

Advancing Equity in Regional Transportation Planning

Puget Sound Regional Council – Toolbox Peer Networking Series
April 30, 2021

www.scag.ca.gov



The SCAG Region

Nation's
Largest
MPO

191 Cities
6 Counties

18.9
Million
People

16th
Largest
Economy
in the
World



SCAG
TM
INNOVATING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



Connect SoCal (RTP/SCS)



Connect SoCal (RTP/SCS) – Outreach

- Partnered with 18 Community Based Organizations
- Helped us reach underrepresented communities
- Funded meetings, outreach activities, intercept surveys





Public Health Focus Areas:

- Access to Essential Destinations
- Affordable Housing
- Air Quality
- Climate Adaptation
- Economic Opportunity
- Physical Activity
- Transportation Safety

Connect SoCal (RTP/SCS) – Environmental Justice Analysis



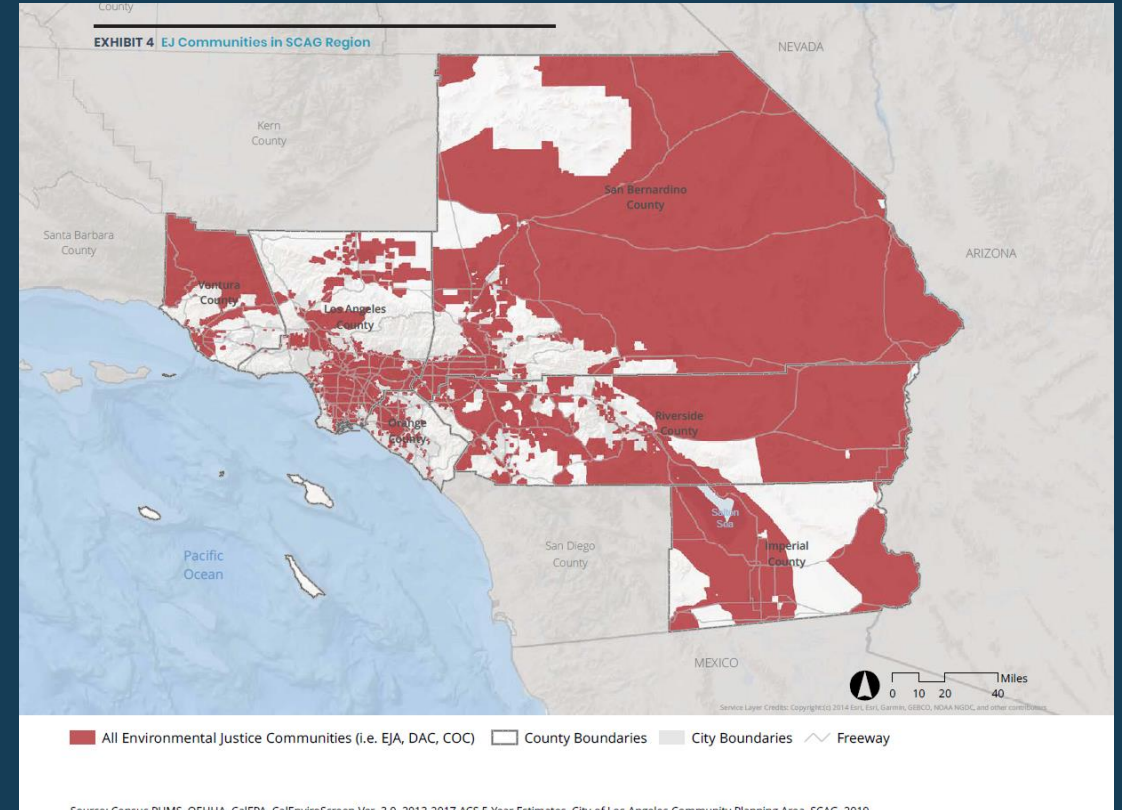
PLAN PERFORMANCE

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS



TECHNICAL REPORT
AS ADOPTED ON MAY 7, 2020



Connect SoCal (RTP/SCS) – Environmental Justice Analysis



- **Environmental Justice Areas** – Transportation Analysis Zones that have a higher concentration of **minority OR low-income households**
- **SB 535 Disadvantaged Areas** – Census tracts Cal/EPA has identified as Disadvantaged Communities based on the requirements set forth in **SB 535** - areas disproportionately burdened by and **vulnerable to multiple sources of pollution**
- **Communities of Concern** – Census Designated Places and City of Los Angeles Community Planning Areas that fall in the upper 1/3rd of all communities in the SCAG region for having the **highest concentration of minority population AND low-income households**

How will this impact quality of life?

- Jobs-Housing Imbalance
- Neighborhood Change and Displacement
- Accessibility to Employment and Services
- Accessibility to Parks and Educational Facilities

How will this impact health and safety?

- Active Transportation Hazards
- Climate Vulnerability
- Public Health Analysis
- Aviation Noise Impacts
- Roadway Noise Impacts
- Emissions Impacts Analysis (PM2.5 & CO)
- Emissions Impacts Along Freeways

How will this impact transportation costs?

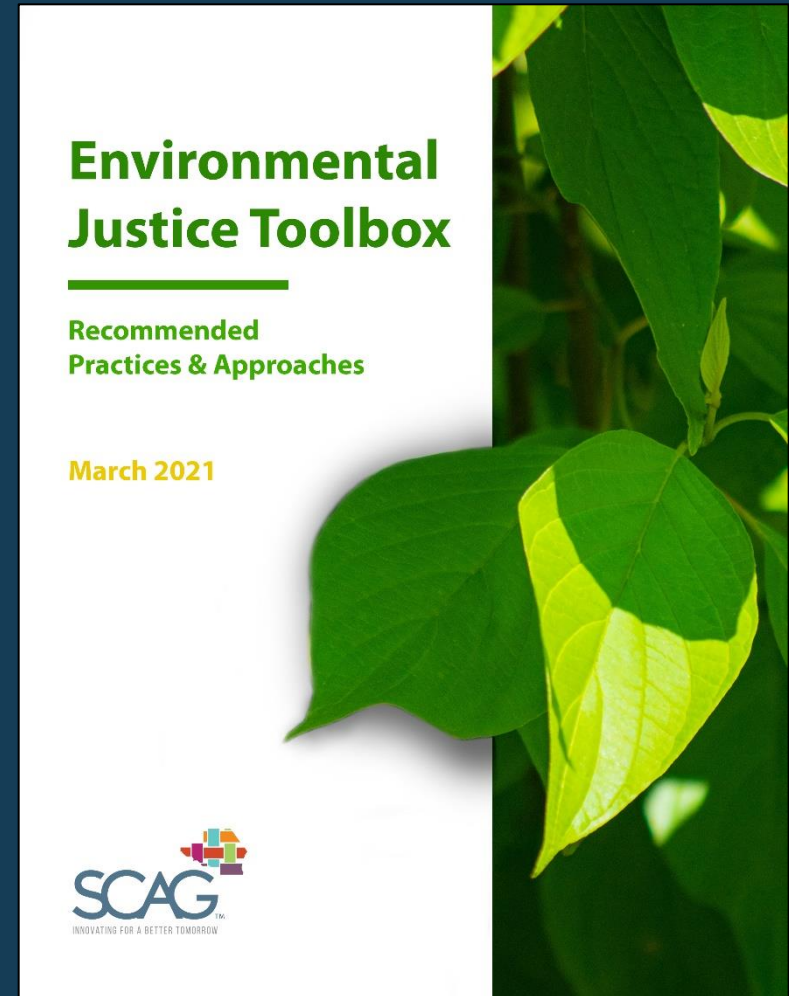
- Share of Transportation System Usage
- Connect SoCal Revenue Sources in Terms of Tax Burdens
- Connect SoCal Investments vs. Benefits
- Geographic Distribution of Transportation Investments
- Impacts from Funding Through Mileage-Based User Fees

How will this impact the commute?

- Travel Time and Travel Distance Savings
- Rail-Related Impacts

Connect SoCal (RTP/SCS) – Environmental Justice Analysis

| Connect SoCal EJ Technical Report Performance Indicators | |
|--|---|
| | <p> CI = Circulation CO = Conservation H = Housing LU = Land Use N = Noise OS = Open Space S = Safety </p> |
| How will this impact quality of life? | Jobs-Housing Imbalance LU H |
| | Neighborhood Change and Displacement CI H |
| | Accessibility to Employment and Services CI LU |
| | Accessibility to Parks and Educational Facilities CI CO LU OS |
| How will this impact health and safety? | Active Transportation Hazards CI LU S |
| | Climate Vulnerability LU S |
| | Public Health Analysis S |
| | Aviation Noise Impacts CI LU N S |
| | Roadways Noise Impacts CI LU N S |
| | Emissions Impacts Analysis (PM _{2.5} & CO) CI LU S |
| Emissions Impacts Along Freeways CI LU S | |
| How will this impact the commute? | Travel Time & Travel Distance Savings CI |
| | Rail-Related Impacts CI |
| How will this impact transportation cost? | Share of Transportation System Usage CI |
| | Connect SoCal Revenue Sources in Terms of Tax Burdens CI LU |
| | Connect SoCal Investments vs. Benefits CI LU |
| | Geographic Distribution of Transportation Investments CI |
| | Impacts from Funding Through Mileage-Based User Fees CI |



Connect SoCal (RTP/SCS) – Implementation Strategy



Equity & Engagement

Identify need, focus resources, and expand stakeholders.

Inclusive Recovery

Research ongoing impacts and focus recovery on the most vulnerable.

Public Health & Safety

Safe access for essential workers, safe streets, and COVID-19 counter measures.

Resilience

Plan a region resilient to environmental, social, and economic shocks.

Local Capacity Building

Building local capacity to compete for and implement local, state, and federal resources.

Connect SoCal (RTP/SCS) – Implementation, Mini-Grants



- **Program Goal:** Build street-level community resilience & increase the safety of people most harmed by traffic injuries and fatalities
- **Priorities:**
 1. Organizations focused on or led by members of disadvantaged or historically underinvested communities in the region.
 2. Projects that leverage Go Human safety resources, including co-branded safety materials or the Kit of Parts.
 3. Creative leadership and capacity building strategies.

Echo Park Film Center



TAKE OUR SURVEY!

We Want a Safer and Healthier Community!

Help your community stay physically active and COVID-19 free - Take The Survey of Walking, Biking, Going to the Park and using the Bus or Train During the COVID-19 Pandemic Survey. This short 2-minute survey asks questions about what our community is doing to stay physically active during COVID-19 while you are out walking, biking, going to the park, riding the bus, taking the train or going shopping.

Our Goals

The goal of the Staying Safe and COVID-19 Free Project is to encourage you to stay safe and COVID-19 free while you are out:



Community Intelligence

Connect SoCal (RTP/SCS) – Call for Collaboration

- Partnership with California Community Foundation to support deeper community engagement in planning activities and programs that accelerate housing production
- Funding available on competitive-basis for:
 - Partnership Programs to support implementation of existing plans, initiatives or partnerships
 - Spark Grants to seed new models of collaboration and engagement

A yellow rectangular box containing the text "ENGAGE & CO-POWER" in white, uppercase letters. A yellow arrow points from the right side of the box towards the text on the right.

ENGAGE &
CO-POWER

Empowering community-based organizations to bring voices to the table that are often left behind, but are also the most impacted by the policies in question

Connect SoCal (RTP/SCS) – Sustainable Communities Program



- \$15M in technical assistance to local jurisdictions to implement Connect SoCal
- Calls for Applications in multiple categories:
 - Past: Active Transportation, Housing
 - Feb 2021: Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations
 - June 2021: Under Development

ENGAGE
&
CO-POWER



- Targeted outreach, coaching, listening sessions, evaluation criteria for underserved communities
- Community Based Organizations on Evaluation Panel

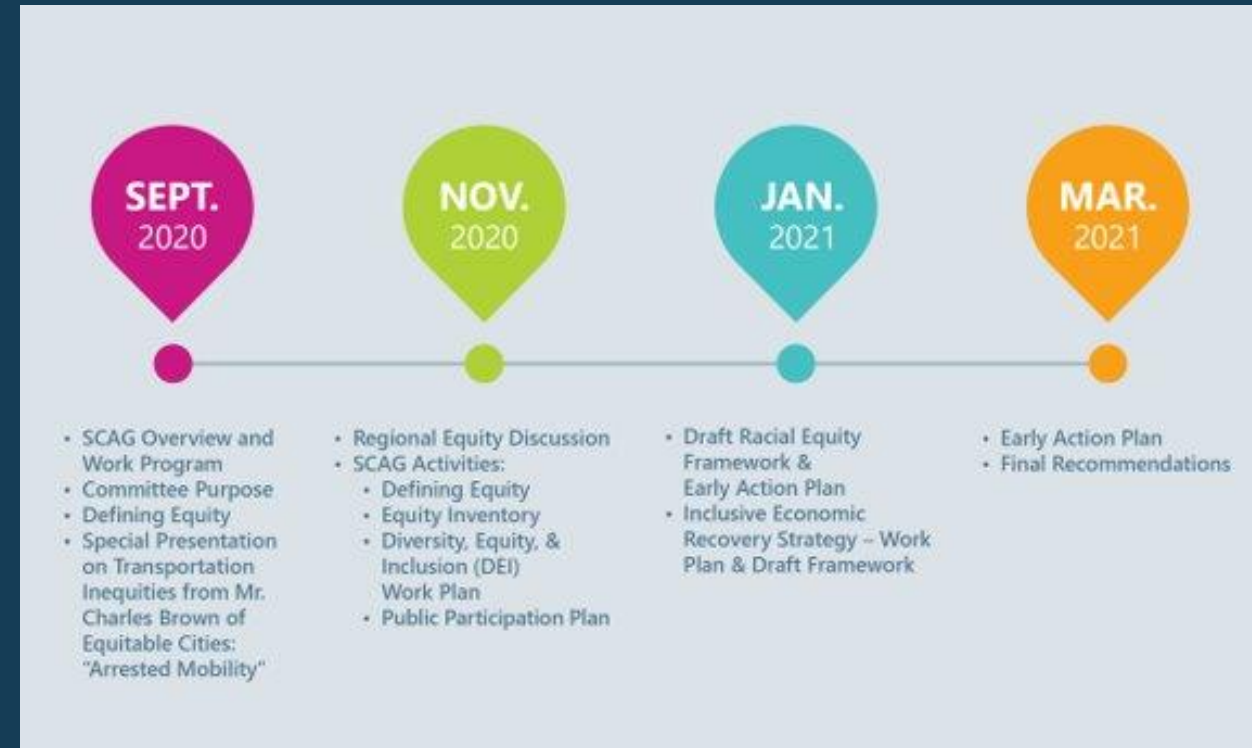
INTEGRATE
&
INSTITUTION-
ALIZE



- Support local plans that address inequities in the region

Moving Forward: SCAG's Commitment to Equity & Social Justice

- July 2020 – SCAG Board adopted resolution
- Established Special Committee on Equity & Social Justice
- Focus on:
 - Developing SCAG's response to advancing equity throughout the agency's activities
 - Advising SCAG's Regional Council on policies and practices to advance its resolved intentions



Moving Forward: Definition of Equity

Leading with racial equity to address the pervasive and deep inequities faced by people of color across the region.

“As central to SCAG’s work, racial equity describes the actions, policies, and practices that eliminate bias and barriers that have historically and systemically marginalized communities of color, to ensure all people can be healthy, prosperous, and participate fully in civic life.”

Moving Forward: Understanding Our Baseline Conditions

- Analysis of existing disparities and inequities
- Indicators across four main categories:
 - Economic Vitality
 - Healthy and Complete Communities
 - Mobility
 - Environment
- Informs Racial Equity Early Action Plan & future planning work



Moving Forward: Understanding Our Baseline Conditions



Economic Vitality

Economic Vitality

- \$15 / Hour
- Median Hourly Wage
- Poverty
- Working Poor
- Unemployment

Connectedness

- High Poverty Neighborhoods

Healthy + Complete Communities

Affordability

- Home Ownership
- Housing Burden

Housing Quality

- Kitchen Facilities
- Overcrowding

Essential Services

- Plumbing Facilities
- Broadband Access

Public Health

- Health Insurance
- SNAP
- Life Expectancy

Household

- Median Household Income

Mobility

Accessibility

- Access to Employment
- Access to Open Space & Parks
- Commute Time
- Households without a vehicle
- Transportation System Share

Safety

- Bike + Pedestrian Collisions

Environment

Climate Vulnerability

- Flood Hazard areas
- Wildfire risk

Environmental Health

- CalEnviroScreen3.0*

Public Health

- Air pollution index

**Omitted in first draft*

Moving Forward: Racial Equity Early Action Plan



RACIAL EQUITY EARLY ACTION PLAN

S O U T H E R N C A L I F O R N I A A S S O C I A T I O N O F G O V E R N M E N T S

SCAG'S RACIAL EQUITY EARLY ACTION PLAN

In July 2020 SCAG's Regional Council made a commitment to advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout Southern California and established an ad hoc Special Committee on Equity & Social Justice to advise the Regional Council on policies and practices to advance regional equity. The Committee met on a quarterly basis starting in September 2020 and concluding in March 2021. Based on discussions and feedback of the Committee, SCAG staff prepared the Racial Equity Early Action Plan to provide a framework for sharing the Committee's recommendations with the Regional Council. The Racial Equity Early Action Plan establishes a definition of equity, overarching goals, and strategies to advance racial equity through SCAG's policies, practices, and activities. It includes actions that can be initiated with existing resources through process improvements, leveraging current work activities, and forming new partnerships, as well as new efforts and programs that would need to be considered through the budget development process. The Early Action Plan is a "living document," with opportunities to identify new actions over time.

STRATEGIES

Each of these goals is advanced through a focus on the following three strategies:

Listen & Learn: Develop a shared understanding of our history of discrimination and the structural barriers that continue to perpetuate the inequities experienced today.

Engage & Co-Power: Create an environment where everyone is included, able to share their experiences, and equipped to talk about racial equity and inequities.

Integrate & Institutionalize: Focus on systems change to improve racial equity. Center racial equity in all aspects of work. This involves internal and external systems change.

DEFINING EQUITY

As central to SCAG's work, racial equity describes the actions, policies, and practices that eliminate bias and barriers that have historically and systemically marginalized communities of color, to ensure all people can be healthy, prosperous, and participate fully in civic life.

GOALS



Shift Organizational Culture

Focus SCAG's internal work and practices on inclusion, diversity, equity, and awareness.



Center Racial Equity in Regional Planning & Policy

Bring equity into SCAG's regional planning functions.



Encourage Racial Equity in Local Planning Practices

Promote racial equity in efforts involving local elected officials and planning professionals.



Activate & Amplify

Communicate broadly SCAG's commitment to racial equity and join with others in different fields and sectors to amplify impact.

EARLY ACTIONS

GOAL 1 | SHIFT ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

| Listen & Learn | Engage & Co-Power | Integrate & Institutionalize |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Awareness (IDEA) Education and Training Program Conduct an externally led racial equity audit to further inform equity actions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an IDEA Team to oversee and update EAP Assess and align procurement policies with diversity goals Create an Equity Planning Resource Group to share best practices Develop a Diversity Style Guide on standards for communicating | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update SCAG's Strategic Plan to incorporate an equity vision and goals to guide agency work plans Prepare an Inclusive and Equitable Talent Management Strategy |

GOAL 2 | CENTER RACIAL EQUITY IN REGIONAL POLICY & PLANNING

| Listen & Learn | Engage & Co-Power | Integrate & Institutionalize |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer equity training for Board members, including as part of Board Orientation Include Equity Assessment section in Staff Reports Prepare Annual Racial Equity Indicators Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase opportunity for participation in Policy Committees; Formalize Committee equity roles Update Public Participation Plan Form Regional Policy Working Group dedicated to Equity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop equity goals, policies, and metrics as part of Connect SoCal update Explore developing Research Program with University Partners |

GOAL 3 | ENCOURAGE RACIAL EQUITY IN LOCAL PLANNING

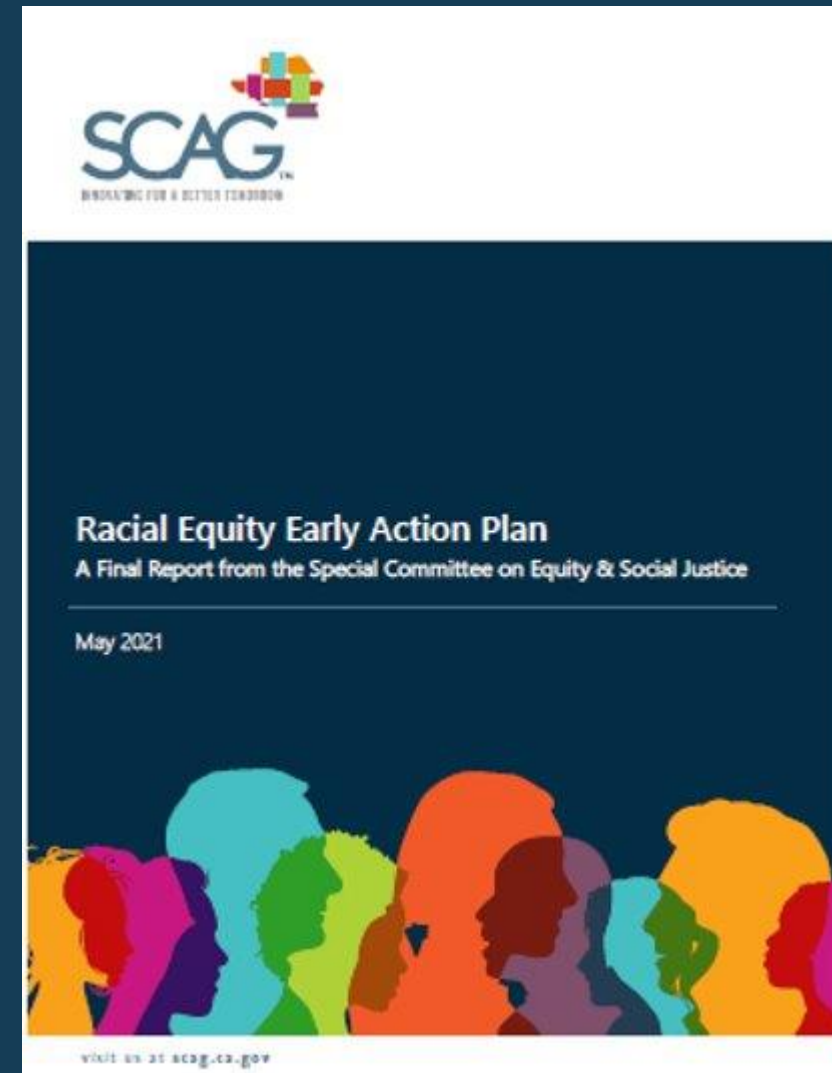
| Listen & Learn | Engage & Co-Power | Integrate & Institutionalize |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support data requests, create tools for information sharing Expand Toolbox Tuesday trainings to include sessions on racial equity Provide elected officials with fact sheets and tools to promote racial equity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide resources for CBO engagement in Local Planning - e.g., Call for Collaboration, Go Human Mini-Grants Build planning capacity in low-resourced jurisdictions by providing staff support - e.g., Civic Sparks, Public Health Fellows | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine equity goals and evaluation criteria used in Sustainable Communities Program Provide resources through the Sustainable Communities Program to promote Environmental Justice Identify opportunities to incorporate equity analysis in development of 2023 FTIP |

GOAL 4 | ACTIVATE & AMPLIFY

| Listen & Learn | Engage & Co-Power | Integrate & Institutionalize |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate on a public information campaign to promote fair housing, reduce segregation Strengthen relationships with other MPOs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities to partner to establish a "Planning University" for Community-Based Organizations & Stakeholders Develop an Excellence in Equity Annual Award Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy |

Moving Forward: Connect SoCal-related Actions

- Develop equity goals, policies, and metrics as part of Connect SoCal update
- Consider adjustments to EJ analysis
- Identify opportunities to incorporate equity analysis in development of 2023 FTIP
- Update Public Participation Plan
- Form Regional Policy Working Group dedicated to Equity
- Refine equity goals and evaluation criteria used in Sustainable Communities Program



Example: Environmental Equity Definition Development



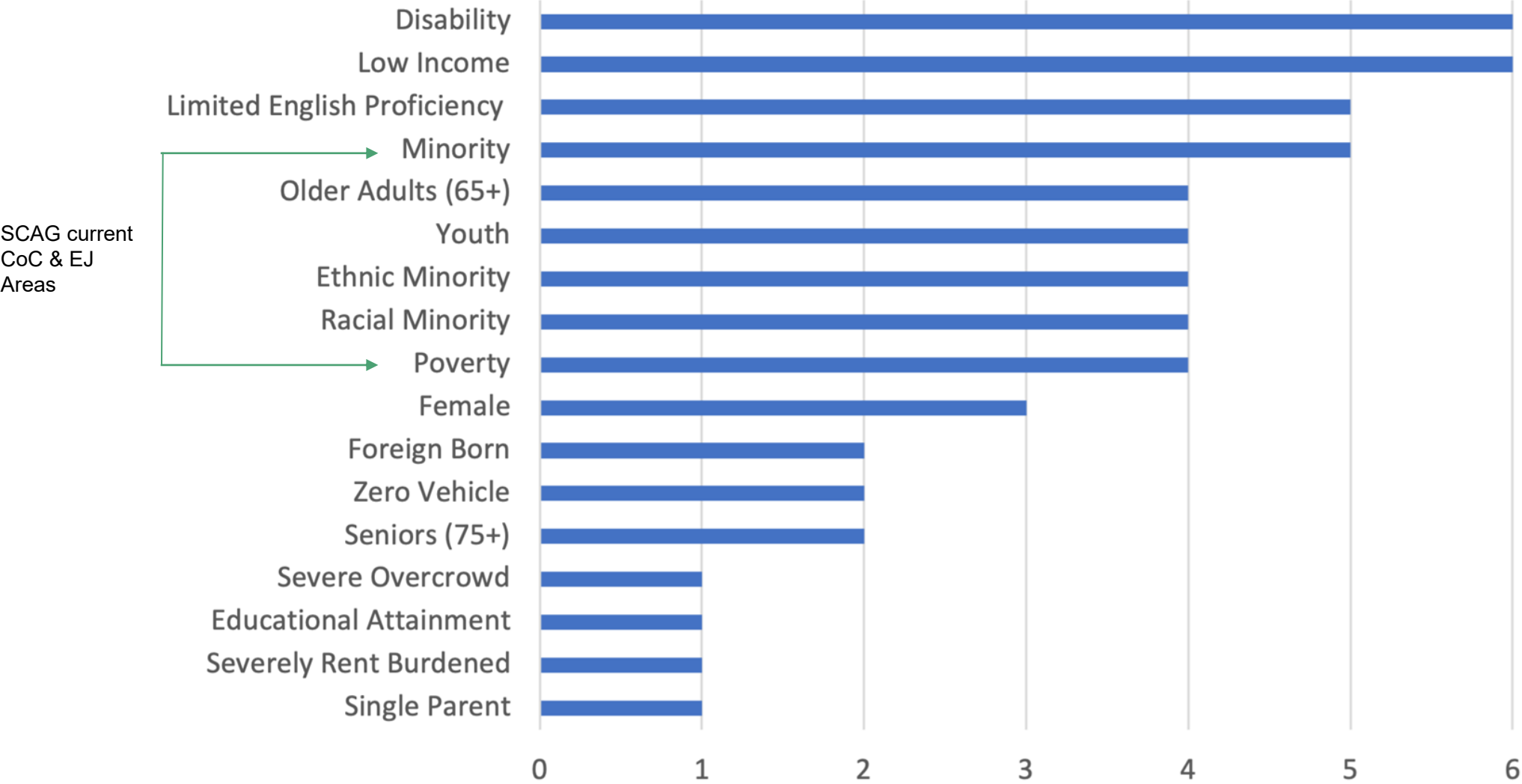
The Definition

- How does / should the definition relate to SCAG's racial equity definition?
- Does the definition convey environmental equity is abolishing harms (+ minimizing, mitigating, offsetting) as opposed to redistributing them?
- Is there something critical missing from the definition?
- Is there something in the definition that shouldn't be included?
- Does the definition sufficiently reflect climate equity, or should climate equity have a standalone definition?

The Process

- How do you see the definition potentially being implemented in your work?
- Do you have any suggestions for how we could improve the process for developing the definition?
- Who else should we seek feedback from?
- What documentation might be helpful to other teams as they start this process?

MPO EJ/Communities of Concern Indicators - Compared



Questions? Comments?

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