

TRB Consensus Study: *Data, Metrics, and Analytic Methods for Assessing Equity Impacts of Surface Transportation Funding Programs*

Committee Meeting 5

Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 1:00 – 5:00pm Eastern

Zoom (registration link: [https://nasem.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_gtb1B9tGS3aup6MFsgn0cw](https://nasem.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gtb1B9tGS3aup6MFsgn0cw))

**OBJECTIVE**

The committee will hear from USDOT representatives about metrics used to consider equity in their decisions, and what some of the challenges, lessons learned, and opportunities are related to data, metrics, and analytical methods for making decisions for the discretionary grants.

**OPEN SESSION (committee members, TRB staff, and members of the public)**

1:00 Welcome

*Ashby Johnson, committee chair, Executive Director, Capital Area MPO  
Katherine Kortum, study director, TRB Consensus and Advisory Studies*

1:15 [OST-R Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation \(SMART\)](#)

*Ben Levine, Senior Advisor, Research & Technology, USDOT*

2:00 [National Infrastructure Project Assistance grants program \(Mega\), the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grants program \(INFRA\), and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant program \(Rural\)](#)

*Alex Beres, Transportation Policy Analyst, Office of the Secretary, USDOT*

2:45 Break

3:00 [OST-P Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity \(RAISE\) grants](#)

*Aubrei Barton, Transportation Policy Analyst, Office of the Secretary, USDOT*

3:45 [Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program \(PIDP\) OR Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects \(NSFLTP\) Program](#)

*Aubrey Parsons?  
Jeff Mann and/or Scott Johnson?*

5:00 Adjourn

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022, 9am-5pm central, in Austin, TX

## **Statement of Task**

The study committee will identify and advise on opportunities for using data, metrics, and analytic methods to better inform decisions for allocating and programming federal surface transportation funds to enhance equity for underserved communities. The committee will consult the definitions of equity and underserved communities contained in Executive Order 13985 and consider the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) interest in ensuring that its funding programs produce outcomes that are equitable for underserved communities in terms of environmental justice and access to jobs, school, food, health care, and other life needs and services.

In focusing on the surface modes, the committee will examine USDOT funding programs for highways, public transportation, and passenger rail service. While the study scope will not include programs for funding maritime and aviation infrastructure and services, it will include programs for funding surface transportation access to marine ports and airports. To keep the scope manageable, the committee will pay particular attention to those funding programs that it believes are likely to have the greatest impacts on equity for underserved communities.

The committee will review equity-related data, metrics, and analytic methods that have been proposed by researchers and that are being used in transportation and other sectors, by other federal agencies, and by state and local governments. The committee will examine the applicability of these data, metrics, and methods to USDOT decision-making criteria, assessing their practical value by considering how they could be used in administering some specific USDOT programs. On the basis of its review and assessments, the committee will advise on the most promising methodological approaches and requisite data for analyzing equity impacts considered at the national, state, and local levels.

In keeping with the Executive Order's interest in ensuring that prompt actions are taken to account for equity in federal transportation funding, the committee will consider how existing data sources, metrics, and analytic methods can be used for this purpose by USDOT in making decisions for its discretionary funding programs. Accordingly, it is expected that early in its deliberations, the committee will convene a public information-gathering session in which experts in transportation equity issues and analysis will be consulted for their ideas on how existing data sources, metrics, and analytic methods applicable to equity can be used in administering USDOT's discretionary funding programs.

While the application of existing data and analytic tools to discretionary programs can provide the earliest opportunities to elevate equity in federal surface transportation funding, it is expected that the committee will also consider and advise on ways that state and local governments can measure, analyze, and account for equity when using federal surface transportation funds that are allocated by formula. Should it find that existing data sources are insufficient and that new sources of data are needed to better account for equity in USDOT's discretionary and formula funding programs, the committee may recommend options for meeting these needs.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Ashby Johnson, chair Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization	Elizabeth Sall UrbanLabs
Tierra Bills UCLA	Vince Valdes Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Marilyn Brown Georgia Tech	Elizabeth Williams Massachusetts DOT
Ronald Hall Bubar & Hall Consulting	
Jessie Jones Arkansas DOT	
Alex Karner The University of Texas at Austin	