Data)
Substantial Legitimate Justification
Less Discriminatory Alternatives
Well - Documented

What carries forward into NEPA? Documentation!

- Purpose and Need statement
- Environmental and transportation data
- Public and resource agency input
- Alternatives considered and recommended
- PEL documentation by reference
Well - Documented
– Tameka Butler, Why We Must Talk About Race When We Talk About Bikes
Go to: menti.com

Enter code: 75 42 91

Thank you!

Thank you!

Ashley.Carle@wsdot.wa.gov (she/her)