



MEMORANDUM

**To:** CMAP Climate Committee

**From:** CMAP Staff

**Date:** July 18, 2024

**Subject:** Update on Environmental Justice Framework

**Action Requested:** Information

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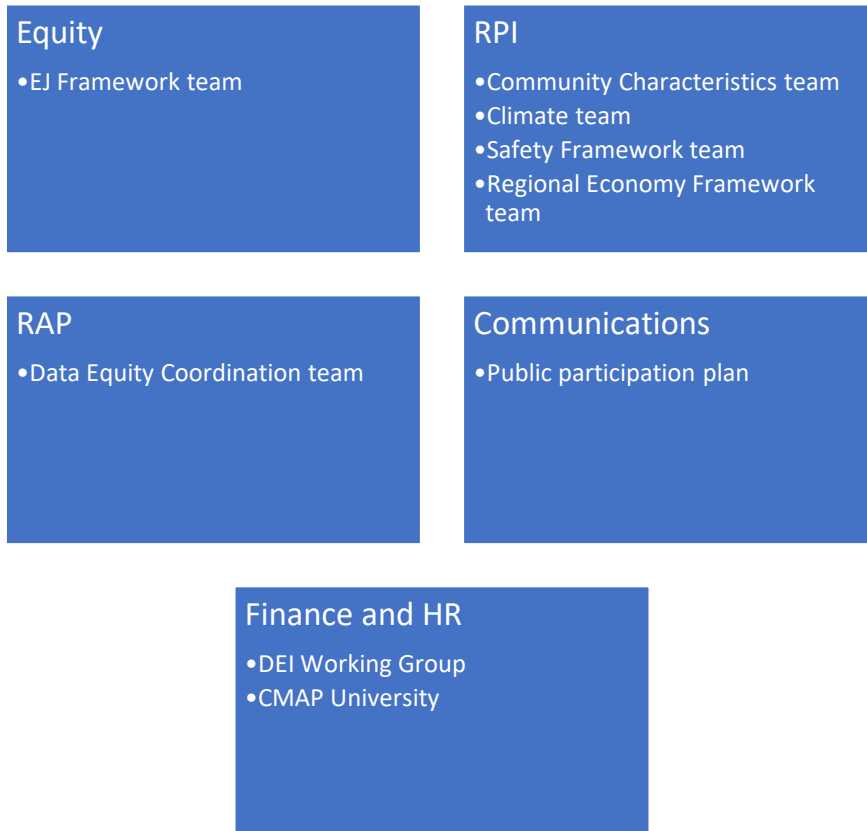
The Agency launched the Environmental Justice Framework (EJ) project in January of 2024 with the goal of collating current activities, identifying opportunities to enhance EJ and make recommendations. A team of planners, analysts and statisticians is working with internal and external stakeholders to identify best practices and identify pathways for implementation. Staff will provide an overview of our initial findings and request suggestions for external subject matter experts who can provide additional feedback.

**Background**

CMAP affirmed its commitment to equity by launching the Equity program area in January of 2024. The five-year effort aims to understand the needs of disinvested communities and deliver the most critical technical assistance at the intersection of capacity building, climate, and equitable quality of life. The framework is the first major project and will help define the goals, outcome and activities for EJ work at CMAP

**What we've heard so far**

The EJ framework team, using snowball sampling, interviewed 8 CMAP project teams representing every division. The question script asked open ended questions with the goal of understanding staff knowledge of EJ requirements, which programs meet what requirements and what support they'd need in furtherance of environmental justice.



Asking open ended questions, the EJ team collated our notes and organized the feedback into 5 sections: Internal coordination and training, Policy analysis, Data collection, Analysis and visualization, Programming investments and Community engagement. A summary is included below:

Internal coordination + training	Policy Analysis	Data collection, analysis, visualization, and sharing	Programming investments	Community engagement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Framework is first comprehensive effort to coordinate EJ efforts across CMAP</li> <li>• Centralizing resources, rules and obligations could save staff time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EJ policy is distributed across Title VI and not explicitly mentioned in CMAP materials</li> <li>• Framework will recommend clarifying which programs and processes meet EJ obligations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMAP possess rich collection of data sources concerning EJ topics</li> <li>• Various tools need to be organized, regularly updated and have explanations of when and how to use them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comprehensive, plain language explanation of how transit investments meet EJ goals</li> <li>• Create 'Citizen Guide' explaining EJ efforts and how RSP meets obligations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Participation plans meet with diverse groups for RTP</li> <li>• Clarify how engagement practices lead to changes in investment strategy</li> <li>• Provide trainings on EJ tools</li> </ul>

## **Next steps**

The EJ framework team is producing the first draft of its memo and will meet with internal and external stakeholders for additional feedback.

Simultaneous to the revisions, the EJ team will select one recommendation and implement it before the end of the 2024 calendar year.