Public Participation Plan
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
FTA’s Environmental Justice Circular

- Circular 4703.1 is effective August 15, 2012.
- Provide recipients of FTA financial assistance with guidance in order to incorporate environmental justice principles into plans, projects, and activities that receive funding from FTA.
- Title VI is one of the tools used by Federal agencies to implement this directive.
Engage EJ Populations At All Stages of Project Development

- **Step 1**: Know Your Community by analyzing demographic data
- **Step 2**: Develop Public Engagement Plan that responds to community
- **Step 3**: Consider Proposed Project & Likely Adverse Effects and Benefits
- **Step 4**: Select alternative, incorporate mitigation as needed

**EJ/Title VI Populations** – Minority, Low Income, Limited English Proficient
Metro’s Service Area

- In the WMATA service area, per Census, minorities represent **58** percent of the area population.

- Thirty percent of the population is African American. Hispanics represent almost 15 percent and Asians represent almost 11 percent of the service area population.

- While extremely diverse in race and ethnicity, the WMATA service area has a relatively low proportion of persons living below the federally defined poverty level. **Eight percent** of the total population, live below the poverty level.
Metro’s systemwide demographic profile is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Annual Ridership (FY 11)</th>
<th>% Minority Ridership</th>
<th>% Low Income Ridership</th>
<th>Annual Minority Trips</th>
<th>Annual Low Income Trips</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rail</strong></td>
<td>217,053,000</td>
<td>53.96%</td>
<td>14.19%</td>
<td>117,121,799</td>
<td>30,799,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bus</strong></td>
<td>125,089,000</td>
<td>75.00%</td>
<td>42.00%</td>
<td>93,816,750</td>
<td>52,537,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MACS</strong></td>
<td>2,336,000</td>
<td>73.00%</td>
<td>43.40%</td>
<td>1,705,280</td>
<td>1,013,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>344,478,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>212,643,829</td>
<td>84,351,025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Systemwide Minority and Low Income Ridership: 61.73% 24.49%
Limited English Proficient Populations

- Almost 826,000 persons, 24 percent of the Washington region are foreign born.

- Twenty-seven percent of the region’s population speaks a language other than English at home, eleven percent of which speak English less than “very well” and almost six percent of which speak English less than “well”.

- In the WMATA service area, Arlington, VA; Alexandria VA; Fairfax County, VA; Fairfax City, VA and Montgomery County, MD have LEP populations exceeding five (5%) percent.

- Of the languages, other than English, spoken by population in the region, the following are most prevalent:
  - Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, African Languages, French, Persian/Farsi
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**Step 1**
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**Step 2**
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**Step 3**
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**Step 4**
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*EJ/Title VI Populations – Minority, Low Income, Limited English Proficient*
Achieving Meaningful Public Engagement

Public engagement helps to:

- Identify transit needs of EJ/Title VI populations and set priorities
- Identify proposed projects benefits and burdens
- Identify mitigation measures
Benchmarking

BART Public Participation Plan

- Hosted 22 community meetings
- Drafted PPP and sought comment
  - Language specific & Braille
- Second round of 7 meetings (incl. Board)
- 19 Information Meetings with LEP stakeholders (over 400 persons)
- Public participation survey (1,350 responses)
Some of BARTs Findings

1. “You have to met them where they are” -- this means unconventional methods.
2. Some LEP persons prefer translated materials; others an interpreter.
3. Stronger preference for weekend meetings.
4. Free and/or accessible transportation
5. Seat drops, flyers at turnstiles, ads on trains
6. Child care and refreshments
7. Most do not use the Internet – prefer TV and flyers
8. Can receive text messages but not necessarily smart phones with Internet service
9. Coordinate with others – tenant associations, social services, recreation/youth/senior oriented organizations