Metro Equity Platform Framework

Summary and Objectives

Metro Equity Platform Framework

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.

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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

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Multi-point Equity Platform is built on four pillars:

    I. Define and Measure

    II. Listen and Learn

    III. Focus and Deliver

    IV. Train and Grow

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I. Define and Measure

Need a common basis to build an equity agenda.

- "Equity" holds different perspectives and priorities for many.
- <u>Inequity</u> → 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

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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.

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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.

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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

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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;
    - b) avoid outcomes that aggravate disparities in opportunity;
  - ➢ Operating/maintaining the system impacts opportunity as much as infrastructure investments.

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III. Focus and Deliver (cont.)

- Where Metro **Partners**
  - ➢ Beyond Metro's core transportation responsibilities—Housing, Public Health, Economic Development
  - ➢ Example: Gentrification/displacement/ affordable housing
    - o An urgent issue in every corner of the county
    - o Metro cannot address alone—Partners are essential: local government, business, community advocates, foundations

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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.

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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 Policy Advisory Council (PAC) is an essential touchstone for input and checkpoint for progress.

- Presentations to the Metro Board are key.

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Thank you

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