Planning Sustainable Rural Transportation Systems

Environmental Justice Considerations In Transportation & Sustainability Planning

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Planning Sustainable Rural Transportation Systems

- The PTRC
- Environmental Justice
- The Data
- Our Methodology

- Practical Applications
  - Transportation
  - Sustainability
  - What's Next?
The Piedmont Triad Regional Council

New & Improved Region
- Established in 1968
  - Re-formed July, 2011
  - 72 Member Governments

Coordination is Key
- 4 Highway Divisions
- 4 MPOs
- 2 RPOs
- 1.6 million citizens
  - 16% of NC population
Defining Environmental Justice

Framework of Federal Law & Policies
- Title VI Civil Rights Act (1964)
- National Environmental Policy Act (1969)
- Civil Rights Restoration Act (1987)
- Executive Order 12898 (1994)
- DOT Order on Environmental Justice (1997)
- FHWA Order on Environmental Justice (1999)

Evolving to Meet Contemporary Expectations
Defining Environmental Justice

"Each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations."

- Executive Order 12898, 1994

Key Principles
- Avoid, minimize & mitigate disproportionate effects
- Encourage participation in decision-making process
- Prevent denial or delay of project benefits
Identifying Vulnerable Populations

**Data Sources**
- Decennial Census
- American Community Survey
- LEHD Survey
- EPA
- State

**Primary Data**
- Population
- Income
- Poverty
- Race & ethnicity

**Secondary Data**
- Age
- Educational attainment
- Linguistic isolation
- Head of household
- Households without a vehicle
- Proximity to environmental risk
- Health & wellness data
Our Methodology

Select the Data
- Source, time frame

Select the Geography
- Tract vs. Block vs. Block Group

Calculate Averages
- County vs. Region

Analyze & Map
- Patterns?
Practical Applications

**Transportation**
- Multi-modal Comprehensive Plans
- Locally Coordinated & Transit Development Plans
- Project Prioritization
- Project Development & Permitting

**Sustainable Communities**
- Target Public Outreach
- Identify & Prioritize ‘Sustainability Centers’
- Supporting Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing
What’s Next?
Updating...
- Maps
- Reports
Expanding...
- Data
- Methodology
- Applications
Sharing...
- Interactive mapping

Facts are stubborn things, but statistics are more pliable.

- Mark Twain
Thank You!

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