Agenda

• Welcome
  • Caitlin Cook, AMPO

• Introductions
  • Gena Torres, Plan Hillsborough

• 2021 Title VI, Nondiscrimination Equity Plan
  • Joshua Barber, Plan Hillsborough
  • Dayna Lazarus, Plan Hillsborough

• Equity + Active Transportation
  • Eva Lizette Garcia, Rio Grande Valley MPO

• Q&A

• Thank You
Active Transportation Working Group

• Upcoming Webinars
  • Thursday, May 13th at 2:00 PM ET
  • Thursday, August 12th at 2:00 PM ET
  • Thursday, November 4th at 2:00 PM ET

• Upcoming Coffee Chats
  • Thursday, April 8th at 2:00 PM ET
  • Thursday, July 8th at 2:00 PM ET
  • Thursday, October 14th, at 2:00 PM ET
Meet the Speakers

Plan
Hillsborough

Dayna Lazarus
Community Planner II

Joshua Barber
Planner II
2021 Title VI, Nondiscrimination, Equity Plan

February 2021

Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
Nondiscrimination Assurance and Legislation

The Hillsborough MPO and Planning Commission ensures that no persons shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity on the basis of:

- **Race, Ethnicity, Color, or National Origin** – Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- **Family Status** – Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992
- **Ability** – Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- **Gender and Sexual Orientation** – *Bostock v. Clayton County*
- **Age** – Age Discrimination Act of 1975
Executive Order on Environmental Justice (1994)

• Requires us to evaluate and address disproportionately high and adverse health or environmental effects in our programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations
Executive Order on Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency

• Required to take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to those who are Limited English Proficient

% of limited English-speaking households in Hillsborough County: 6.3%
Of those:
• 23% speak Spanish
• 10% speak another Indo-European language
• 19% Speak an Asian or Pacific Island language
Project Background

- Hillsborough MPO *Title VI and Nondiscrimination Plan* adopted by MPO in March 2018
  - 3-year update cycle
- Nondiscrimination Plan covers:
  - Title VI assurances, complaint process, procedures, and staff liaison
  - Identifying underserved communities and where they are located
  - How we engage those communities in planning process
  - How we evaluate the equity outcomes of our plans
  - How we integrated Title VI/Nondiscrimination in our primary program areas
  - Recommendations
- 2021 Plan will be expanded to include The Hillsborough City-County Planning Commission
Goals of an Agencywide Plan

• Meet Federal and State Requirements for Title VI, Environmental Justice, and Nondiscrimination

• Institutionalize Equity as a priority throughout the Hillsborough Metropolitan Organization, Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission and Hillsborough River Board

• Update and expand community maps, evaluation of equity conditions, and assessment of planning outcomes.

• Improve community engagement and empowerment processes, strategies, and data tracking.

• Improve community representation throughout the agency.
Work Program

• Define equity
• Review the history of discriminatory planning policy in our community
• Identify and map Title VI, EJ, and other underserved communities
• Review existing public engagement processes and equity in agency planning work
• Conduct a community engagement process
• Provide agency recommendations
Major Components of Equity

**Distribution** – of benefits and burdens

**Recognition** – of historical and current inequity, and systems that uphold those inequities

**Interaction** – quality of interpersonal interactions and relationships

**Care and Repair** – Maintenance and upkeep of public spaces

**Procedure** – how decisions are made, who makes them, who is involved
History of Inequity in Planning in Hillsborough County

- Early Zoning Codes and Comprehensive Plans
- Public and Private Housing, Mortgage Lending, HOLC
- Urban Renewal
- Highway Construction
Historic Zoning and Comprehensive Plan

- First proposed routing of Interstate 275 beside Central Avenue, which states that such a project, “…would do much towards clearing up a blighted slum north of Cass Street on both sides of Central Ave.” (1941 Street Plan)

- “The whole “Scrub” area should be rehabilitated by the construction of a new housing development there – either publicly or privately financed. Other small areas occupied by [Black] people should be eliminated, and those residents be transferred to other areas.” (1942 Zoning Plan)
Urban Renewal

• 4 Projects in Hillsborough County
  • The Scrub/Maryland Avenue
  • Riverfront
  • Ybor City
  • Plant City

• Robert Saunders said of the Maryland Avenue project, “It is clear that if this program continues as it in now progressing... that Black people in Tampa, “…will be relegated to a continues pattern of racially segregated housing for the next fifty to one hundred years.” (1963)
Community Mapping

• Dot Density and Threshold Methodology
• Demographics:
  • Race
  • Ethnicity (Hispanic)
  • Persons with a disability
  • Low-income households
  • Female head of households
  • Limited English proficient individuals
  • Zero vehicle households
  • Youth
  • Older adults
• Intersections
Threshold Maps
Evaluation of Existing Work

- Planning Commission
  - Comprehensive Plans
  - Special Area Studies
  - Public Engagement
- MPO
  - LRTP
  - TIP
  - Complete Streets, Vision Zero
  - Resiliency, Health, TD
  - Public Engagement
  - Other Program Areas
Public Engagement

Community leadership is a key component to advancing equity.

Focus on underserved communities protected by State and Federal legislation, including:

- Racial/Ethnic minorities
- Low-Income persons
- Persons with disabilities
- + more

Purpose of Engagement Component:
1. Generating recommendations in the Nondiscrimination Plan
2. Building new relationships.
Three Engagement Phases

I. Early Engagement (2 months)
   Who should be at the table?
   Who is already engaged?
   a. Contact Lists
   b. Website
   c. Branding

II. Active Engagement (5 months)
   a. Survey
   b. Field Outreach
   c. Storytelling Forum Event
   d. Focus Groups

III. Ongoing Engagement (ongoing)
   Build trust and relationships by:
   a. Carrying out the recommendations.
   b. Bringing the finished Plan back to the community to show them where their input was considered.
Survey

**Purpose:** To collect quantitative data on accessibility issues and on opinions/experiences with direct and systemic discrimination from underserved communities.

Data trends used to guide focus group and forum questions where we can dig deeper into challenges and solutions.

**Method**

1. **Virtual Survey (in English)**
   a. Email to contacts from Early Engagement
   b. Social media posts

2. **Paper Survey (in English + Spanish)**
   a. Used in field outreach
   b. Postage-paid envelope drop-offs
Field Outreach

**Purpose:** To verbally administer surveys with members of underserved communities and ensure oversampling.

**Method**

1. Produced **materials** (flyer and survey)
2. Using GIS **maps**, identified EJ block groups
3. Identified popular community **hot spots**
4. Went into the **field** — Knocked doors and stood at hot spots 3 days/week, 5 hours/day, 7 weeks

**Staff:** One lead, one local member of community, one fluent in Spanish

**Goal:** 50 surveys, or one per staff member per day
Field Outreach

Why do field outreach this way?

1. We must meet people where they’re at.
2. So we can oversample members of EJ communities.
3. Data shows that face-to-face is best way to engage and form new relationships.
4. Regular people don’t always go to interest group meetings.
5. During Covid-19, interest group meetings infrequent; moved online but targeted group don’t have computers.
Field Outreach during Covid -19

Safety Plan

• We will be WEARING masks and gloves. We will bring hand sanitizer for us to use.
• We will bring pens, masks and hand sanitizer to GIVE AWAY.
• We will ONLY SPEAK TO PEOPLE WEARING MASKS. We will primarily approach people that are already wearing masks. We will offer masks to people as a condition to speaking with us.

Materials

To Give away:
• Face masks
• Hand sanitizers
• Pens
• Flyers with survey link
• Postage paid surveys

For Us:
• Latex gloves
• Face masks
• Face shields
• Pens to give away
• Hand sanitizer
Storytelling Forum

Purpose: To provide an opportunity to everyone in Hillsborough County to offer their stories/experiences and ideas for solutions.

Stories put a face to a problem, give people practice speaking their truth, and provide “heart” data to decision-makers.

Method

• Leveraged community partnerships
• Utilized Virtual (Zoom) platform
• Kicked off the meeting with a presentation on the history of discriminatory planning.
• Facilitated storytelling discussion with attendees.
Focus Groups

**Purpose:** To dig deeper into challenges faced by state and federally protected communities, discuss solutions and identify key recommendations.

**Method**

- Recruiting people who did the survey and meet certain criteria (range of ages, disabilities, gender).
- Hosting 5 virtual focus groups:
  1. Black | African/American
  2. Latinx | Hispanic
  3. Low-Income
  4. LGBTQ
  5. People with Disabilities
Example Recommendations

• Agency-Wide:
  • Continue to expand engagement with traditionally underserved or underrepresented communities
  • Coordinate community planning efforts across transportation, housing, land use, community health, and other planning areas
  • Ensure that community characteristics and history are surveyed for every plan or project

• MPO:
  • Use Environmental Justice areas to prioritize TIP projects
  • Explore a participatory budgeting process for TIP and UPWP projects
  • Continue to explore demographic based seats on committees
  • Continue to develop methods of evaluating environmental justice impacts of projects and plans

• Planning Commission:
  • Explore opportunities to prevent displacement from gentrification
  • Identify opportunities for improving access to housing, parks and recreation, and other comprehensive planning areas
Meet the Speaker

Eva Lizette Garcia
Bike/Ped Program Coordinator
Equity + Active Transportation

Eva Lizette Garcia
Rio Grande Valley MPO
Planner III: Bike/Ped Program Coordinator
egarcia@rgvmpo.org
STEP 1: CHECK YOUR PRIVILEGE.

• Access to a motor vehicle for your own use?
• Access to a shared motor vehicle?
• Access to efficient public transportation?
• Access to limited public transportation?
• Access to off-street trail network?
• Access to sidewalks and bike lanes?
• Able to afford gasoline and maintenance for motor vehicle?
• Able to afford tickets/access to public transportation?
• Able to afford a bicycle and basic maintenance/repair?
• Ability to walk and/or ADA compliant street network?
STEP 2: EDUCATE YOURSELF.

• Social Equity: Analysis along socio-demographic lines, i.e. race, gender, age, income, etc., that targets vulnerable or disadvantaged populations

• Spatial Equity: Analysis along geographic areas, which assesses the distributional effects of transportation policies and projects on specific physical locations.

• Structural Ableism: A system that places value on people’s bodies and minds on societally constructed ideas of normalcy, intelligence and excellence. Results in poorly designed infrastructure and/or physical barriers that are difficult for people with mobility aids/needs to navigate.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. CENSUS BUREAU</th>
<th>Brownsville, TX</th>
<th>Cameron County, TX</th>
<th>Texas</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population <strong>estimates, July 1, 2018</strong></td>
<td>183,392</td>
<td>423,908</td>
<td>28,701,845</td>
<td>327,167,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino %</td>
<td>93.9%</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons under 18 years, %</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language other than English spoken at home, % of persons age 5 yrs+, 2013-2017</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
<td>73.4%</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate or higher, % of persons age 25 yrs+, 2013-2017</td>
<td>64.1%</td>
<td>66.2%</td>
<td>82.8%</td>
<td>87.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree or higher, % of persons age 25 yrs+, 2013-2017</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with a broadband internet subscription, %, 2013-2017</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>76.8%</td>
<td>78.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons in poverty, %</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Five counties with highest poverty rates:
- El Paso
- Zapata
- Starr
- Hidalgo
- Cameron

Five counties with lowest poverty rates:
- Denton
- Collin
- Rockwall
- Kendall
- Williamson

Poverty level:
- More than 40%
- $20,614 for a family of 4

1 in 3 people are diabetic.

80% either obese or overweight.

20% higher than the rest of Texas.
23% higher than the national average.
More Health Challenges

- ↑ disability from chronic disease (RGV has high amputation rates)
- Higher rates of morbidity and mortality than state and nation
- Higher rates of cardiovascular disease, cancer, liver, kidney and infectious diseases
- Over 60% of adult population is uninsured
- Health care infrastructure lacking: no public hospitals, median schools
Brownsville, TX and Detroit top list of cities with least broadband access

Dive Brief:

- With 67% of households lacking connected broadband internet, Brownsville, TX topped a list by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) of least connected U.S. cities. Detroit (56.7%) and Hialeah, FL (56.2%) rounded out the top three.
PEOPLE MISSING OUT ON MEDICAL CARE BECAUSE OF LACK OF TRANSPORTATION

3.6 Million

IMPROVING ACCESS = Better and more cost effective care.
• Generate new economic opportunities throughout Cameron County.
• Diversify the local tourism market.
• Link Cameron County communities.
• Create a regional bicycle and pedestrian network.
• Promote healthy lifestyles.
LRGV PADDLING TRAIL SYSTEM

The proposed LRGV Paddling Trail System consists of over 78 miles of water trails connecting the lagoons of Cameron County with the inland communities of Arroyo City, Rio Hondo, and Harlingen. The paddling trail system will cater to canoeists and kayakers interested in paddling adventures lasting from a few hours to multiple days. The system will traverse intra-coastal saltwater lagoons, channelized arroyo segments, and the low-flow upper reaches of the Arroyo Colorado.

Map 3.5. LRGV Paddling Trail System, illustrates general system location. Key design features and considerations related to the proposed LRGV Paddling Trail System can be found beginning on page 3.28.

FIGURE 3-4: LRGV PADDLING TRAIL SYSTEM¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL SEGMENT</th>
<th>KEY FEATURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. South Bay (Existing) (10 Miles)</td>
<td>Route: South Padre Island to South Bay estuary across the Brownsville Shipping Channel. Total. Potential Launches: Isla Blanca Park, South Padre Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. South Padre Island (6 Miles)</td>
<td>Route: Bayside of South Padre Island. Total. Potential Launches: Isla Blanca Park &amp; SPI Convention Center, South Padre Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Port Isabel Channel (6 Miles)</td>
<td>Route: South Bay Trail to Laguna Madre via the Port Isabel Side Channel. Total. Potential Launches: Isla Blanca Park, South Padre Island; Pampasco Park, Port Isabel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Laguna Madre (Port Isabel - Laguna Vista) (6.3 Miles)</td>
<td>Route: Laguna Madre shoreline. Total. Potential Launches: Arroyo Galvan Coastal Park, Pampasco Park, Port Isabel; Sea Garden Park, Laguna Vista; Rolloff Park, Laguna Vista</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Laguna Madre (Laguna Vista - Arroyo Colorado) (25.9 Miles)</td>
<td>Route: Laguna Madre shoreline adjacent to the Laguna Atascosa NWR. Total. Potential Launches: Rolloff Park, Laguna Vista; Holly Beach (subject to new causeway); Adolph Thomase Jr. Park, Arroyo City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Arroyo Colorado (Laguna Madre - Rio Hondo) (20.4 Miles)</td>
<td>Route: Arroyo Colorado channel. Total. Potential Launches: Five (5) total, including: Adolph Thomase Jr. Park, Arroyo City; and Rio Honda City Hall, Rio Honda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Arroyo Colorado (Rio Hondo - Harlingen) (6.7 Miles)</td>
<td>Route: Arroyo Colorado channel. Total. Potential Launches: Rio Honda City Hall, Rio Honda; FM 737 Bridge, Harlingen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Design considerations discussed on pages 3.16 - 3.20.
### A Healthy Advantage

**Expected Economic Benefits from Implementing the Lower Rio Grande Valley Active Transportation and Tourism Plan**

Projected benefits of active transportation and outdoor recreation trails proposed in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Active Transportation and Tourism Plan for Cameron County, Texas, communities.

- **291 miles of trails & routes**
  - 120 miles on-street US Bicycle Route #55
  - 93 miles multi-use trails (75 new, 18 existing)
  - 78 miles paddling trails (68 new, 10 existing)

### Economic Benefits of the Completed Network

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Construction</th>
<th>1,377 full-time jobs</th>
<th>$44.3 million wages</th>
<th>$173 million total economic impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- 3 million walkers, hikers, bicyclists & paddlers each year

### $70 million Annual Spending by Out-of-County Visitors—supporting new & existing local businesses

- 958 full-time jobs
- $30 million wages
- $100 million total economic impact
- $8.4 million state & local taxes
- $7.6 million federal taxes

### LRGV Active Plan — Economic Impacts of Construction of a 291-Mile Trail Network

**Constructing New Trails & Routes = 1,377 Local Jobs, $44 Million Wages**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multi-Use Trails</th>
<th>57 new miles</th>
<th>$64 million construction cost</th>
<th>780 jobs, $25 million wages</th>
<th>$98 million total impact</th>
<th>$3.8 million local &amp; state taxes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paddling Trails</td>
<td>68 new miles</td>
<td>$2 million construction cost</td>
<td>25 jobs, $802,000 wages</td>
<td>$3.1 million total impact</td>
<td>$120,500 local &amp; state taxes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### US Bicycle Route #55

- 120 miles | $47 million construction cost | 572 jobs, $18.4 million wages | $72 million total impact | $2.8 million local & state taxes |

### Economic Study Supporters

[Logos of various supporters including Brownsville National Parks Association, UTRGV, BIC, Rio Grande Valley, etc.]

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Rio Grande Valley
Metropolitan Planning Organization

Formed October 1, 2019

Figure 1-1: RGV Metropolitan Area Boundary
A Comprehensive Approach
**STEP 3: DO THE [EQUITY] WORK.**

**What does transformative systems change look like in the field?**

Where are we seeing real shifts in power and lasting transformation?

Proposed BPAC meeting agenda items for presentations, updates and/or action:

- **March**
  - Transit Development Plan
  - Bicycle and Pedestrian Design Best Practices
  - Regional Data Portal

- **April**
  - Texas Bicycle Tourism Trails Study
  - Regional Design Standards
  - Regional Bike/Ped Count Program
Proposed trail will intersect multiple rural highways. Trail crossings should be designed to provide users with a safe entry and exit facilities including paved surfaces and barriers, marked crosswalks, and alignment gaps. Signalization should warn approaching drivers of the presence of bicyclists and pedestrians. Along rural segments, the proposed section utility easements and must be of adequate width to support maintenance vehicles.

Trailheads located at reasonable intervals provide bicyclists and pedestrians easy access to trails of varying lengths. Where possible, multi-use and pedestrian trails intersect, forming trailhead facilities can also serve as a launch site for canoes and kayakers.
Question & Answer

Joshua Barber, Plan Hillsborough – Barberj@plancom.org
Dayna Lazarus, Plan Hillsborough – Lazarusd@plancom.org
Eva Lizette Garcia, Rio Grande Valley MPO – EGarcia@rgvmpo.org
It’s not too late to sign up to be a member!

Join today to stay up-to-date on upcoming Active Transportation Working Group events:

ampo.org/working-groups/working-group-application