



DATE: May 15, 2023

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Citizens' Oversight Committee

FROM: Anne Richman, Executive Director
Derek McGill, Director of Planning

SUBJECT: TAM Equity Statement and Action Plan (Discussion), Agenda Item No. 5

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for discussion only.

BACKGROUND

Since its inception in 2004, TAM has focused on delivering transportation improvements for residents, workers and visitors in Marin County. This focus has been articulated in many of TAM's plans and efforts, including mission statement, expenditure plans and vision plans.

To reflect the needs of Equity Priority Communities (EPCs) and underserved populations, TAM manages the Community Based Transportation Plan (CBTP) process in Marin County, listening to the needs articulated by residents, working with the communities to prioritize those needs, and elevating them to a countywide discussion. This process has resulted in successful delivery of community priorities in the Canal Neighborhood, Marin City and Novato.

Additionally, TAM has long prioritized community outreach and support, resulting in successful ongoing implementation of the Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Program, funding for safe pathways for active transportation, and support for senior and disabled population mobility through Measure AA and Measure B programs managed by Marin Transit.

In June 2020 and again in July 2021, staff presented a discussion on the impacts of the pandemic on various transportation projects/programs and noted the social justice movements underway and the renewed focus of planning for equity. The TAM Board encouraged staff to further develop an approach to equity, and staff has been working to advance these efforts.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) supports these efforts with regional equity analysis and an Equity Framework. Through Plan Bay Area, MTC uses data from the American Community Survey to identify census tracts that have significant concentration of underserved populations, such as households with low incomes and people of color. This regional definition uses the following factors:

- People of Color (70% threshold)
- Low-Income (less than 200% of Fed. poverty level, 28% threshold)
- Level of English Proficiency (12% threshold)
- Seniors 75 Years and Over (8% threshold)

- Zero-Vehicle Households (15% threshold)
- Single Parent Households (18% threshold)
- People with a Disability (12% threshold)
- Rent-Burdened Households (14% threshold)

If a tract exceeds both threshold values for Low-Income and People of Color, shares or exceeds the threshold value for Low-Income, and also exceeds the threshold values for three or more variables, it is an EPC. In Marin County, this results in Marin City, the Canal Neighborhood, Southeast San Rafael, and Los Ranchitos defined as EPCs. The regional definition includes geographies that are not included in state definitions such as SB 535 and AB 1550 climate priority populations, which do not include any Marin County communities.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Building on TAM's support for equity and inclusion in the community engagement and planning process, staff has explored various ways to advance equity in TAM's internal operations, plan and program implementation, and community outreach and communications. An internal equity team has been developed to explore potential activities for advancing equity, and meetings with the Marin County Office of Equity, MTC and Marin Transit have also occurred to explore ways to partner and address this growing field.

At the October 27, 2022 TAM Board Meeting, the board adopted the draft TAM Equity Statement, included as Attachment A, to provide high-level policy guidance, and articulate a workplan with specific commitments to advance equity. Staff has shared this statement with MTC and the Marin County Office of Equity and no comments have been received at this time. The TAM Equity Statement is intended to be reviewed on a regular basis, and inform upcoming planning activities, specifically TAM's Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP).

Through the Board and Committee review, Board members noted limitations with the regional EPC definition and lack of context to Marin's population or communities. TAM has historically recognized that EPCs or regional definitions do not fully represent the needs of our diverse communities and has explored other ways to represent these communities in the regional planning processes, including the CBTP planning process by including communities such as Novato that are not reflected in the regional EPC definition. It was also noted that community engagement should guide the development of the equity statement and the Board directed staff to revise the equity statement to reflect the draft nature of the statement, pending community engagement activities.

FISCAL CONSIDERATION

Based on the input received from the Board, the COC and other partner agencies, various action items may require funding to retain consultant or expert support, and those needs are included in the Adopted TAM FY2022-23 and Draft FY2023-24 TAM Annual Budgets.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will conduct activities identified in the Action Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Draft TAM Equity Statement and Action Plan
Attachment B – Staff Presentation

TAM Equity Statement and Action Plan

October 2022

To help guide potential actions to advance equity in transportation, the following draft equity statement has been developed for consideration. Revisions to this statement are expected based on upcoming community engagement.

Equity Statement

As the Congestion Management Agency and Marin County’s Transportation Sales Tax Authority, the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) recognizes the diverse needs of our communities including but not limited to, communities of color, low income, and historically marginalized populations.

TAM’s mission is to advance mobility and access for all in Marin County. TAM acknowledges the responsibility to serve historically underserved populations and enable communities to access equitable opportunities and achieve positive outcomes.

TAM is committed to advancing equity, civil rights, social and environmental justice in all of our practices including policies, programs, funding, projects, and operations.

Action Plan

To guide implementation of the equity statement, the following actions have been identified:

- Assess Internal Operations:
 - Review internal operations including training, contracts, hiring and other human resource policies and operational practices.
 - Review TAM Advisory Committee representation (including the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Citizens’ Oversight Committee) to ensure committees fully reflect the local communities.

- Engage All Members of Our Communities:
 - Develop a community engagement plan that reflects input from a diverse set of residents, including populations identified above.
 - Conduct robust community engagement and capacity building through TAM projects and programs, with specific attention to regionally defined Equity Priority Communities and communities with similar demographics.

- Review Investments and Plan for Implementation:
 - Conduct a baseline investment equity review to establish historical investment levels and practices.
 - Explore options to update the Community Based Transportation Plan (CBTP) development process for future CBTPs.
 - Develop a Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) that articulates the needs of our communities and prioritizes actions that address equity.
 - Explore development of an equity working group consisting of members of the community to refine the CTP workplan and identify areas of focus.
 - Create a data driven approach to addressing equity including developing criteria and metrics to assess programs and projects and measure progress in addressing equity.

- Commit to Accountability:
 - Hold ourselves accountable by reporting regularly to the Board and to the public on progress as staff works to fulfill the commitment made.
 - Commit to regular review and potential revisions to the Equity Statement, in conjunction with the Board and the communities we serve, to ensure that it remains relevant, viable, and forward-looking.



Item 5 - Attachment B

TAM's Equity Statement and Action Plan

Citizens' Oversight Committee Meeting

Derek McGill, Director of Planning

May 15, 2023

Planning Context

TAM Mission Statement (2004)

The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) is dedicated to making the most of Marin County transportation dollars and creating an efficient and effective transportation system that promotes mobility and accessibility by providing a variety of high-quality transportation options *to all users*.

TAM Community Based Transportation Plans (CBTP) 2004-current

A collaborative planning process that involves residents in minority and low-income communities, community and faith-based organizations that serve them, local jurisdictions, and transportation agencies including transit operators. The outcome is a plan that includes locally identified transportation needs, as well as solutions to address them.

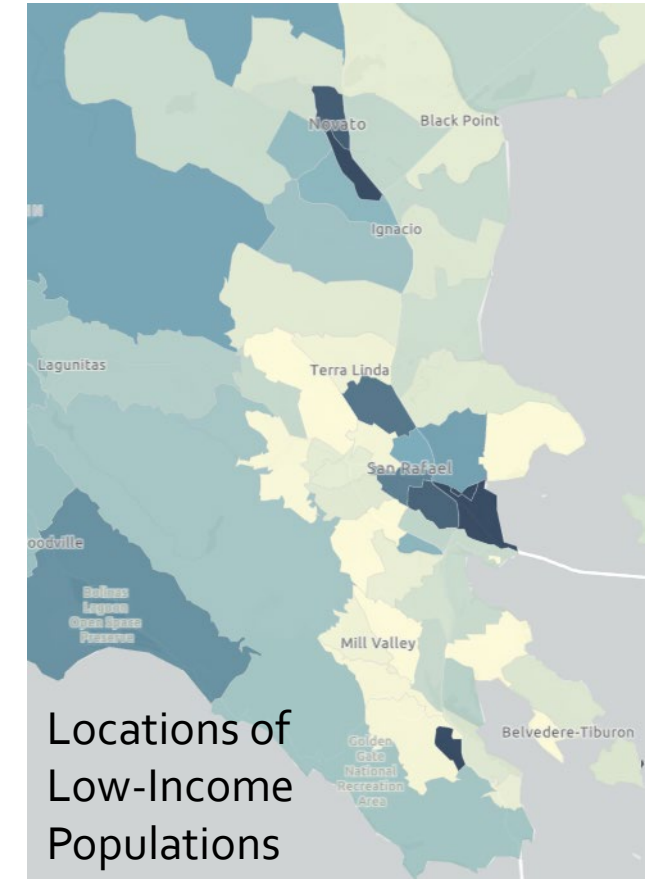
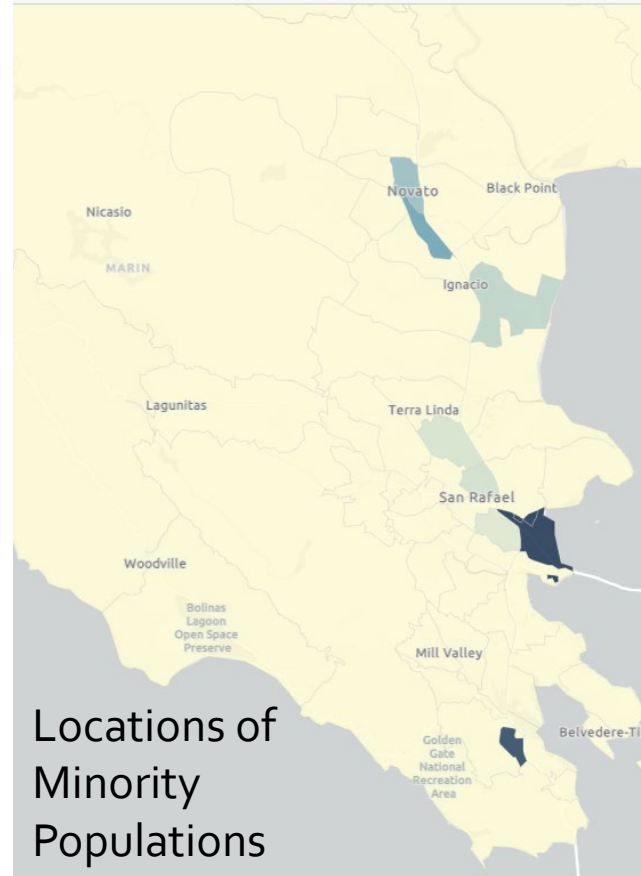
TAM Strategic Vision Plan (2017)

Vision Statement – TAM’s vision is to have an efficient and effective transportation system, one that enhances our scenic environment, provides *equity for all of our users (including our vulnerable populations)*, and grows our economy for our residents, visitors, and workforce.

Equity Goal – Maximize mobility for all people; and Objective – Enhance mobility and access for all.

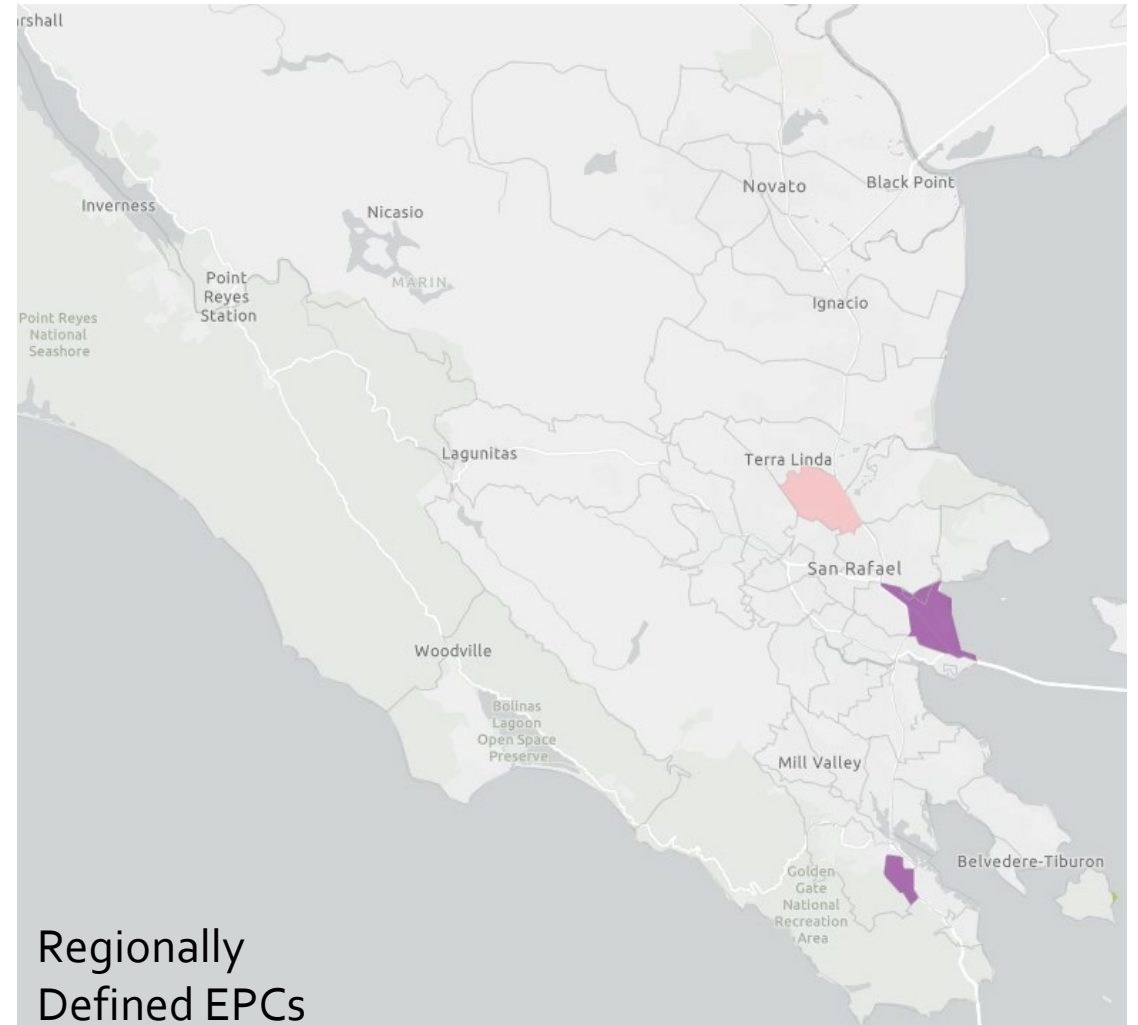
MTC Equity Priority Communities

- MTC uses data from the American Community Survey to identify communities (census tracts) that may have historically faced disadvantage and underinvestment due to their background or socioeconomic status.
- MTC measures eight variables:
 - People of Color
 - Low-Income
 - Level of English Proficiency
 - Seniors 75 Years and Over
 - Zero-Vehicle Households
 - Single Parent Families
 - People with a Disability
 - Rent-Burdened Households



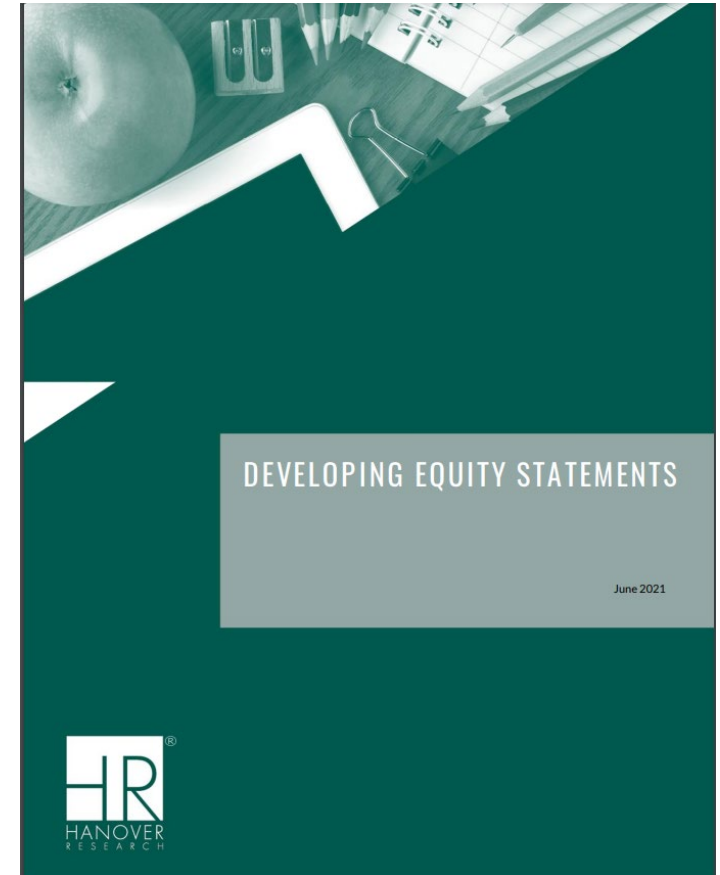
MTC Equity Priority Communities

- EPCs in Marin County:
 - Marin City
 - Canal Neighborhood
 - Southeast San Rafael
 - Los Ranchitos (new in PBA 2050)
- Other Regional and State Definitions include:
 - BAAQMD CARE Communities
 - SB 535 Disadvantaged Community Designations
 - AB 1550 Climate Priority Populations
- Limitations of EPC definition
 - Census Tract Boundaries
 - Issues exist outside identified geographies
 - More analysis and discussion needed for Marin Context
 - TAM has expanded CTBP efforts beyond EPCs in the past



Development of Equity Statement

- June 2020 and July 2021 TAM Board discussions on Pandemic Impact/Recovery
- Review of Local Jurisdictions' Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity Statements
- Collected County Transportation Agency Equity Statements
- Meetings with MTC, Marin County Office of Equity, Marin Transit
- Equity statement developed to guide actions
- Not static, expectation of further refining Equity Statement based on community conversations
- Action Plan articulates actions for implementation



TAM Equity Statement

Draft statement will be revised based on community dialogue

Define { As the Congestion Management Agency and Marin County’s Transportation Sales Tax Authority, the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) recognizes the diverse needs of our communities including but not limited to, communities of color, low income, and historically marginalized populations.

Acknowledge TAM’s Role { TAM’s mission is to advance mobility and access for all in Marin County. TAM acknowledges the responsibility to serve historically underserved populations and enable communities to access equitable opportunities and achieve positive outcomes.

Commitment { TAM is committed to advancing equity, civil rights, social and environmental justice in all of our practices including policies, programs, funding, projects, and operations.

Action Plan



- Carries the equity statement into implementation
- Action plan will also be subject to community dialogue and input
- Grouped into four main areas:
 - Assess Internal Operations (Two Actions)
 - Engage All Members of the Community (Two Actions)
 - Review Investments and Plan for Implementation (Five Actions)
 - Commit to Accountability (Two Actions)

Assess Internal Operations

- Review internal operations including training, contracts, hiring and other human resource policies and operational practices.
- Review TAM Advisory Committee representation (including the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Citizens' Oversight Committee) to ensure committees fully reflect the local communities.



Making the Most of Marin County Transportation Dollars

Engage All Members of the Community

- Develop a community engagement plan that reflects input from a diverse set of residents.
- Conduct robust community engagement and capacity building through TAM projects and programs, with specific attention to regionally defined EPCs and communities with similar demographics.



Review Investments and Plan for Implementation

- Conduct a baseline investment equity review to establish historical investment levels and practices.
- Explore options to update the Community Based Transportation Plan (CBTP) development process for future CBTPs.
- Develop a Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) that articulates the needs of our communities and prioritizes actions that address equity.
 - Explore development of an equity working group consisting of members of the community to refine the CTP workplan and identify areas of focus.
 - Create a data driven approach to addressing equity including developing criteria and metrics to assess programs and projects and measure progress in addressing equity.

Accountability

- Hold ourselves accountable by reporting regularly to the Board and to the public on progress as staff works to fulfill the commitment made here.
- Commit to regular review and potential revisions to the Equity Statement, in conjunction with the Board and the community we serve, to ensure that it remains relevant, viable, and forward-looking.



Making the Most of Marin County Transportation Dollars

Board Feedback & Next Steps

- Board Feedback
 - Generally Positive
 - Expand beyond EPC definitions to reflect Marin context
- Next Steps & COC Input
 - Staff will begin implementation & Community Engagement
 - Equity Statement and action plan are expected to be revisited as needed
- Upcoming Activities
 - CBTP Development
 - CTP Development

Questions?

Thank you!

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