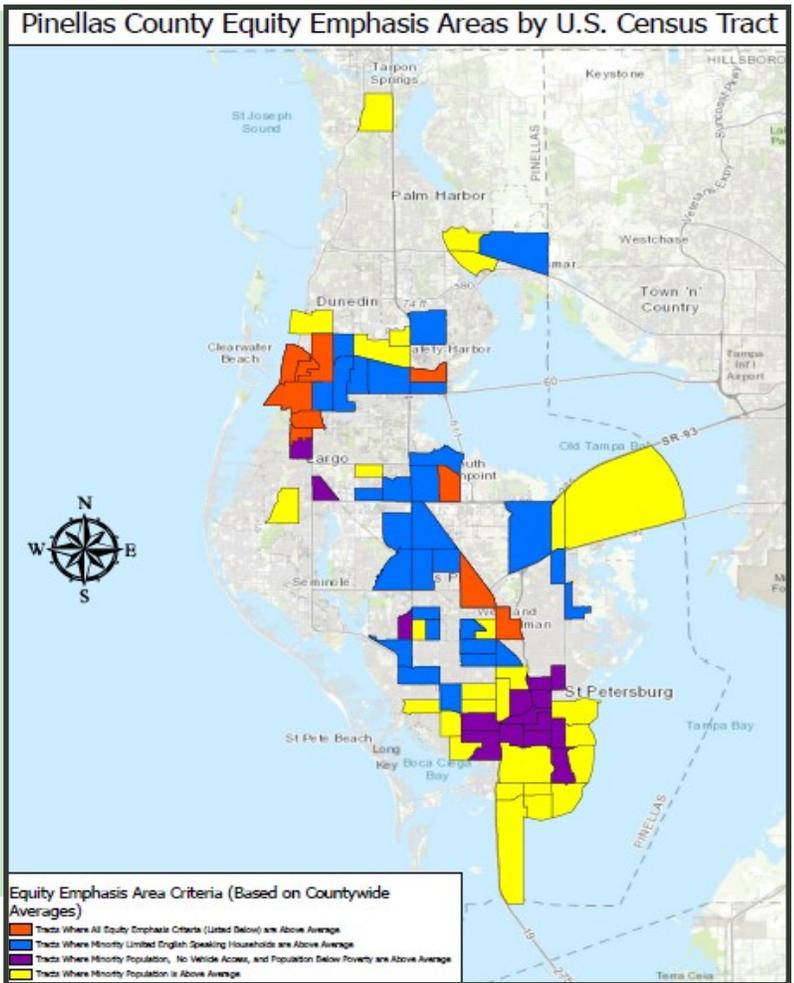
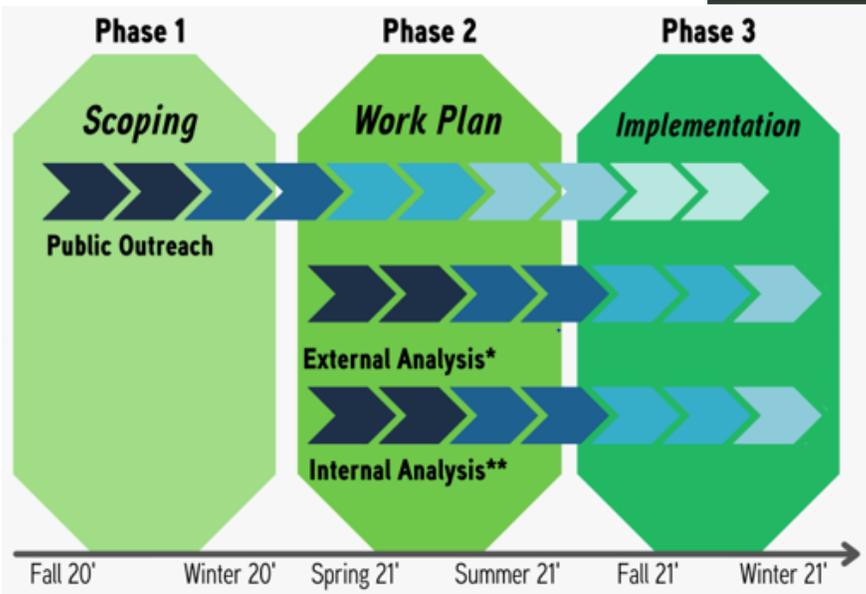


EQUITY ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Forward Pinellas is conducting an equity assessment of its agency operations and planning activities. The goal is to ensure that its mission to “provide leadership to align resources and plans that help to achieve a compelling vision for Pinellas County, our individual communities and our region” is both inclusionary and equitable. As part of this assessment, Forward Pinellas will conduct research, stakeholder engagement, and analysis for the development of a forward-looking strategic plan to enhance equity within Forward Pinellas staff, governance and committee structure, as well as Forward Pinellas work products. The equity assessment will research the systems, policies, and practices that have resulted in inequity, particularly among ethnic minorities, in Pinellas County, and develop a series of actions to ensure that our work as the countywide planning agency is inclusive and results in equitable outcomes for the entire community.



HIGH-LEVEL TIMELINE



*External agency variables: Impact of Forward Pinellas plans and planning activities; criteria for awarding and funding project funds; measurements of planning outcomes; partnerships and mentoring relationships; as well as Stakeholder and community feedback processes.

**Internal agency variables: Forward Pinellas workforce composition; agency practices, board and committee structures, and strategic business plans.

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<https://forwardpinellas.org/projects/equity/>

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Transportation Planning Organization

Incorporating Equity Data into the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan

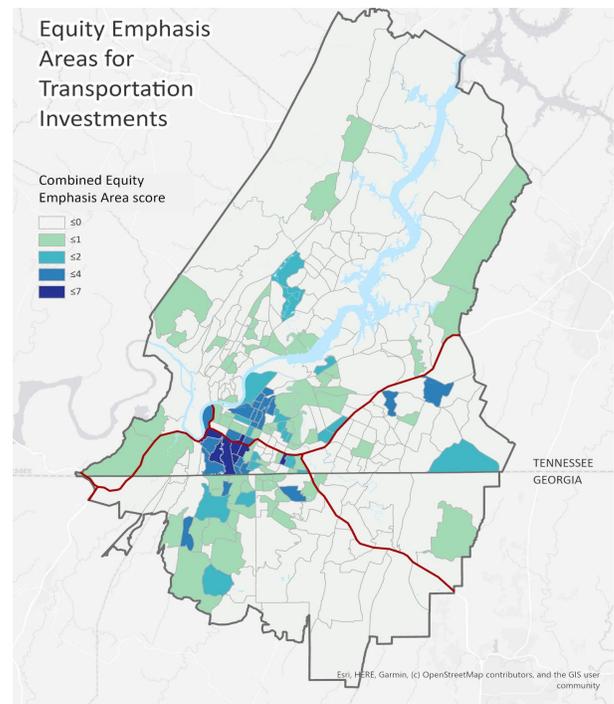


The Chattanooga TPO is currently in the process of updating the region's long range transportation plan, the [2050 RTP](#). Early on in the planning process, the TPO team decided to take a new approach to **integrating equity** into this RTP. Whereas previous plans mapped "transportation disadvantaged areas" and simply assessed how many projects and how much funding went to those areas, the 2050 RTP is integrating equity considerations into the plan's **project and performance evaluation frameworks**. For example, some of the project-level evaluation criteria the TPO is employing include:

- "Project improves infrastructure conditions within an Equity Emphasis Area"
- "Project improves multimodal access options and experiences between transit (bus stop) or community resources and Equity Emphasis Area"

In order to assess how projects perform in this area, the TPO first needed to map Equity Emphasis Areas in the region. The mapping exercise used 2019 ACS data to map concentrations of the following populations at the block-group level:

- Low-income households
- Zero-vehicle households
- Low-English proficiency households
- Households with a disability present
- Individuals of Hispanic and/or Latin American ethnicity
- Individuals of Black, Asian, Native American, and other minority (non-white) races
- Adults 25+ with low educational attainment (less than a high school diploma)
- Older adults age 65+
- Children and youth under age 18



The TPO used a **z-score** analysis to identify where in the region there are concentrations of these populations **relative to the rest of the region**. This approach is slightly more sophisticated than simply including areas that are above a regional average and excluding areas below that average. The TPO produced a z-score for each equity indicator at the block group level, as well as an **aggregated** EEA score for each block group. This allows users to look at each block group and see which equity indicators are prevalent in that location.

Additionally, the TPO decided that census data alone may not capture all of the concentrations of vulnerable populations in the region. For this reason, the team designed a way for the public to contribute to the dataset of EEAs and map other areas that may not have been captured by the TPO's desktop mapping exercise. This was done using an [ArcGIS story map that explains how equity is integrated into the plan](#) and shows the maps of EEAs that the TPO produced with census data. At the end of the story map, readers have an opportunity to use a Survey123 mapping form to share other areas that need special attention from an equity perspective.

ROGUE VALLEY MPO TRANSPORTATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS (2016)

In 2015, two of the three-person staff at the Rogue Valley MPO began conducting an assessment to better understand transportation gaps, challenges, and proportion of investment for areas containing high rates of historically underserved populations and households without access to a car. Although identified needs resultant of the study were incorporated into the MPO's project funding criteria, challenges exist for small MPOs to keep such work current.

Link to RVMPO webpage containing study:
<http://rvmpo.org/environmental-justice-and-title-vi-plan/>

