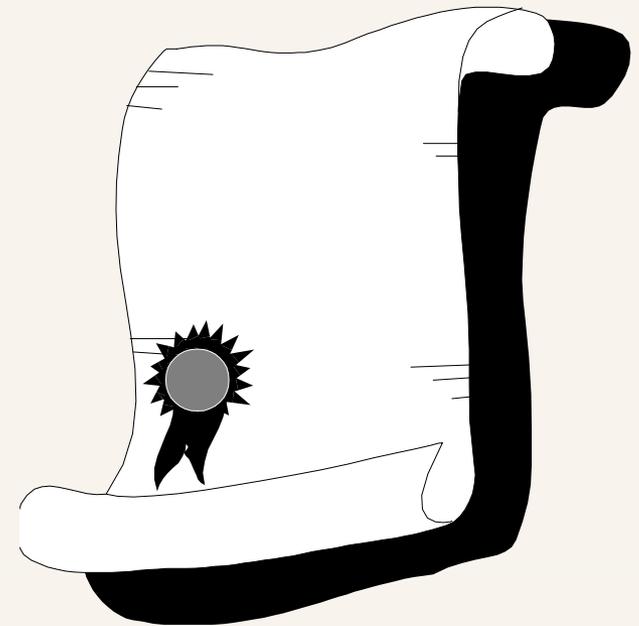


Effective Public Involvement and Environmental Justice Communities

Hawaii Civil Rights Symposium
Honolulu, HI
January 28, 2016

Executive Order 12898

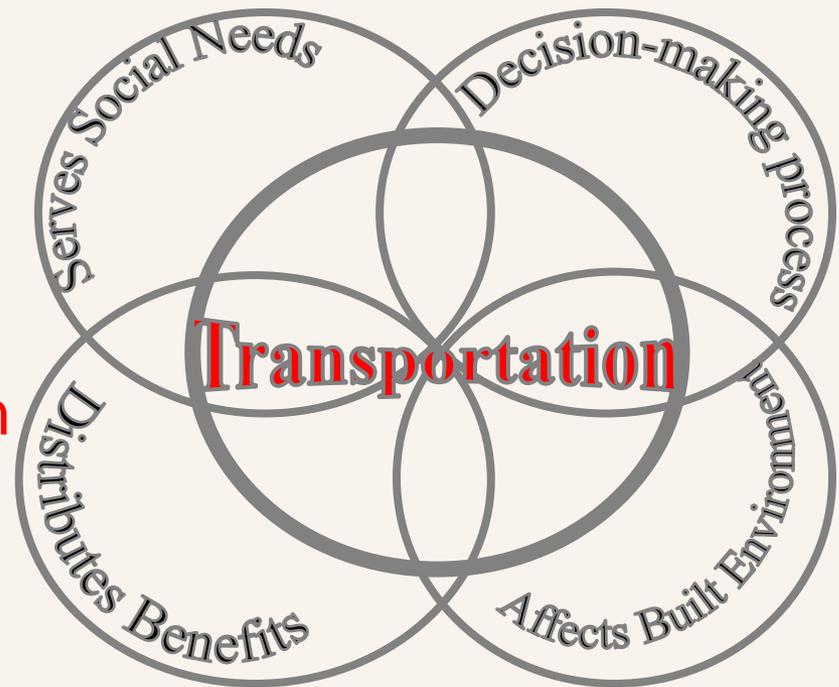
- Reaffirms that each Federal agency must make EJ part of its mission
- Identifies and addresses disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority and low-income populations.



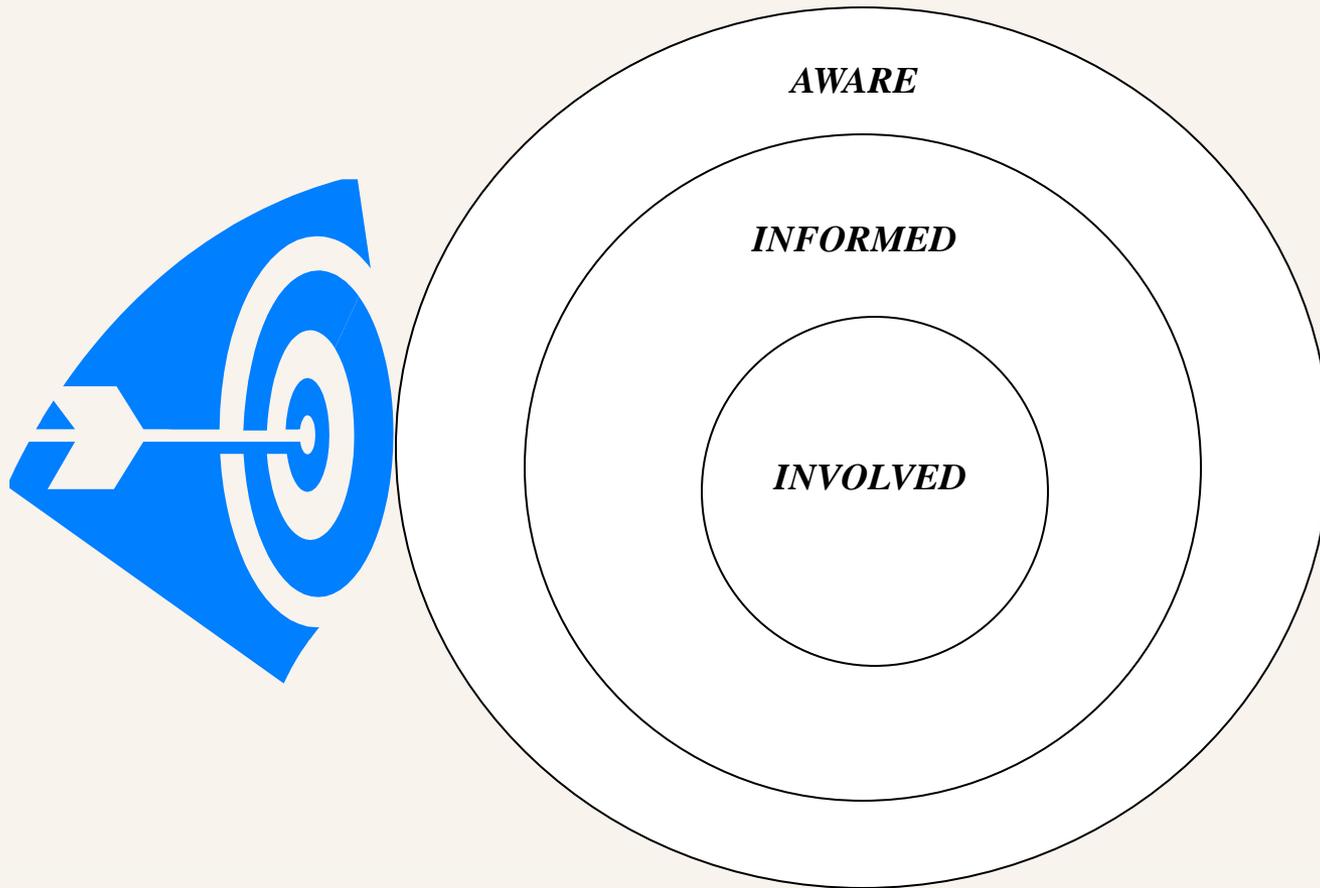
Avoid disproportionately high & adverse human & environmental effects

Prevent denial, reduction, or delay in benefits received by minority & low-income populations

Ensure full & fair participation of affected populations in transportation decision making



Levels of Public Involvement



- Environmental Justice (EJ) Populations
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Populations

- Personal or social circumstances
- Transportation decision making process
 - Complex/Confusing
 - Political factors
- Cultural factors (i.e., traditions, language, customs, communication manner, etc.)
- Community history & potential lack of trust

Overcoming Barriers to Cross-Cultural Public Involvement

- Questions your assumptions about the “right way” to communicate
- Listen actively and empathetically
- Respect others’ choices about whether to engage with you in communication
- Be prepared for a discussion about the past
- Learn from generalizations about other cultures, but avoid stereotyping
- Suspend judgment

Source: NCHRP Report 710

What, how and when

Sense of prior history & compassion

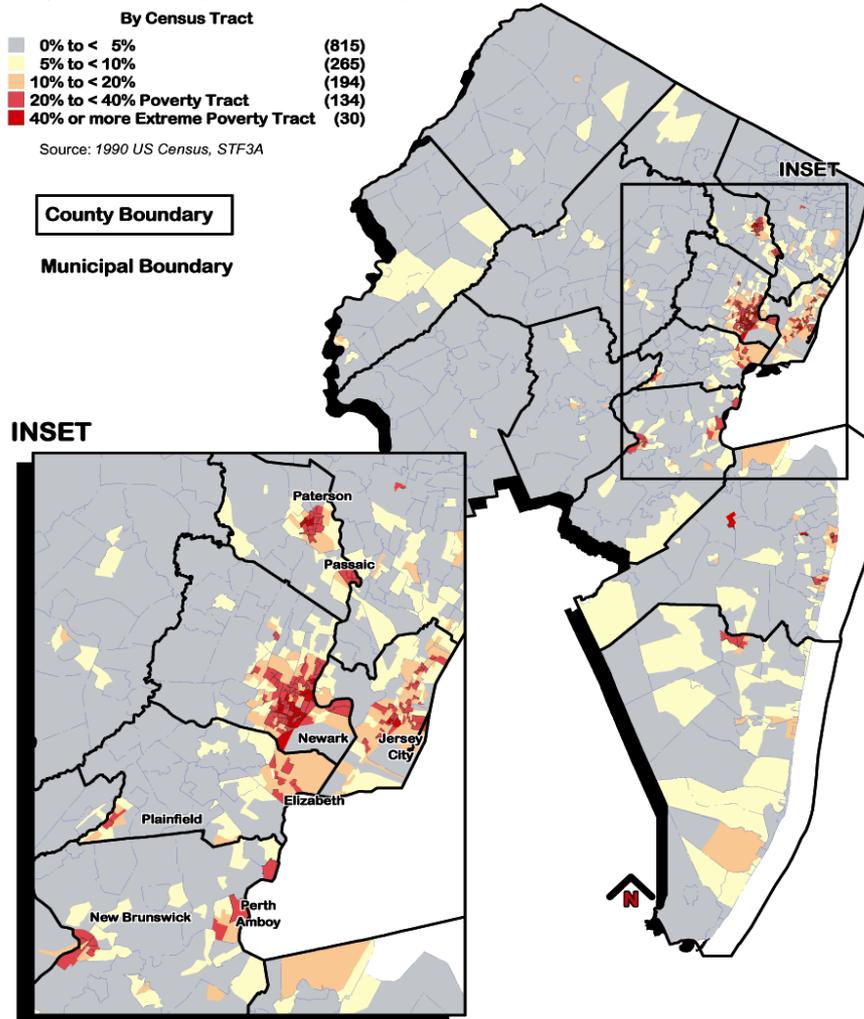
Project Team must:

- Be respectful, fair & open
- Be curious & empathic
- Be informed & informative
- Bring every possible resource to bear for helping people create a new life
- Ensure that the agent is able to communicate with diverse populations.

Proactive Environmental Justice

- Prepare Community Maps/Data
- Target Public Involvement Opportunities
- Document Analysis and Results

Map 4: *Percentage of Persons Living Below the Poverty Line*



Beyond Census Data for Demographic Profiles

- Employment Centers
- Schools
 - www.greatschools.org
- Property Values
- Social Service Programs

Look Beyond Census Data for Demographic Analysis

- Employment Data
- Schools
 - www.greatschools.org
- Property Values
- Social Service Programs

New DOT EJ Order - Key Public Involvement Provisions

- Ensure opportunities for meaningful public involvement
- Provide access to information
- Assess racial and ethnic composition of planning and advisory bodies
- Solicit and consider input on planning and project level alternatives

Types of Public Involvement Techniques

- Websites
- Partnerships
- Electronic surveys
- Door-to-door surveys
- Email
- 1-800 Numbers
- Flyers
- Comment sheets
- Press releases
- Educating Children
- Radio call-in shows
- Television interviews
- Focus groups
- Workshops
- Piggybacking
- Public meetings
- Public hearings
- One-on-one interviews
- Citizen advisory groups
- Newsletters
- Social Media

Effective PI Challenges

- Evaluation/review of public involvement program
- Participation by traditionally underserved communities
- Documentation of consideration & response to public input
- Coordination between metropolitan and statewide public involvement processes

Go to where they eat & talk to them



Conduct interviews at a mall



Ask community leaders for help



Emerging Web-based Techniques

- Interactive Plans & (S)TIPs*
- YouTube
- Social Networking
- Online Surveys



*But....don't forget to distribute a few good old-fashioned hard copies!

Denver Rapid Transit District

RTD's North Metro Project Meetings March 19 & 20, 2008



[Try the New YouTube Player Beta!](#)



From: **letsbe7**

Joined: 1 year ago

Videos: 3

Added: **March 14, 2008** ([More Info](#))

The North Metro Project Team invites

Embed:

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FTA/RTD Pilot Pi Invitation

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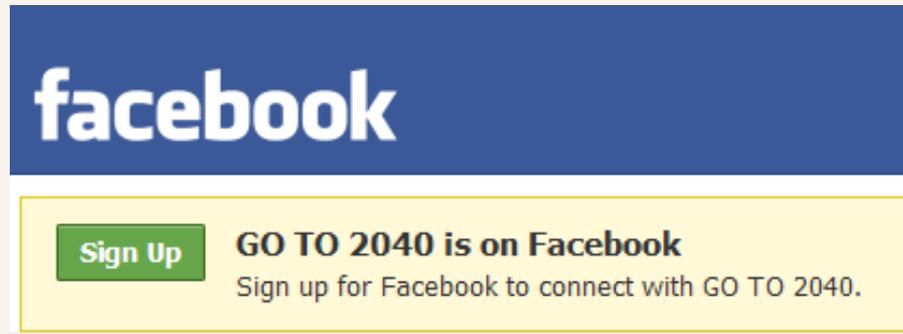
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WHR(P) Spring E Part

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Views: 138

Chicago MPO on Facebook



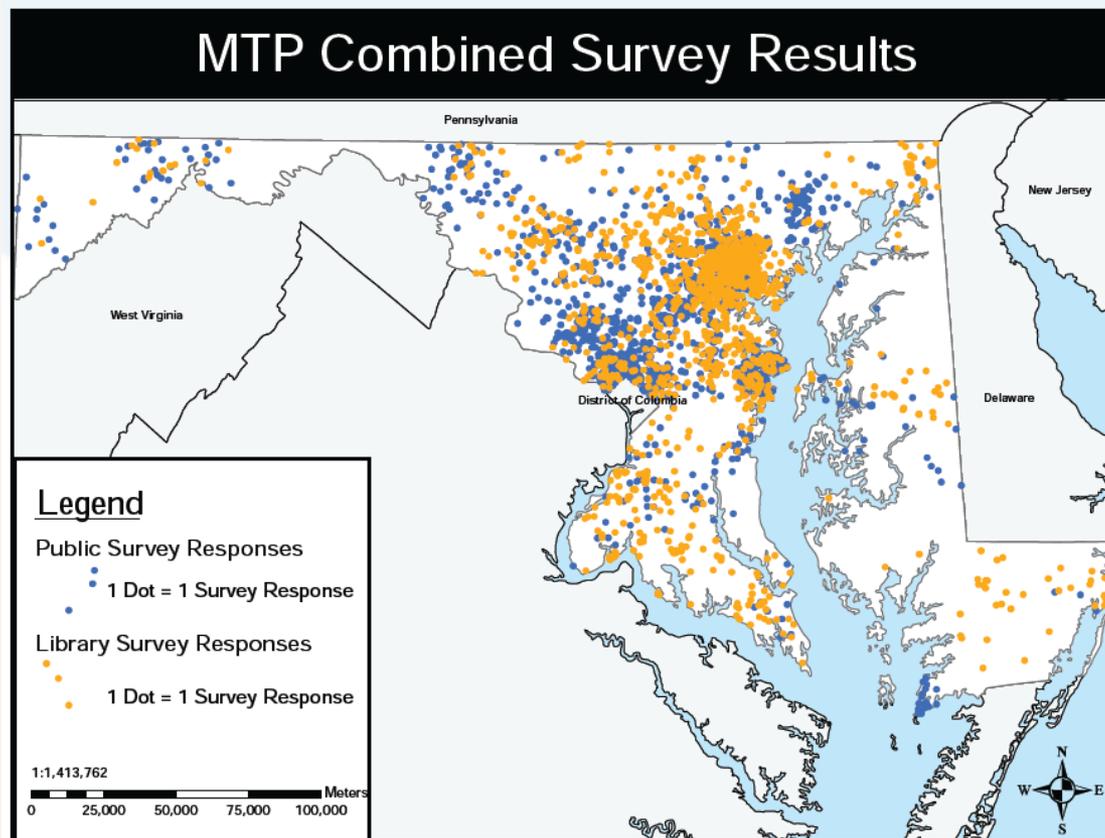
A Facebook sign-up banner with a dark blue header containing the word "facebook" in white. Below the header is a yellow box with a green "Sign Up" button on the left. To the right of the button, the text reads "GO TO 2040 is on Facebook" in bold, followed by "Sign up for Facebook to connect with GO TO 2040." in a smaller font.

Washington DOT on Twitter



A Twitter sign-up banner for wsdot. The banner has a green header with the Twitter logo on the left and "Login Join Twitter!" on the right. Below the header is a white box with a green border. On the left side of the white box, there is a small "x" icon and the text "Prc". The main text in the white box reads "Hey there! wsdot is using Twitter." in bold, followed by "Twitter is a free service that lets you keep in touch with people through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What are you doing? **Join today** to start receiving wsdot's tweets." On the right side of the white box, there is a green "Join today!" button. Below the button, there is a small link: "Already using Twitter from your phone? [Click here.](#)"

Maryland DOT Online Survey in collaboration with Library Systems



EJ and Livable Communities



Livable Communities have Modal Choices



We build our communities

by default



or by design

Livable Communities have Affordable Housing



AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Recognizing that housing prices can sometimes increase when a community creates great places to live, the Davidson North Carolina requires that 12.5% of all new housing be affordable to families making less than the county's median family income.

Websites

- FHWA Office of Planning
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/pubinv2.htm>
- Visualization <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/vip/index.htm>

Training

- Public Involvement in the Transportation Decision-making Process, NHI
- Resource Center Workshops (in-person and virtual)

Publications

- NCHRP Report 710 (www.TRB.org)
 - “Practical Approaches for Involving Traditionally Underserved Populations in Transportation Decisionmaking”
- Public Involvement Resource Guide

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/resourcecenter/teams/planning/pubinvolv.cfm>

Key Take-aways

- 1) Renew a personal commitment to EJ principles
- 2) Try a new public involvement technique
- 3) Go to the people, especially EJ populations!
- 4) Visit the FHWA website and get familiar with the new DOT EJ Order
- 5) Consult the NCHRP Report 710 – “Practical Approaches for Involving Traditionally Underserved Populations in Transportation Decisionmaking”

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