

2050 MTP – Alternatives Analysis

Equity Performance Measures

The DCHC MPO is currently working with transportation network and population socio-economic data to develop performance measures based on race/ethnicity, income, and automobile ownership. These measures will compare the average commute times and distance, and the access to employment among the general population and those of the equity groups. While these equity measures are being developed for the particular DCHC MPO planning area, the MPO believes it is important to ensure the public that the MPO strongly considers the problem of equity in terms of transportation. Below, is a copy of a message from NCDOT Deputy Secretary Julie White, dated July 20, 2021. The data in this message demonstrates the transportation disadvantages for people of color. Although this data is for North Carolina, the MPO clearly understands that similar disparities exist in the DCHC MPO area.

Multimodal Transportation Advancing Equity Message from Deputy Secretary Julie White

As our state continues its efforts to address systemic racism, the multimodal transportation divisions have been considering the ways that transportation can be used to increase opportunity for all North Carolinians. We have been developing plans for internal and external strategies to place equity at the center of our work and use data to better understand the connections between transportation – especially public transportation – and equity.

The Integrated Mobility Division recently shared some key statistics on the topic:

- On average, communities of color have lower vehicle ownership rates, live further from work, are more likely to depend on public transportation, and are more likely to be involved in a crash as a pedestrian.
- In North Carolina, communities of color are nearly three times more likely to live in a household without a car ([National Equity Atlas](#)).
- Over 60% of transit riders in North Carolina are people of color compared to about 30% of the entire population ([Census ACS data](#)).
- Average commute time by transit in North Carolina is 43 minutes compared to 24 minutes for the average drive making a commute ([National Equity Atlas](#)). Because communities of color are less likely to have access to a vehicle and more likely to use transit, average commute time for communities of color is higher.
- There is also a noticeable disparity in pedestrian safety for communities of color. Between 2015 and 2019, 55% of pedestrians, on average, involved in crashes in North Carolina were people of color compared to about 30% of the population ([HSRC Ped Bike Crash Data](#)).

These data points are a powerful reminder that transportation infrastructure can reflect and reinforce disparities. We will continue to work with our partners within NCDOT, across North Carolina and at the federal level to identify policies that reverse these trends and leverage transportation to support underserved communities.