

**Capital District Transportation Committee
Equity Advisory Committee
October 17, 2022, at 5:30 pm**

Agenda

In-Person Location: CDTC's Office at 1 Park Place, Main Floor, Conference Room Albany, NY 12205

Virtual location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86181708738>

1. Introductions
2. July Meeting Notes
3. CDTC Equity Resolution Development (see attached proposal to the CDTC Policy Board)
4. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - a. Equity Advisory Committee comment submitted regarding Federal Street design project
 - b. Adoption and outcome of public engagement
 - c. New TIP Environmental Justice (EJ) Analysis
5. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Solicitation for 2023-24
6. [Job Access Report](#)
 - a. [Planning Committee](#) (Aug 3) and [Policy Board](#) (Sept 1) presentations
7. ADA Transition Plans updates – Albany and Saratoga
8. Updates on the EPA and the Port Authority
9. News around the table / Open discussion

Next meeting date and time – **November 14, 5:30 pm? December 12, 5:30 pm?**

EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: July 18, 2022

Start Time: 5:30p

End Time: 8:00p

Facilitator: Rima Shamieh

Study/Project/Task: Equity Advisory Committee, 1.66

Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Elaine Frazier	self
Ifeachor Potts	self
Dan Davis	self
Travon Jackson	self
Stephen Maples	CDTC

Agenda Items

1. Introductions

2. May Meeting Notes

No notes

3. Development of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Tool – asking for feedback from the Equity AC

Rima presented the list of data sources for review and comment. Stephen talked about the connection of health disparities, race, and legal challenges around transportation funding.

Ifeachor: Census data is lacking for homeless populations. Plug into HATAS (Homeless and Travelers Aid Society), DHS, DSS for more data on unhoused populations. Healthy Capital District for more info/data on uninsured. Both populations are likely underreported in Census. Home Health Network and HIXNY could be sources of data for health metrics. Not sure who controls the data, might be related to the Medicare redesign. They have data for the whole region, not limited to municipality/county. USDA – is this locally sourced data or national data? Locals may have more fine grain detail/resolution.

Elaine: Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities – it's an Albany, Troy, Schenectady task force. We should reach out to Greg Owens to compare notes. Federally created mechanism. May have insight into health metrics and/or data to identify or collect. The task force declined to comment on I-787 process. We shouldn't walk away from race as a factor in health disparities and the role of transportation in it. CDTC should also go back to Census and ask directly for the most up-to-date data. CDTC is in a position to demand more data for transportation purposes. CDTC is also in a position of leverage for state and local data – maybe even community groups. CDTC may be politically insulated to get sensitive/politically fraught data. Made a point about public safety on public transit. Some metrics/data may exist in current 787 documents/materials. What does CDTC want? Could the planning efforts at CDTC be used for political cover for development that continues to disadvantage communities? I don't want to see the planning and products of CDTC to avoid race.

Travon: There is an Albany County report (legislature) on food deserts built from USDA definitions and some data, available online. Infrastructure might include miles of boardwalk/waterfront access, related to how/where people

exercise in urban areas. Does the Equity AC want to help with the framing of the database and construction? The Equity AC should propose the framework of the HIA, rather than respond to the framework as given

4. Jobs Access Report (formerly known as the Transportation, Race and Poverty Report)

- a. Planning Committee presentation on August 3
- b. Possible Policy Board presentation on September 1

Rima: Final draft will be sent around by the end of the week

5. Tasks Related to the Future of the Committee

- a. Research on how other MPOs run their Equity committees

Travon: are we subject to open meeting laws? (No)

Rima: Outlined the transparency issues around the Equity AC and articulated interest in broadening the discussion to topics that impact transportation

Elaine: There's no other group like this in the area, equity is at the heart of the group and its success

Dan: Local school districts are a direct link and voice to individual communities – where the reach is far more than just transportation issues

- b. Update on new member solicitation

Ifeachor: The level of technical knowledge/learning curve to be involved in the advisory committee is high and is a barrier

Elaine: We need more Schenectady people on this committee.

- c. Report on outreach to the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians tribe

Elaine and Ifeachor raised concerns about the purpose of the effort to reach out to the tribes. What is CDTC/federal gov't offering? What will the tribes get out of the process?

Stephen and Rima told the group that the CDTC Director, Sandy Misiewicz, attended a conference with the FHWA and the New York State tribes and had the opportunity to meet several tribal officials and establish communication. There are 3-4 tribes that are currently federally recognized.

6. Discussion of notable/major projects proposed for the new **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**, such as the new 787 Study and the PEL Grant in Schenectady

Materials will be available for review before the July 18th meeting

Rima presented selected projects that had EJ impacts

Elaine & Ifeachor: Not thrilled with the Federal Street Project. Don't like roundabouts as a pedestrian and bicycle mitigation strategy. Worried about vehicles not stopping, concerned about how bicycles interact with roundabouts, concerned about the seniors and medically impacted residents immediately adjacent to the 6th Avenue intersection

a. 2022-2027 Draft TIP Public review and consultation

You can read the [TIP Public Comment Summary](#) on the CDTC website. The following upcoming public outreach events have been scheduled:

- **July 19th, 6:00 p.m.** TIP Virtual Public Workshop ([please register](#))
- **July 27th, 5:20 – 7:30 p.m.** Open House

Saratoga County Office Building, 50 W. High Street, Ballston Spa, NY

- **July 30th, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Pop-Up Event

[Troy Farmers Market](#)

- **August 2nd, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.** Open House

Albany Public Library Main Branch, 161 Washington Ave, Albany, NY

- **August 7th, 10:00 – 2:00 p.m.** Pop-Up Event

Schenectady Greenmarket at City Hall, Schenectady, NY

Additional events are being scheduled and will be added to the [CDTC 2022-2027 TIP webpage](#) as they are confirmed.

7. CDTC General Information and Updates

a. US EPA’s DRAFT South End Action Plan

- CDTC is identified as a key partner in improving safety and reducing the impact of trucks
- *See attached Powerpoint presentation from the EPA public meeting on 6/28/22*

b. New funding programs announced through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), including the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program and the Thriving Communities Initiative – Technical Assistance.

See attached materials

- c. Virtual public meeting will be held on July 20th, 2022 at 1 pm to provide information and receive feedback on the development of the **State’s National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan**. Get more information [here](#). Visit the state’s [new website](#) about its NEVI program.

Also, see attached materials

News around the table / Open discussion

Announcements: none

Next Meeting: Monday September 12th 5:30pm

CDTC Equity Policy Development Proposal

Introduction

CDTC's staff and its Equity Advisory Committee have been discussing options for more strongly incorporating equity into CDTC's operations and major products. The enactment of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has greatly increased emphasis on equity in the transportation planning process. In addition, the Biden Administration and the Federal Highway Administration have made reconnecting communities and ensuring the inclusion of disadvantaged and under-represented groups in the planning, project selection and design process a priority. The federal discretionary programs resulting from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law have reinforced this priority by adding equity as a foundational program principle or as a project selection criterion. The need for CDTC, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Capital Region, to consider equity in its operations and planning process has never been greater.

At the same time, CDTC has been reassessing the purpose and role of its Equity Advisory Committee with thoughts of expanding its membership, making its business more transparent to our members, stakeholders and the public and to increase the overall impact of the Committee. Research was conducted by CDTC staff to see how other MPOs approach this topic. One resulting idea is for CDTC to define how it will address equity in its operations and planning process through policy. That idea was shared with the August 2022 Administrative and Financial Standing Committee and has resulted in a proposal to develop an Equity Policy for CDTC.

Proposal

If authorized by CDTC's Policy Board, CDTC staff would work with CDTC's Planning Committee, the Equity Advisory Committee, and other stakeholders to develop an equity policy to be adopted via resolution by CDTC. The resolution could cover a number of topics such as:

- Ensuring that equity is a regional goal and that progress toward this goal is measured in CDTC's planning work.
- Including robust representation from communities of color in CDTC boards, committees and staff that reflect the demographics of our region.
- Reviewing policies and programs to ensure equitable funding toward disinvested communities and jobs access.
- Addressing the needs of historically disadvantaged populations in the transportation planning and project selection process through enhanced Environmental Justice analysis, public engagement, and other activities.
- Providing additional support and a defining the role of CDTC's Equity Advisory Committee.

A policy could be developed for Policy Board consideration at its December 2022 meeting.

2023-2024 Unified Planning Work Program Solicitation

Background

The UPWP identifies the transportation planning activities undertaken by CDTC's staff and consultants to not only support CDTC's federal requirements, but to support regional and local transportation planning activities. Last year, CDTC moved to an annual update of the UPWP due to uncertainties with federal planning priorities and funding. Since then, the enactment of the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) has increased CDTC's planning funds and identified new planning priorities. CDTC has also increased its staffing to provide additional technical assistance to the region, especially local governments. CDTC is planning to initiate the work plan development process this fall, covering the period April 1, 2023 through March 30, 2024.

Proposal

With Policy Board approval, CDTC staff will work with the Planning Committee to develop a solicitation for transportation planning projects that emphasize the priorities of the metropolitan transportation plan, New Visions 2050, and the planning priorities of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. An estimated \$1 million in federal planning funds may be available through this solicitation with a 10% cash or 10% in-kind services match likely to be required (cash will be preferred for consultant requests). Eligible initiatives may include but are not limited to:

- Corridor Studies
- Traffic Signal/Operations Studies
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans
- Transit Oriented Development/Land Use Planning
- Curbside Management Plans
- Crash Data Analysis and Safety Plans
- Complete Streets Planning
- Parking and Transportation Demand Management Plans
- Freight Planning
- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Planning
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Carbon Reduction/Resiliency Planning

Proposed Schedule

October 5, 2022: Present draft solicitation material to CDTC Planning Committee for approval.

November 23, 2022: Submission deadline, staff begins evaluations.

December 1, 2022: Share available funding and project proposals with CDTC Policy Board.

January 4, 2023: Planning project evaluations and staff recommendations shared with the Planning Committee for review and approval.

February 1, 2023: Draft UPWP provided to Planning Committee for approval, begin 25 day public comment period.

March 2, 2023: 2023-2024 UPWP approved by CDTC Policy Board.