



Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization

Long Range Transportation Plan Discussion Group Workshop

June 17, 2005



**Lake-Sumter
Metropolitan Planning Organization**

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORKSHOP

June 17, 2005

Thank you for participating in the MPO's Workshop on Environmental Justice. The Lake - Sumter MPO would like your opinions on how to improve its transportation decision-making process as it relates to the county's minority, and low-income populations. We are asking you to review this handout prior to the meeting. At the workshop you will be asked to listen to a brief presentation and discuss several questions related to this topic.

Introduction

Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act states that "No person in the United States shall, on the grounds 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."

The Presidential Executive Order on Environmental Justice extends Title VI even further by providing that "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."

The Lake - Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is sponsoring this workshop to identify and discuss efforts to address environmental justice as part of the transportation planning process. In December the MPO will be taking action to approve an updated Long Range Transportation Plan. Additionally, the MPO has recently developed a detailed Transit Development Plan which to guide the start-up of a mass transit system in the future.

The discussion group is designed to facilitate discussion of the potential positive and negative impacts of future transportation improvements, or the lack thereof, on the minority, and low-income communities in Lake - Sumter County. Individuals were invited to participate based on their association with agencies and organizations that provide services to or represent minority and/or low-income populations throughout the county.

Three Principles of Environmental Justice

1. To avoid, minimize, or mitigate the disproportionately high and adverse social and economic effects on minority and low-income populations.
2. To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.
3. To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.

Objectives for Today's Meeting

1. Discuss Environmental Justice and make sure the concept is understood by all participants.
2. Review and discuss maps illustrating high concentrations of minority, and low-income populations.
4. Review and discuss maps illustrating existing and future road widening improvements, bus routes, bicycle facilities, and sidewalks.
5. Identify and discuss potential positive impacts of future transportation improvements on specific communities. Are any of these impacts disproportionately high? Please complete the attached form.
6. Identify and discuss potential negative impacts of future transportation improvements on specific communities. Are any of these impacts disproportionately high? Please complete the attached form.
7. Identify and discuss transportation improvements that are needed by specific communities, but are not currently reflected in the maps. Are the impacts of not having these transportation improvements disproportionately high? Please complete the attached form.
8. What can we do to increase the participation of minority, and low-income communities in the transportation decision-making process?

Maps Available for Review at the Workshop

- Road Improvements and Concentrations of Minority Population
- Road Improvements and Concentrations of Hispanic Population
- Road Improvements and Concentrations of Low-Income Population
- Future Bus Routes
- Existing Number of Lanes (2000)
- Number of Lanes and Improved Roads (2025 Needs Network)
- Existing and Future Bicycle Facilities (2025 Needs Network)
- Existing and Future Sidewalks (2025 Needs Network)
- 2000-2025 Total Population Growth
- 2000-2025 Total Employment Growth

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DISCUSSION GROUP

Impact of Transportation Improvements on Minority, and Low-Income Communities

The Preliminary Needs Plan identifies potential transportation improvements from a technical perspective. In your opinion, which of these transportation improvements, or the lack thereof, will have a significant impact (positive or negative) on the areas indicated below? Space for additional comments is provided at the bottom of the page. Please request additional forms as necessary.

Transportation Improvement: _____

(Circle) Road Public Transportation Bicycle Pedestrian Other

Yes, Improvement is in Need Plan No, Improvement should be added to Needs Plan

Check Impacted Areas:

- Minority Community (please specify)
- Low-Income Community (please specify)

Describe Potential Positive or Negative Impact:

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Transportation Improvement: _____

(Circle) Road Public Transportation Bicycle Pedestrian Other

Yes, Improvement is in Need Plan No, Improvement should be added to Needs Plan

Check Impacted Areas:

- Minority Community (please specify)
- Low-Income Community (please specify)

Describe Potential Positive or Negative Impact:

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Please provide completed form to facilitator or mail/fax to:

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