



Integrating Environmental Justice Considerations into Policy and Regulatory Decision-Making: Progress and Barriers

United States
Department of Transportation

April 2024



Department of Transportation Justice40 Video

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/IhDVzE0DQFA>

EO 12898

**Federal Actions to
Address EJ in Minority
Populations and Low-
Income Populations**

1994

2021

EO 14096

**Revitalizing our
Nation's Commitment
to Environmental
Justice for All**

2023

EO 14008

**Tackling the Climate
Crisis at Home and
Abroad**

Executive Order 14096 Implementation

EJ Strategic Plans: By October 2024, and every 4 years thereafter, agencies must submit to CEQ and publish online an EJ Strategic Plan that:

- Sets forth the agency's vision, goals, priority actions, and metrics to address and advance EJ and to fulfill the directives of this order.
- Identify and address opportunities to improve accountability and compliance with any statute the agency administers that affects health and environment of communities with environmental justice concerns.

EJ Assessment: Within two years of Plan submission, agencies will submit to CEQ and make public, an EJ Assessment that evaluates, based on CEQ Guidance, the effectiveness of the agency's Plan that includes and evaluation of the agency's Plan implementation, barriers to implementation, and steps taken to address them.

DOT Strategic Goals and Priorities

Safety
Economic Strength and Global
Competitiveness
Equity
Climate and Sustainability
Transformation
Organizational Excellence



Incorporating Community Input



US DOT developed *Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making* to help funding recipients meaningfully involve the public in various stages of transportation decision-making and build their organizational capacity to do.

Public involvement from the beginning and throughout a project's lifecycle has the potential to help projects come to life faster and to better meet the needs of the community. This document provides a shared definition of meaningful public involvement and promising practices to help address barriers to inclusion in transportation decision-making.

Justice40

WHAT is Justice40?

President Biden's Jan 2021 EO14008: **Tackling Climate Change at Home and Abroad** created the government-wide Justice40 Initiative, establishing the goal that at least **40% of the benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities.**

WHY Justice40?

Justice40 aims to **address decades of systemic inequitable historical policies and underinvestment in disadvantaged communities.** The initiative aims to bring resources to communities most impacted by climate change, pollution, and environmental hazards.

What Justice40 means for the US Department of Transportation (USDOT)

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act represent once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure, climate resilience, and innovation. Justice40 allows USDOT to identify opportunities and prioritize projects that benefit rural, suburban, tribal, and urban communities facing barriers to affordable, equitable, reliable, and safe transportation. DOT will also assess the negative impacts of transportation projects and systems on disadvantaged communities and will consider if local community leaders have been consulted in a meaningful way during the project's development.



**Prioritize
Investments**



**Measure Impact and
Improve Effectiveness**



**Strengthen
Communities**

Equitable Transportation Community (ETC) Explorer

OVERVIEW: USDOT creates the first-of-its-kind transportation-specific tool, harnessing the latest census tract data across federally available data sources to provide users a centralized, easy-to-use platform that creates visibility into drivers of transportation disadvantage.

KEY FEATURES & DATA



Transportation-specific disadvantage index

Incorporates **40+ data elements** across **5 categories of disadvantage**: Transportation Insecurity, Health Vulnerability, Climate/Hazard Risk Component, Environmental Burden, Socioeconomic Vulnerability



Transportation Insecurity & Access Tool (TIAT)*

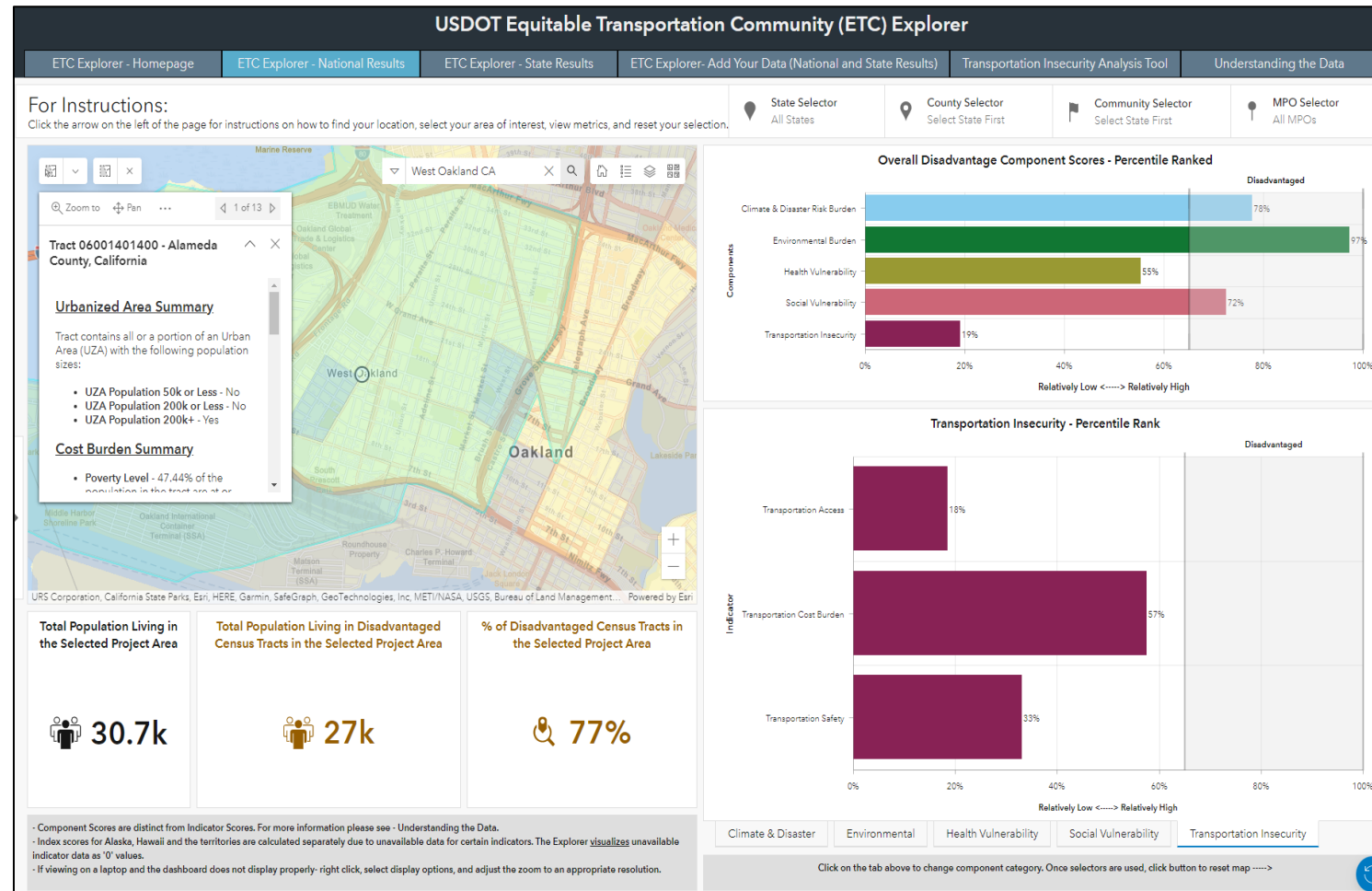
Visually displays the raw data for a select group of indicators related to **cost, access, and safety** at the state or national level, that reflect transportation insecurity.



Latest Census Tracts

Incorporates 2020 U.S. Census Tracts and data from sources including NOAA, USDOT, FEMA, EPA, Census Bureau, BIA, MRLC, DHS, CDC, DOI, and Esri.

*This is a tab within the ETC Explorer



CORE USERS

USDOT

Support agency-wide priorities and metrics for covered program impacts, distributional equity, and overall effectiveness

Applicants

Support program scope and application development based on transportation disadvantage insights about communities

State Planners/MPOs

Understand localized impacts within immediate region to support funding decisions and provide visibility into community impact.

US DOT Mobility Equity Research Initiative

Provides **\$2.97 million** for a new cooperative agreement

Goal: To advance research and technology to expand accessibility and mobility to underserved communities, including people with disabilities, older Americans, Tribal Nations, and rural and disadvantaged communities.

Supports USDOT Equity Goals:

- DOT Strategic Plan

- DOT Research, Development, and Technology Strategic Plan.

Researchers can Inform Federal EJ Research

EO 14096 Sec. 5. directs development of a Federal environmental justice research, data, and science strategy.

DOT is a co-chair of the National Science and Technology Council Subcommittee on Environmental Justice leading the strategy
A Request for Information was open earlier this year.

White House Environmental Justice Data Summit is planned for later this year



Links to Resources

Equity Action Plan: <https://www.transportation.gov/priorities/equity/equity-action-plan>

Disability Policy Priorities: <https://www.transportation.gov/accessibility>

DOT Strategic Plan:

<https://www.transportation.gov/dot-strategic-plan>

Justice40 (includes links to ETC mapping tools): <https://www.transportation.gov/equity-Justice40>

US DOT Equity Data Hub: [Intersections Data and Equity Hub \(dot.gov\)](#)

Public Involvement Guide

[Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making | US Department of Transportation](#)