

10B. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ASSESSMENT

Background

The Title VI and Environmental Justice (EJ) directives apply to the programs, policies, and activities of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. H-GAC Metropolitan Planning Organization staff is developing an Environmental Justice Assessment Worksheet is intended to document the potential of a project or planning action to have an adverse effect on persons or communities identified as sensitive for environmental justice.

Current Situation

The EJ worksheet serves as a reminder of the non-discrimination obligations of the agency as planning decisions are made, and promotes the environmental justice policy goal to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the adverse effects of those planning decisions on the vulnerable population. The environmental justice compliance review would help to ensure that the traditionally underserved communities are included in the public involvement process, and ultimately receive an equitable distribution of the benefits of transportation policies, plans, and activities without bearing a disproportionate share of adverse effects that may result from them. As staff develops a draft worksheet, information will be presented to TAC and TPC at future meetings.

Action Requested

Information only.