

Executive Management Committee February 15, 2018 Legistar File 2017-0912



Access to opportunity: a core concept to public decision-making, public investment, and public service

- Vast disparity exists in LA County among neighborhoods and individuals:
  - To seize opportunity jobs, housing, education, health, safety;
  - > To improve their circumstances to do so.
- Transportation is an essential lever to enable that access.



#### Why an Equity Platform now?

- As a transportation leader, Metro can and should address disparities.
- Metro has already signaled a change:
  - Measure M: performance metric considerations
  - New Long Range Transportation Plan committed early to Equity
  - Recent, targeted community collaborations (First/Last Mile, Rail to Rail grant effort)
- Exploratory outreach to LA County equity thought leaders



Multi-point Equity Platform built around four pillars:

- I. Define and Measure
- II. Listen and Learn
- III. Focus and Deliver
- IV. Train and Grow



#### I. Define and Measure

Need a common basis to build an equity agenda.

- "Equity" holds different perspectives and priorities for many.
- Inequity → fundamental differences in access to opportunity
- Race and Class—historically and currently predominate disparities in LA County
  - > Concentrated in poor, minority communities
  - Age, gender, disability, and residency also can expand or constrain opportunities



### I. Define and Measure (cont.)

- Pursue an inclusive conversation that commits to:
  - Establish meaningful goals around a shared definition of equity and actions to achieve those goals;
  - Define metrics to evaluate outcomes, including investment decisions;
  - Ensure consideration at the front end, not the back end;
  - > Seek out and involve the diverse range of voices that must collaborate on above.



### II. Listen and Learn

Establish comprehensive, multiple forums to engage the community meaningfully and actively in defining, measuring and acting on equitable outcomes.

- Open the conversation with LA's community members to address:
  - where achieving equity has been problematic broadly, and specific to transportation;
  - where improved relationships, partnerships and actions can advance more equitable transportation outcomes going forward.



### II. Listen and Learn (cont.)

- Recognizing past experience provides foundation for a different future.
- Community-driven conversation is essential.
  - > Seek best practices.
  - Establish distinct advisory body for the equity agenda.
  - Engage CBOs in community outreach and problem solving.
  - Build local government technical capacity serving historically underserved communities



#### III. Focus and Deliver

The Long Range Transportation Plan is unifying activity with 2 major crosscutting Equity arenas:

- Where Metro Leads
  - > Transportation planner, operator, builder and funder;
  - Performance-based investment decisions that:
    - a) advance outcomes to promote and sustain opportunities;
    - avoid outcomes that aggravate disparities in opportunity;
  - > Operating/maintaining the system impacts opportunity as much as infrastructure investments.



### III. Focus and Deliver (cont.)

- Where Metro Partners
  - Beyond Metro's core transportation responsibilities—Land Use
  - Gentrification/displacement/affordable housing
    - An urgent issue in every corner of the county
    - Metro cannot address alone—Partners are essential: local government, business, community advocates, foundations



#### IV. Train and Grow

A new equity agenda requires "top-to-bottom" ownership throughout the agency.

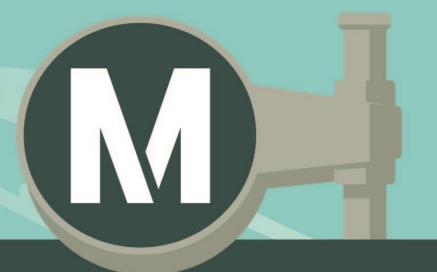
- Training in two important areas:
  - Methods to evaluate equity including data collection, measurement and analysis;
  - Approaches to effectively communicate and work with communities with priority and respect for equity issues.



### **Next Steps**

- The Equity Platform is a framework.
- It intends to shape specific analyses and actions going forward.
- Experience may redirect and improve the platform.
- The PAC is an essential touchstone for input and checkpoint for progress.
- Presentations to the Metro Board are key.





# Thank you

