Environmental Justice and the MPO

The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) works to ensure the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all residents in the region. This means that no group, including a racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group, should bear a disproportionate share of negative health or environmental consequences of any project. To ensure fair treatment, the MPO studies seven Degrees of Disadvantage to identify environmental justice (EJ) areas, or those areas with large populations of traditionally under served individuals. EJ areas in the region can be seen in the map below.

Regional Performance Measures

The region's long-range transportation plan, Mobilizing Tomorrow, laid out several performance measures comparing EJ areas to Non-EJ areas. Targets were set to ensure that fair conditions are being met when looking at future conditions of the region's transportation network. The MPO continually updates data for regional performance measures. Since the approval of Mobilizing Tomorrow in November 2014, the MPO has produced performance reports for measures that include EJ information. The table below is a summary of the EJ measures from those reports.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEASURE</th>
<th>EJ AREAS</th>
<th>NON-EJ AREAS</th>
<th>2050 TARGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mobilizing</td>
<td>Update</td>
<td>Mobilizing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tomorrow</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tomorrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavement Condition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Pavement Condition Index</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>No Update</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavement Condition [% Poor or Worse]</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>No Update</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Condition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Rating</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficient Bridges [%]</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crash</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Fatalities [5-Year Average]</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatalities per 100 Million VMT</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Serious Injuries [5-Year Average]</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious Injuries per 100 Millions VMT</td>
<td>10.74</td>
<td>9.07</td>
<td>4.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Congested Roads [% of Roadway Miles]</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>No Update</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Certain measures included in the chart do not have 2050 targets. These measures help give a clearer understanding of the current system without setting a goal for the future.

FEDERAL MANDATES

“No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

“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, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, 1994
IDENTIFYING EJ AREAS

Seven Degrees of Disadvantage

The Degrees of Disadvantage (DoD) methodology looks at U.S. Census Bureau data at the tract level to determine where EJ areas are located in the region. Data is obtained for seven population groups, including non-white population, car-less households, persons in poverty, single heads of households with children, persons over 65, limited English proficiency (LEP), and persons with a disability. A regional average for the percent of people in each of the population groups is then determined; if any one census tract is above the regional average, then a point is given to that tract. If a census tract has at least six points (out of seven), then it is classified as an EJ area.

Interactive map of EJ areas and the seven degrees is available at: dmampo.org/maps

Non-White Population

Regional Average: 13.17%
# of Census Tracts: 39

Car-Less Households

Regional Average: 5.9%
# of Census Tracts: 40

Persons in Poverty

Regional Average: 10.7%
# of Census Tracts: 41
**Single Heads of Households with Children**
- Regional Average: 5.6%
- # of Census Tracts: 45

**Persons Over 65**
- Regional Average: 11.2%
- # of Census Tracts: 50

**Limited English Proficiency**
- Regional Average: 5.6%
- # of Census Tracts: 42

**Persons with a Disability**
- Regional Average: 10.58%
- # of Census Tracts: 50
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AREAS

In the next four years, about 24% of all funding being spent on transportation capital improvements in the region will be in or near EJ areas.

15% of area residents live in Environmental Justice areas

Yet these areas cover only 4% of the total land area.