

Summary of Transportation Policy Board Engagement Session and Special Workshop

April 13, 2017

Topic: Health/Equity

This is a summary of Transportation Policy Board member conversations from (1) the April 13 board engagement break-out session on health/equity, as well as (2) the special workshop on health/equity. The regional role in promoting health/equity is different than at the project level. Addressing health/equity at a regional scale through the Transportation 2040 Plan can provide policy guidance to local planning work.

While the discussions included many versions of a definition, for this Transportation 2040 Update, Health/Equity planning is defined as **a focus on positive health outcomes for all communities, especially for communities of concern**. As capabilities allow, PSRC will measure income, race/ethnicity and place (communities of concern) as well as air quality, safety and levels of physical activity.

Feedback on Health /Equity Outcomes for the T2040 Update

- *Focus on who benefits with emphasis on understanding impacts to the most disenfranchised communities – those who need it most*
- *Where possible, evaluate how social determinants of equity support healthy outcomes (e.g., access to affordable, healthy food, access to health and human services)*
- *In addition to race, place and income, consider other aspects (age, disability, etc.)*
- *Make investments “where our principals are”*
- *Consider social equity and access to opportunity (employment, education, medical support, healthy food)*
- *Increase emphasis on multimodal, transit and nonmotorized*
- *Remember that health is not an absence of disease or access to healthcare; it is about how people stay healthy in their built environments and the determinants of health*
- *Consider setting regional policy related to equity to guide the planning process*

Feedback on T2040 Evaluation Framework

- *Measure impacts on racial/ ethnic communities when possible*
- *Be clear about what we are measuring*
- *Measures should be outcome based (what will it take to get us there?)*
- *Ensure data captures all groups*

Feedback on Community Engagement at a Regional Scale

- *Provide resources to community organizations to enable them to engage*
- *Ensure PSRC’s community engagement adheres to best practices*
- *Create a forum for community representation at the PSRC table*
- *Remember that experience and anecdotal data is just as powerful as actual data*
- *True engagement happens where people are and in accessible places/ languages*

Feedback Related to Other PSRC Work

- *Criteria for federal funding can be a tool to ensure the region meets health/equity goals*
- *Pay attention to historic underinvestment*
- *Make sure rural areas remain competitive*