

Inclusive Transportation Planning Recommendations

Developed and Presented to PACTS by the Steering Committee Inclusive Transportation Planning Project

The Inclusive Transportation Planning Project seeks to ensure that PACTS decision-making involves older adults, people with disabilities, people of color, people with low incomes, and other underrepresented communities. To move PACTS toward inclusive decision-making, the Project Steering Committee prepared the following recommendations to inform the 2019 update of the PACTS Public Participation Plan and the update to the PACTS Title VI and Non-Discrimination Plan.

- 1. *Develop protocols and guidance for inclusive engagement in PACTS-funded plans and studies.***
 - Develop and adopt procedures for PACTS meetings and communications to be used by staff and consultants that draw from best practices in the field of public participation. These may include: using a combination of written and non-written communications (graphics and videos); providing information in multiple languages and for extended timeframes; providing audio support at meetings; offering low-tech access to meetings and surveys (using outreach workers); and offering screen-reader compatibility, among other strategies.
- 2. *Strengthen partnerships with local organizations to provide ongoing connections with underrepresented communities.***
 - Pursue contracts and/or memorandums of understanding with key organizations to provide engagement support to staff and consultants during the implementation of the two-year Unified Planning Work Program. Tasks may include translation and interpreter services, in-person survey collection, and culturally appropriate community outreach.
- 3. *Cultivate champions who can represent the interests of underrepresented communities in transportation planning.***
 - Develop and implement an ongoing training for community members to gain the knowledge and tools for meaningful participation in transportation planning and decision-making.
- 4. *Explore approaches for supporting meaningful involvement by underrepresented communities on PACTS Governance Committees.***
 - Research promising practices from around the country and identify an appropriate model for PACTS, which could include the creation of a Community Members Advisory Group.
- 5. *Adjust the PACTS funding decision process to consider the needs of underrepresented communities.***
 - Research practices used by Metropolitan Planning Organizations to include consideration of the needs of underrepresented communities in funding decisions – and identify an appropriate model for PACTS. For example, the Broward MPO uses a Transportation Planning Equity Assessment.
<http://www.browardmpo.org/index.php/title-vi-transportation-planning-equity-assessment>
- 6. *Engage PACTS members in opportunities to learn more about the transportation needs and experiences of underrepresented communities.***
 - Coordinate with the region's transportation agencies to offer periodic trainings and listening sessions with underrepresented communities that allow for gathering feedback, making connections, and increasing mutual awareness and understanding.

In January 2019, the PACTS Policy Committee voted unanimously to approve using these recommendations to inform updates to the PACTS Public Involvement Plan and PACTS Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan.