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.

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.*