
CALENDAR YEAR 2022 EQUITY IMPACT PLAN

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Department Name: Transportation

Equity Lead(s): Martha Coello, Neil Freschman

Date: February 28, 2023

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Review your department's Equity Impact Plan for CY 2022 at [Equity Impact Plans | Topics \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#). Using that plan, add each goal below and describe: 1) what was done to make progress toward the goal, 2) with whom (partners), and 3) how work toward this goal was measured/evaluated and the results. If you have data for the performance measures in your CY 2022 Equity Impact Plan, report them. Add more goals as needed.

Goal 1: Build capacity within FCDOT to implement One Fairfax policy.

Goal 1 Progress:

- Equity Position: The DEI Manager position was approved in the FY2023 budget. This position is currently advertised.
- Continued to coordinate a group of staff within FCDOT to conduct communications about One Fairfax across the department. The purpose was to educate FCDOT staff on the One Fairfax Policy, update staff on the happenings of the department's Equity Team and open a dialogue with staff on equity issues.
- Prepared FCDOT Equity Newsletter Volume 6 & 7 to inform FCDOT staff on what One Fairfax is as well as how the department's Equity Team is structured, and what their goals are broken down by each sub-team.
- Participated in multiple trainings and county-wide groups related to equity to continue to educate our staff about equity issues and how to incorporate equity into the work that we do.
Trainings included:
 - a. Race, The Power of an Illusion, Episode 3: The House We Live In – 2 Sessions
 - b. Advancing Racial Equity – The Role of Government – 1 Session
 - c. Specialized equity training offered by the Transportation Research Board, Eno Center for Transportation, American Planning Association, and Institute of Traffic Engineers regarding equity in transportationGroups included:
 - a. County-wide data management and related groups – 2 Groups
 - b. Industry equity group (Development Community)

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- d. Richmond Highway Corridor United Communities
 - e. County-wide community outreach group
 - f. Language access root cause analysis group
- Continued discussion with Executive Team: We had several sessions with the Executive Team to educate them and promote looking at our work through an equity lens.
 - Updated Equity Team charter to reflect operations: This action was taken to ensure that equity work can continue seamlessly in FCDOT during staff changes and so everyone understands the role of the Equity Team. The charter was modified to address issues identified since the initiation of the Equity Team.
 - Expanded staff recruitment outreach. The following job boards were used in 2022:
 - Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO)
 - Women in Transportation (WTS)
 - Young Professionals in Transportation (YPT)

Goal 2: Continue incorporating equity into FCDOT planning, projects and services

Goal 2 Progress:

- Continued work to identify activities related to equity in FCDOT work for each division or subject area. The Equity Team's Baseline Committee worked to define and evaluate the metrics related to social equity activities within the context of the work conducted by each division. The purpose is to develop a baseline so we can evaluate whether changes enhance equity or not. The Baseline Committee completed the draft report covering some technical areas at the end of 2021. We are currently working to expand the draft report.
- Continued work to collect and analyze demographic and socioeconomic data to determine whether inequities and disparities exist in the Traffic Calming program in Traffic Engineering. The purpose was to identify whether certain programs in the Traffic Engineering Section disproportionately affect regions of the county and those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged. In the last two years we have received fewer requests from census block groups that include households with lower median incomes than those with households in the upper income groups. This is a request-based program so it is not entirely clear why some neighborhoods are requesting fewer traffic calming studies but we are working on translating our Traffic Calming materials into several other languages to help provide information to more County residents.
- Equity baseline analysis was initiated for the Residential Parking Permit Program and the Community Parking District Program.
- Continued to Implement FCDOT's 2020 Update of Title VI Program. FCDOT and Fairfax Connector operate programs and services without regard to race, color, and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Since FCDOT receives federal funds, we

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are required to submit an updated Title VI Program to FTA every three years. FCDOT must also document non-discrimination as well as take proactive steps to ensure non-discrimination. Key Title VI documents and policies of the program include:

- a. Language Access Plan (part of Goal 3).
- b. Public Participation Plan (part of Goal 3).
- c. Service Standards and Monitoring.
- d. Major Service Change Policy.
- e. Disparate Impact and Disproportionate Burden Policy.

The Title VI program is evaluated in an ongoing basis based on the service standards and monitoring plan within the Title VI plan. The plan will be updated in 2023.

- Development of Spot Improvement Framework: The framework will be used to identify locations for future improvements based on Safety and Equity. FCDOT completed the framework document in 2021 and we are currently analyzing the Annandale Pilot Area. FCDOT received Board approval and funding to screen the entire county over the next few years.
- Active Fairfax incorporated demographic data to understand where individuals with the highest need for transportation options are most densely located and help prioritize transportation improvements to address inequities and meet basic needs. High transportation need includes areas that do not currently have access to high quality transportation facilities, places where people are more dependent on active transportation due to age, ability, or income, and areas where people do not typically engage in the planning process. This analysis supports the additional ways the County is working to identify and address inequity through the One Fairfax initiative, and can be updated over time, as new data becomes available.
- For the Richmond Highway Transportation Funding Plan, we incorporated the Active Fairfax demographic measures into the prioritization metric when assessing the planned improvements in the corridor. This allowed locations with higher vulnerability to be considered as a factor when prioritizing the planned improvements.
- When preparing the Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways Alternatives Analysis and Long-Term Planning Study, we utilized the County's Vulnerability Index to ensure that our recommendations, and priorities, were spread equitably through the different populations along the Parkways corridors.
- Within entitlement review applications, Site Analysis Section created a step in the review process that further considers the various demographics of the area where an application is submitted to aid our review. Additionally, SAS continued to advocate for ADA improvements, public transportation, and TDM commitments with applications reviewed.
- Input to the Transit Development Plan/Transit Strategic Plan from the subarea studies to address equitable transit needs
 - Proposed routes to provide service within ¼ mile of an equity emphasis area, as designated by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.
 - Analysis of high transit propensity populations areas, to ensure equity in service availability, frequency, and span

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- Reston-Herndon Bus Review Plan - Approved by the Board in February 2022 and implemented in November 2022.
 - Population and households served within ¼ mile of the system increased by:
 - 24% for minority population
 - 23% low-income households (At or below \$50,000)
- Service Changes
 - Route 599 fare reduction from \$7.50 to \$4.25 - October 2022
 - Route 630 was rerouted to serve a planned senior housing development in Centreville - July 2021
 - New bus timetables in both English and Spanish
- Other initiatives
 - TRIP grant - State grant program supporting low/no fare programs to increase transit ridership - May 2022
 - Student Bus Pass Program - Free student Bus Pass Program was expanded to George C. Marshall High School - September 2022
- Residential Traffic Administration Program Transportation Meetings
 - Meeting conducted to review and explain the current Residential Traffic Assistance Program. Discussed the step and procedures of the program including discussion of how Equity is being used for the program in each district.
- Initiated pedestrian safety improvement in the Culmore Area of the County including planning for missing sidewalk links and an additional pedestrian crossing on Route 7. This area of the County is classified as “Very High Vulnerability”. Public outreach for this project is being done in both English and Spanish (also applicable to Goal 3).

Goal 3: Continue to build FCDOT capacity to implement inclusive community engagement efforts

Goal 3 Progress:

- FCDOT continues to enhance its community outreach and engagement strategy for inclusivity and representation from historically underrepresented communities in transportation planning, project implementation and service delivery. The goal is to better engage historically underrepresented groups including people with limited English proficiency, people of color, people with disabilities, low-income populations, and older individuals. FCDOT continues to collaborate with multitude of partners in this effort including community-based and advocacy organizations, human services agencies, One Fairfax team, business community, Virginia Department of Transportation, Department of Rail and Public Transit, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, neighboring jurisdictions, Fairfax County Public Schools, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, Northern

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Virginia Transportation Commission, Department of Planning and Development, Department of Economic Initiatives, Office of Public Affairs, and outreach consultants. In 2022, these strategic efforts resulted in increased participation by historically underrepresented communities in the decision making for transportation planning, project implementation and service delivery. Some of the efforts having experienced more equitable community participation included:

- a. Active Fairfax Transportation Plan
 - b. Transit Strategic Plan
 - c. Bus Route Optimization Studies
 - d. Free Student Bus Pass Program
 - e. Richmond Highway BRT
 - f. Seven Corners Phasing Study
 - g. Transform I-66
 - h. I-495 NEXT
 - i. DPRT Transit Modernization and Equity Study
 - j. Sidewalk improvements
 - k. Bus stop improvements
- Continued to Implement FCDOT's 2020 Update of the Title VI Program including Language Access and Public Participation Plans in all FCDOT activities (see Goal 2 implementation for details).
 - Seven Corners Phasing Study outreach as part of the second round of public meetings. We held pop up meetings including on a Saturday to try and target marginalized populations. Specifically, we located at the Transit Center in Seven Corners and had another location working with NCS at the Willston School where they used their contacts to bring in people from the surrounding community.
 - Installed Commemorative Street Sign: Vulluvar Way
 - a. The sign was placed in order to commemorate the Tamil poet, Thiruvalluvar. More information can be found at [[New Street Signs Installed Designating Valluvar Way on Brentwall Drive in Chantilly | Transportation \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)]
 - Renaming of Route 29 and Route 50
 - a. The Board approved the renaming of Lee Highway and Lee Jackson Memorial Highway to Route 29 and Route 50, respectively.
 - b. The resolution has been forwarded to VDOT for consideration by the Commonwealth Transportation Board
 - c. County-wide and more targeted outreach was done for public input into the potential renaming
 - d. A grant program is being developed to assist residents and businesses impacted by the name change
 - Silver Line Extension Outreach

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- a. Conducted outreach at new Silver Line Stations, Park and Rides, and Transit Centers during peak, off-peak, and weekend hours to inform transit riders of changes to bus service. Distributed materials in English and Spanish.