

Transportation Equity Framework Report

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

JANUARY 12, 2024



Remind ourselves of the report assignment and provide context



Consider, “what is equity?”



Provide an overview of findings, recommendations, and planned FFY24 and FFY25 actions



Questions and discussion

Goals for this morning:

Act No. 55 of 2021 General Assembly

Who? Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the State's 11 Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs)

What? Undertake a comprehensive analysis of the State's existing transportation programs and develop a recommendation on a transportation equity framework.

Why? To advance mobility equity, which is a transportation system that increases access to mobility options, reduces air pollution, and enhances economic opportunity for Vermonters in communities that have been underserved by the State's transportation system.



Federal Actions and Initiatives

EO 13895: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, 2021



Synopsis: All Federal Agencies must review current practices and identify opportunities to improve equity, develop data and tools, and plans to serve that purpose.

[FY 2022-26 U.S. DOT Strategic Plan | US Department of Transportation](#)



[U.S. Department of Transportation Equity Action Plan | US Department of Transportation](#)



Equality



Equity



Justice



Source: Vermont Dept of Health

Inequality

Unequal access
to opportunities



Equality?

Evenly distributed
tools and assistance



Equity

Custom tools that
identify and address
inequality



Justice

Fixing the system
to offer equal access
to both tools and opportunities



Source:

Equity is...

...the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as and not limited to: Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

“Equity requires recognizing that we do not all start from the same place and must identify and acknowledge imbalances and make adjustments to achieve fairness and justice.”

- National Association of Colleges and Employers
[https:// www.naceweb.org/](https://www.naceweb.org/)

Source: Executive Order 13895



Distributive

Accurate
Population
Representation



Procedural

Equitable Access to
Decision Making



Contextual

Needs Analysis

Service Provision
Transit, DMV, Paving,
Maintenance



Corrective Equity

Prioritization Process

Ongoing Performance
Management

Pillars of Equity



Equity Framework Report Content

- An overview of equity, and a summary of Vermont and national transportation equity efforts.
- Stakeholder and public involvement that informed the framework.
- Key themes arising through stakeholder and public involvement.
- Framework pillars that organize actions and strategies to achieve the vision for transportation equity.
- Implementation plan that identifies key foundational actions and organizes the sequence of recommended strategies.

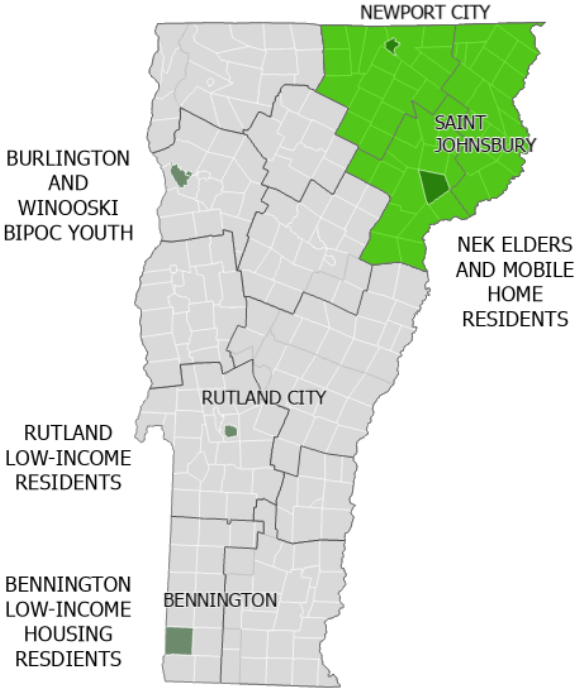


Process and Working Group



| Name | Organization | Title |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Michele Boomhower | VTrans | PPAID Director |
| Nancy Prescott | Dept of Motor Vehicles | Motor Vehicle Operations Director |
| Mike Winslow | Addison County RPC | Transportation Planner |
| Meghan Brunk | VTrans | District 2 Technician |
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| Patricia Martin | VTrans | Title VI / ADA Coordinator |
| Erin Sisson | VTrans | Deputy Chief Engineer |
| Charlie Baker | CCRPC | Executive Director |
| Carey Hengstenberg | Agency of Natural Resources | Environmental Analyst |
| Andrea Wright | VTrans | Environmental Policy Manager |
| Amy Tatko | VTrans | Director of Communications & Public Outreach |
| Katharine Otto | VTrans | Planning Coordinator |

Stakeholder and Public Engagement



Map note: Northeast region highlighted to reflect multiple engagement locations.

Direct Engagement

Deep-dive engagement in 4 locations around the state, with low-income, elders, BIPOC, and un/under-housed communities

Stakeholder Interviews

In-depth interviews with 6 AOT managers and 4 community organizations focused on equity

Regional Meetings

Meetings with 11 RPC Transportation Advisory Committees and guests to discuss regional equity perspectives and needs

Key Outreach Themes & Findings

- Acknowledgement of Department of Motor Vehicle initiatives around equitable access to services including language access accommodations. Learn from and replicate that success.
- Administration's focus on vulnerable populations is consistent with this work.
- Continue to focus on cultural growth inside VTrans to develop a truly diverse, equitable, and inclusive workforce. Maintenance & Fleet Division efforts on this were identified as exemplary.
- Increase our efforts to educate outside the Agency on how investments are chosen and prioritized.
- Broaden public engagement and communication to encourage involvement from marginalized groups. Community organizations and institutions should be used to supplement data and improve community engagement. Create and maintain durable two-way communication channels.
- Continue to improve and adapt public transit services and active transportation (bike/ped) infrastructure. Increase accessibility and remove barriers to these modes.



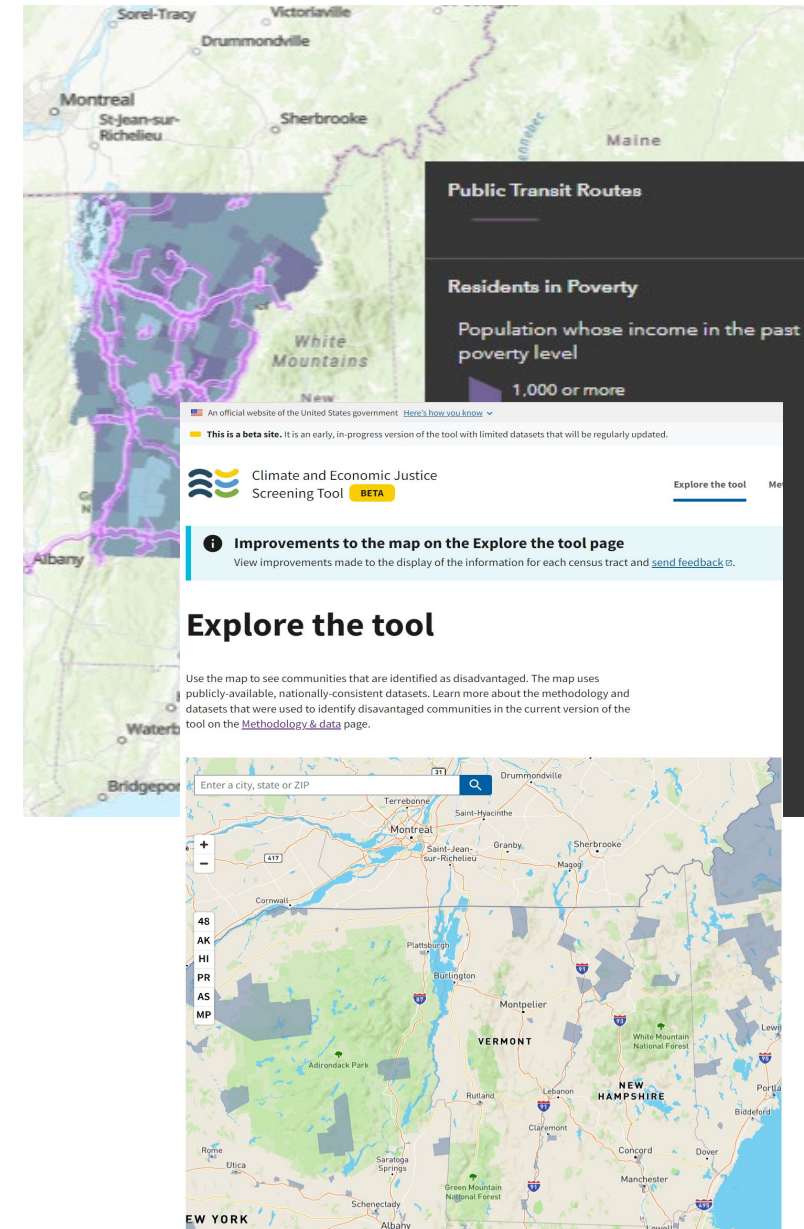
Distributive

Accurate Population Representation

Key Actions

- Develop guidance for identifying underserved communities in study areas. Align with Act 154 definitions and practices.*
- Develop best practices for creating and using state and local data to supplement Census data.*

* Foundational Actions





Procedural

Equitable Access to Decision Making

Key Actions

- Develop community engagement plans and public involvement processes specifically focused on underserved communities.*



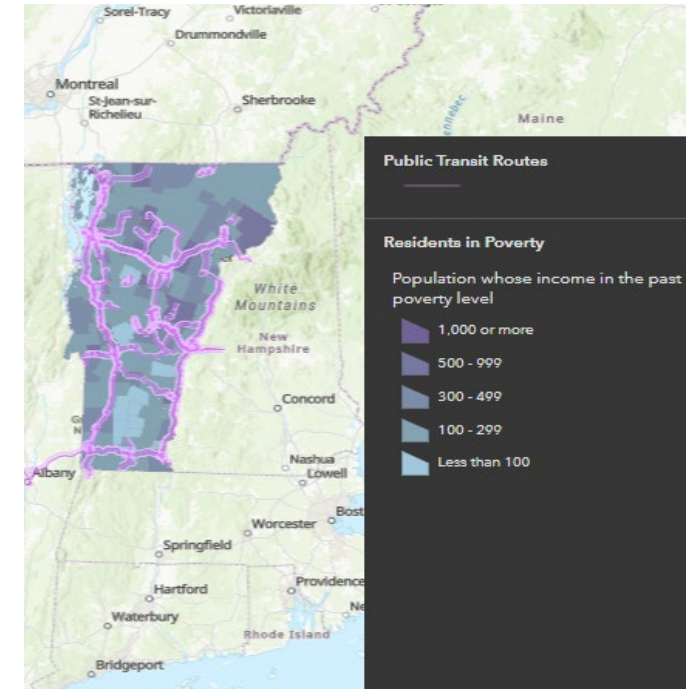
*This action is consistent with the Act 154 Environmental Justice Law requirement that all covered agencies, including AOT, develop agency-wide community engagement plans by July 1, 2025. This is also a Foundational recommended action in the Equity Framework Report.



Key Actions

- Establish a consistent consideration of equity in the planning and project development process.
- Establish a standardized process to measure regional needs across underserved communities.
- Provide support and resources to less-resourced municipalities to access grants, technical support, and other resources. [Vermont Community Index](#)
- Increase investment in public transit services, and active travel modes including bicycling and walking.

AOT Equity Planning Tool



Contextual
Needs Analysis
Service Provision
Transit, DMV, Paving,
Maintenance



Corrective Equity

Prioritization Process

Ongoing Performance Management

Key Actions

- Enhance the consideration of equity within the VTrans Project Selection and Prioritization Process (VPSP2) criteria and emphasize AOT/RPC coordination in the process.
- Develop a quantitative equity screening component for the capital program and STIP development process.*
- Develop a performance report template and update process summarizing investment patterns in transportation funding across geographies.

*This action is consistent with the Act 154 Environmental Justice Law requirement that all covered agencies, including AOT, develop baseline spending reports describing the distribution of environmental benefits. Guidance is anticipated this fall, and the report is due April 15, 2024. It is also consistent with the USDOT Equity Action Plan goal of all State DOTs having an equity screening component for the STIP by 2030.

EIGHT CRITERIA

| | |
|---|---|
| SAFETY Max points = 20 | ASSET CONDITION Max points = 20 |
| MOBILITY / CONNECTIVITY Max points = 15 | COMMUNITY Max points = 10 |
| ECONOMIC ACCESS Max points = 10 | ENVIRONMENT Max points = 10 |
| RESILIENCY Max points = 10 | HEALTH ACCESS Max points = 5 |



Next Steps

FFY24

- Report to Legislature 2024
- Begin Education and Awareness Training
 - RPCs via Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI)
 - AOT Lunch and Learn(s)
 - LMS training development
 - 1/4ly Managers Meetings
- Begin Act 154 Community Engagement Plan development
- Evaluate VPSP2 for equity considerations
- Initiate regional mapping and analysis of investments per Act 154 requirements

FFY25

- Complete the AOT Community Engagement Plan
 - Provide agency-wide and RPC education and training on its use.
- Implement modifications to VPSP2 based on evaluation findings
- Assess progress on implementing the recommendations

More information:

Project Webpage <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/equity>

Final Report [Vermont Transportation Equity Framework](#)

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