



Environmental Justice & Equity in Transportation & Landuse

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Urban Habitat

www.urbanhabitat.org

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Urban Habitat

- Mission: Urban Habitat builds power in low-income communities and communities of color by combining education, advocacy, research and coalition building to advance environmental, economic and social justice in the Bay Area.



Transportation Justice Working Group (TJWG)

- **Accessibility**
- **Affordability**
- **Health and Quality of Life**
- **Public Participation**
- **Accountability**
- **Fairness**



TJWG Campaigns

- Youth Bus Passes
- EJ Principles
- Regional Transportation Planning (RTP)



Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964:

"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."

FTA's Environmental Justice requirements (Executive Order 12898):



- To ensure public involvement of low-income and minority groups in decision making;
- To “avoid, minimize or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse” impacts of decisions on low-income and minority groups;
- To assure that low-income and minority groups receive a proportionate share of benefits, including preventing the “significant delay” in receipt of benefits.



MTC's Role

- Regional transportation planning and funding
- Creates long-range plans which allocate federal, state, regional and local funds
- Programs federal and state funding (TIP)
- Must evaluate alternatives in planning
- Must adhere to Federal EJ and Civil Rights laws



(In)Equity in Bay Area's Transportation

- MTC must ensure transportation system provides equal benefits and burdens by race and income
- Operators serving highest proportions of low-income and minority riders are short-changed relative to other systems
- Service in low-income communities is getting worse, not better



Regional Transportation Plan

- List of projects (versus Plan)
- Allocates over \$100 billion through 2035
- Current RTP will be completed in early 2009



2035 RTP Goals

- Economy – Safety, Reliability and Freight
- Equity – Access to Mobility & Liveable Communities
- Environment – Clean Air & Climate Change



2035 RTP Targets

- AB32
- Economy – **Congestion** (Reduce PHD by 20% from 2006 levels)
- Environment – **VMT & Emissions** (Reduce Per Capita VMT by 10% from 2006) & (reduce PM 10% from current levels and CO2 by 40% below 1990 levels by 2035)
- Equity - **Affordability** (Reduce Housing + Transportation Costs by 10%)
- Will this be enough to make a difference?
- Land Use & Congestion Pricing



Equity Analysis

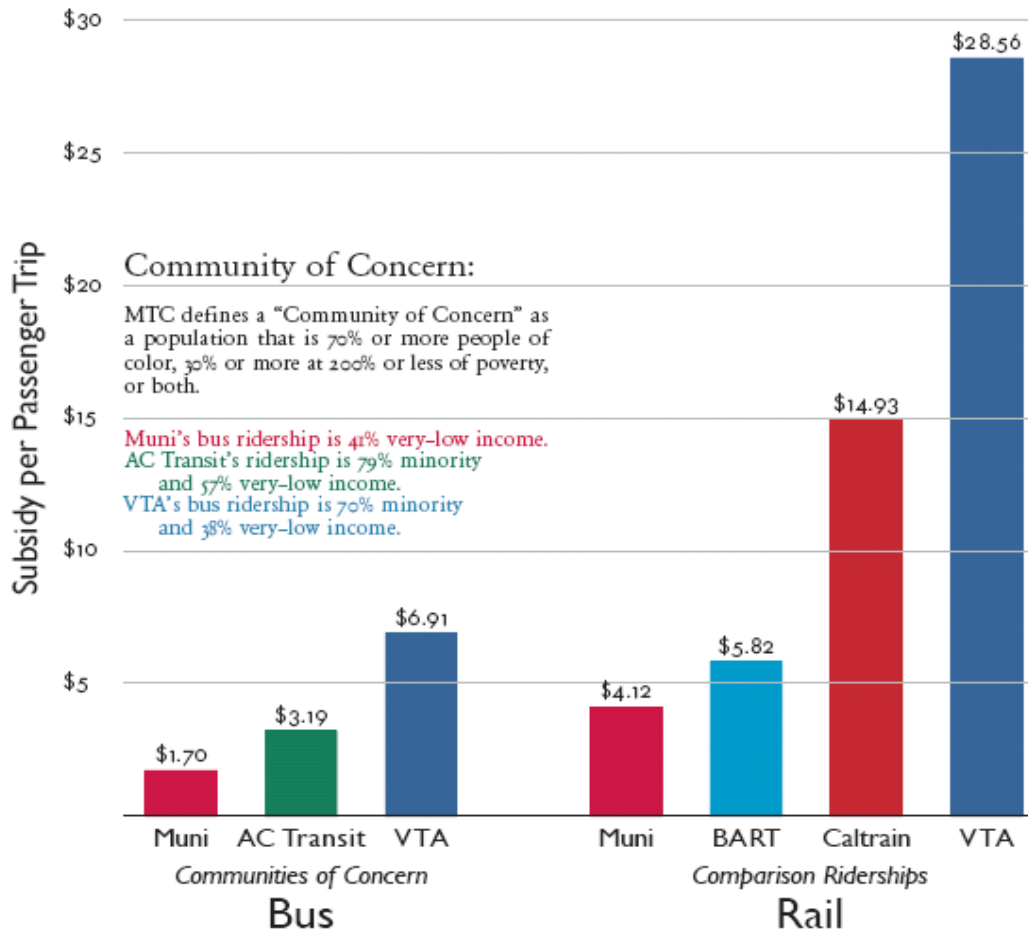
- Done after projects selected in RTP
- Equity Analysis – model designed to predict traffic patterns and congestion
- 2005 Equity Analysis concluded that no inequity exists
- Question: Where's the money going?
Who benefits?



Alternative Model

- 3 Measures of “Communities of Concern”
 - Geographic
 - Transit-dependency
 - Operator
- 3 Measures of Equity:
 - Funding (Inputs)
 - Service levels (Outputs)
 - Mobility (Outcomes)

Communities of Concern and Transit Rider Subsidies based on draft data presented by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission



Sources of data: MTC draft "Funding Analysis to Implement EJ Principle #2" (10/26/06), Table 7b2 (data from 1998-2005); VTA draft SRTP FY 2004-15.

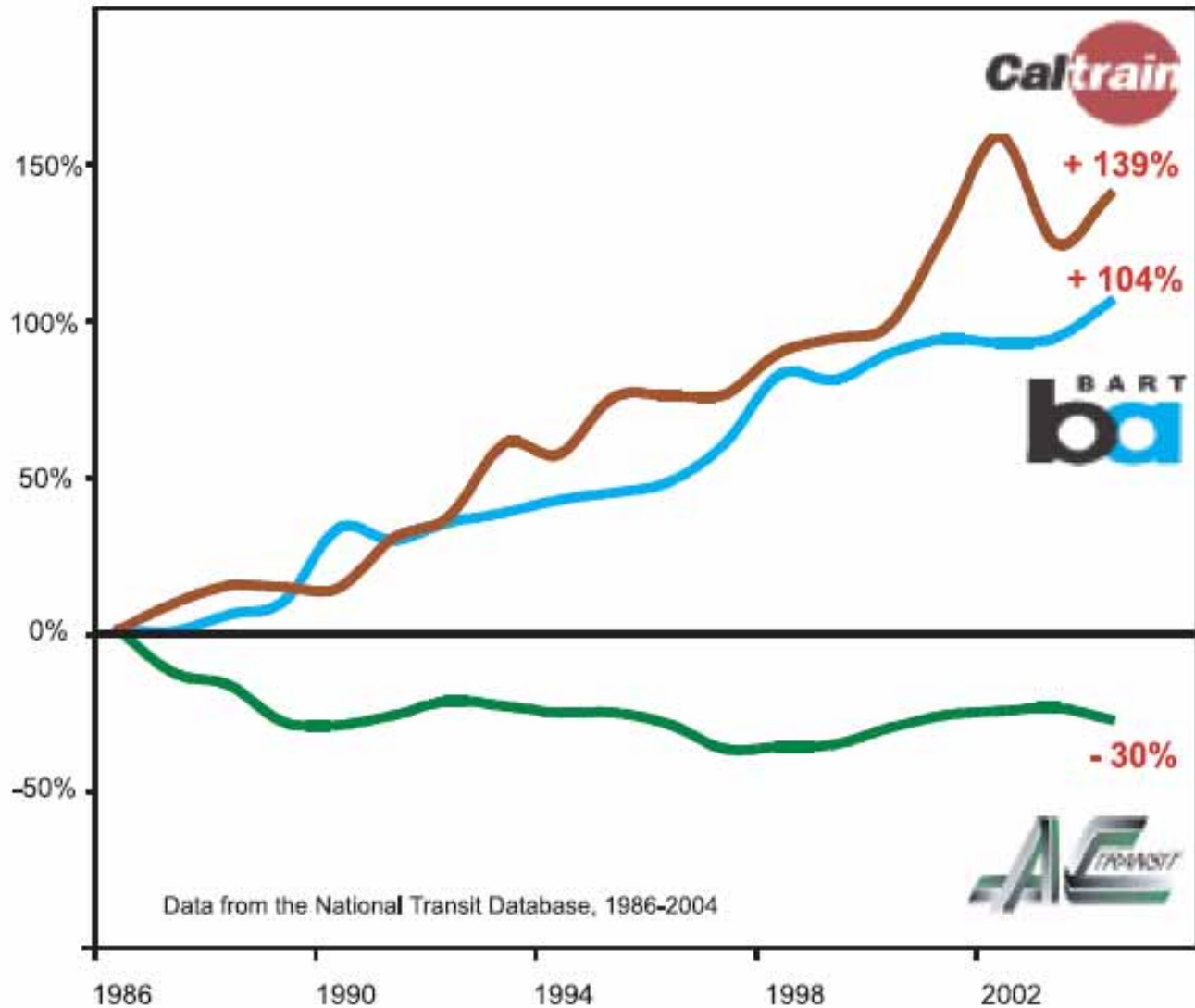


Tradeoffs: Expansion vs Lifeline

Regional Transit Expansion Program (RTEP) or Resolution 3434	Lifeline Transportation Program (funds Community Based Transportation Plans or CBTPs)
Purpose: Improve mobility and reduce congestion	Purpose: Close gaps in safety-net service for people without cars
Favors: commuters with cars (10% goes to urban core)	Serves: Communities of Concern (low-income, transit dependent, people of color)
Funding: \$11.3 billion committed (out of \$13.5 billion)	Funding: \$377 million committed (out of \$2.7 billion)
Long-term Planning: in Regional Transportation Plan	Long-term Planning: none

LEVELS OF SERVICE

BART and Caltrain Services Double While AC Transit Service Deteriorates





How can MTC make transportation investments and outcomes more equitable?

- Prioritize Safety-net projects like Res. 3434 projects
- Free up more flexible funding for operations (swapping)
- Not restrict federal funding that could be used for BRT
- Congestion Pricing Measures must include a Regional Affordability Program



Connecting transportation, land use and health

- UH and GCC (TALC, Greenbelt, SFF, EBCF)
- Focus on Station Area Plans
- Focus on affordable housing
- San Leandro and San Pablo Avenue



SPA HOA

- SPA Health Opportunity Assessment
- Collaboration between GRIP, UH, CCPHD, MIG ,the El Cerrito and Richmond Planning Departments and residents



HOA Goals

- How do you define a “healthy community”?
- Where and what are the community’s environmental and social resources?
- What new public or private services and resources are needed to create the conditions required for optimal health?
- What environmental constraints should be addressed through development planning?



HOA Process

- Facilitated group dialogues with residents/users of a development project to:
 - *Establish a local definition of health and its relationship to community environmental conditions*
 - *Map existing health resources and hazards*
 - *Identify health resource needs and constraints for development planning*
- Compile information from dialogues to produce a report and options for further analysis
- Return results to the community stakeholders and prioritize potential health impacts for deeper analysis
- Create Action Plan for inclusion of health in land use planning



HOA for Planning

- Inform land-use development planning
- Guide a community's visioning efforts with City and private developers
- Begin a dialogue with decision-makers about health
- Assess the need and value for a full scale Health Impact Assessment (HIA)



Continued Collaboration and Future Opportunities

- Equity Analysis/Target
- Protect Transit Funding in State Budget
- Grow the Pie: Climate Fee and Fund, Gas tax and other Congestion Pricing measures
- Priority Development Areas and Station Area Plan Program