TRANSPORTATION EQUITY AT USDOT

INFORMATION SESSION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (USDOT)
JUNE 25, 2021
Introductory Remarks
Secretary Pete Buttigieg
PURPOSE OF TODAY’S EVENT

• To provide a public forum highlighting the work that is being conducted at the U.S. USDOT to advance racial equity and economic inclusivity

• To inform participants about the Request for Information that is currently available for public review and comment

Note: this session is being recorded
AGENDA

Secretary Buttigieg Welcome

Executive Order 13985 Update

Irene Marion, Director of Civil Rights
Christopher Coes, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy

Request for Information

Stephanie Lawrence, Director, Statistical & Economic Analysis
Maya Sarna, Transportation Policy Analyst

Facilitated Q & A

Wrap Up
Questions for you:
EQUITY EXECUTIVE ORDER

• On January 20, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order (EO) 13985, “Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.”

• USDOT will undertake a comprehensive approach to advance racial equity for all, including individuals who have been historically underserved and adversely affected by persistent poverty or income inequality.

• USDOT will assess whether, and to what extent, its programs and policies perpetuate systemic barriers to opportunities and benefits for people of color and other underserved groups.

• These assessments will better equip USDOT to develop policies and programs that deliver resources and benefits equitably.
IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH & STATUS

**Equity Leadership Team**
- Senior appointees overseeing EO implementation

**Equity Task Force**
- USDOT-wide career staff involved in the implementation of the EO across **six areas**
WHO IS THIS WORK ABOUT?

Underserved, Overburdened, Disadvantaged—awareness for communities and individuals

Investment Benefits—targeted for underserved, overburdened, disadvantaged communities and individuals
FOCUS OF OUR WORK

**Expanding Access**
Reimagine Access From workforce to procurement, jobs and education, focus on removing barriers for individuals and communities.

**Wealth Creation**
Reimagine Economic Growth Ecosystems Mitigate or negate the effects of structural obstacles to building wealth.

**Power of Community**

**Reimagine Engagement** Engage with communities and thought leaders to develop channels for advocacy not previously utilized.

**Interventions**
Reimagine Sustainable Development Patterns Promote targeted interventions in areas of mobility justice, economic justice, climate justice.

**Budget**

**Technology & Innovation**

**Data & Assessment**

**Workforce Equity**

**Economic Justice**

**Mobility Justice**

**Justice 40**
EQUITY EXECUTIVE ORDER—ACTIONS

Meeting w/ equity groups, on-going stakeholder meetings

- Publication of Racial Equity EO
  January 20, 2021

- Transportation Equity Data Analysis—Community of Practice
  March 5, 2021

- Department-wide Equity Training Series
  April 26, 2021

- Public Information Session
  June 18, 2021

- Comment Summary Document
  September 2021

- Formation of the Equity Leadership Team
  February 19, 2021

- March 12, 2021
  Formation of Equity Task Force

- May 25, 2021
  Request for Information on Transportation Equity Data and Methods

- August 9, 2021
  Report to Domestic Policy Council

- February 2022
  USDOT Strategic Plan

- February 2022
  Agency Equity Plan

6/25/2021
Questions for you:
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
TRANSPORTATION EQUITY DATA & METHODS
Definitional terms carried into the Request for Information from Equity Executive Order:

- The term “equity” means 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 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.

- The term “underserved communities” refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied the full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, as exemplified by the list in the preceding definition of “equity.”
TOOLS TO MEASURE EQUITY

The Department seeks ways to directly measure:

- Equity in Transportation investments, policies, and programs
- Systemic barriers to opportunities and benefits
- Affordability
- Reliability
- Social Cost of Inequity
DATA CONSIDERATIONS

From the Request for Information:

• What actions can the Department take with its data to make it more useful for equity research and analysis?

• How should the Department develop a data collection framework, gather new and existing data, set data standards, and analyze and aggregate it into useful information for policymaking?

• What are approaches that USDOT can take to ensure that individuals from underserved populations are represented in our data collection efforts?
From the Request for Information:

• What high-quality career pathways programs or educational pipelines have state and local governments utilized or implemented to diversify their transportation workforce?
• What practices has the transportation industry taken to increase diversity and retain individuals from underserved populations within its workforce?
• What type of data should we collect to measure the success of workforce programs?
HOW TO COMMENT ON THE DOCKET

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29O-jouzwDc

• Submitting a formal comment:

  Go to Regulations.gov or use this link to access the RFI docket directly.

  1. In the search bar of regulations.gov, type in docket # DOT-OST-2021-0056
  2. The search will open the results window; selecting the notice will bring up the docket details page
  3. Selecting ‘comment’ will take you to the comment submission page
HOW TO COMMENT ON THE DOCKET

4. Comment submission page:
   - Responses are preferred in one file submission, in a question and response fashion.
   - Preferred file format: Microsoft Word (.docx) or Adobe PDF (.pdf)
   - Respondents are requested to provide the following information at the beginning of their response letter to this RFI:
     - Contact name / Institution name (one comment per company/institution)
     - Institution contact
     - Address, phone number, and email address
   - Don’t forget to submit the comment!

USDOT will not respond to individual submissions but will publish a compendium of responses.
Q&A

Please submit questions on the RFI in the Q&A pod; they will be directed to our presenters to answer in the order received.

Note: we may not have time to answer all questions during this event. We welcome additional questions via email at transportationdataequity@dot.gov.

Presenters:
- Irene Marion, Director of Civil Rights
- Christopher Coes, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy
- Stephanie Lawrence, Director, Statistical & Economic Analysis
- Maya Sarna, Transportation Policy Analyst
WRAP UP

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION -- PLEASE COMMENT ON THE DOCKET!

• Available for comment at https://www.regulations.gov/docket/DOT-OST-2021-0056
• Open now through July 22, 2021
• Email questions to transportationdataequity@dot.gov
• Find this session recording and other transportation equity updates at www.transportation.gov/equity and sign up for our email list on Equity @ USDOT (bottom of webpage)

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES – STAY TUNED!

• Civil Rights Job Announcements for Title VI, Disability Justice and more coming soon