

Equity Assessment + Roadmap Project

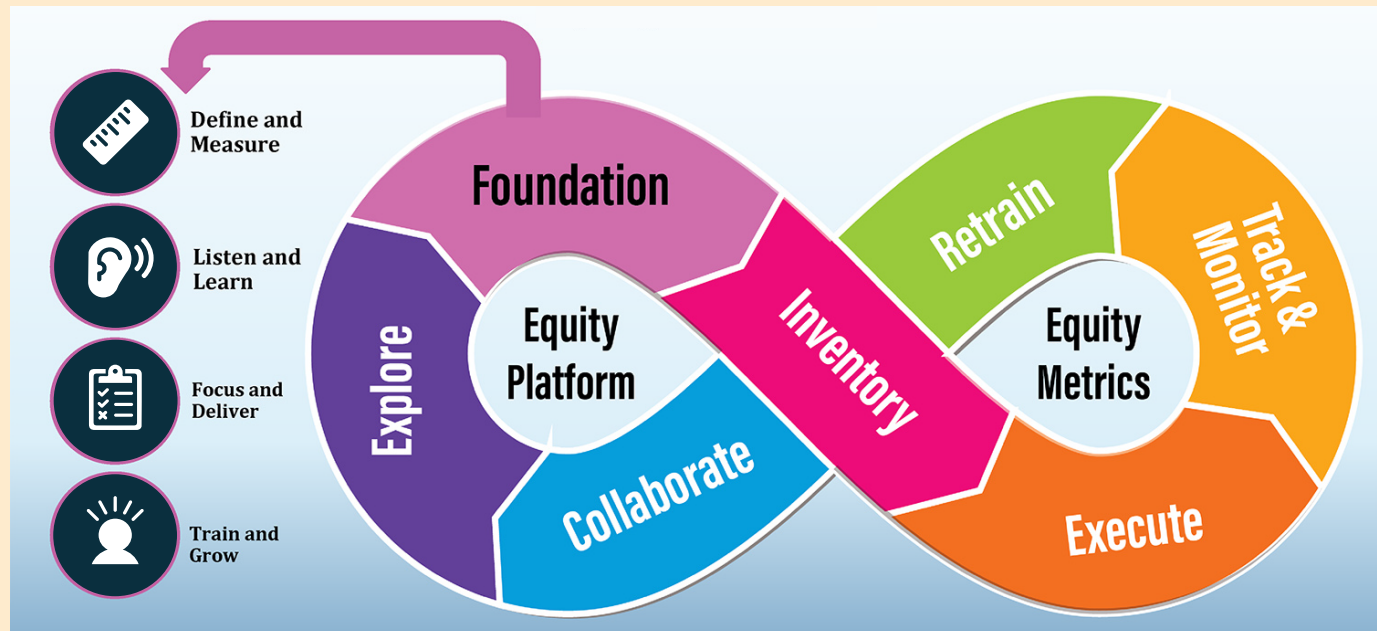
Equity Inventory Development Update

What is the ACRE Office?

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Association of Bay Area Governments (MTC/ABAG) is committed to building a Culture of Equity where everyone can participate, prosper and reach their full potential. To achieve this ambitious commitment, MTC-ABAG created the Access(ibility), Culture, and Racial Equity (ACRE) Office, housed within the Executive Office in July 2022. The office's purpose is to mobilize and systemically apply MTC's Equity Platform in everything we do.

What is the Equity Platform?

The Equity Platform is a framework for systems change to advance more fair and just outcomes. The Platform is meant to inform and address barriers to equity present in complex systems and environments. The Platform is built on four Pillars: Listen and Learn, Define and Measure, Focus and Deliver, and Train and Grow.



What is the Equity Assessment and Roadmap?

The Equity Assessment and Roadmap (EA+R) is an internal initiative to build the agency's self-awareness around the why, how, and what we are doing to advance equity. The EA+R was initiated to better understand the context and history that impacts current challenges, what about the system is producing these, and what we need to learn more about as we engage in empathy work. The "Equity Landscape Inventory" defines and measures what projects and initiatives the agency is doing to operationalize the Equity Platform. The Inventory is a fluid and dynamic document, reflecting the ebb and flow of agency activity.

MTC Equity Platform Four Pillars



Listen and Learn

MTC has diversified its public engagement approach through a variety of methods to involve the many residents of the Bay Area in community life, especially those that are excluded and isolated, by engaging them in collective action to create healthy communities. MTC has broadened the level of public participation beyond inform and consult to involve and collaborate through a range of initiatives, including contracting with community-based organizations, holding multi-lingual events, and hosting pop-up events in Equity Priority Communities and digital workshops.

Overall number of projects



Examples:

- Bay Trail Equity Strategy (DPD)
- Transit Transformation Action Plan & Mobility Workplan (FPP)
- San Francisco Estuary Blueprint (SFEP)
- Plan Bay Area (RPP/LPA)



Define and Measure

Throughout MTC's projects we collect and use data to inform and assess goal attainment. As a baseline, MTC collects and analyzes primary equity data in compliance with state and federal requirements; it is not unusual for MTC's analyses to go above and beyond these minimums. MTC also serves as a valuable resource for published equity data for the Bay Area.

Overall number of projects



Examples:

- Eviction Ecosystem Intervention Research (BAHFA)
- Climate Adaptation Technical Assistance Program (BARC)
- Transportation Investment Plan Analysis (FPP)
- DBE/SBE Reporting (FCS)
- Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)



Focus and Deliver

Focus and Deliver initiatives represent activities that are part of MTC's state mandated role as well as added responsibilities over the years. This work creates conditions for all Bay Area residents to thrive, focusing on underserved and overburdened residents, including MTC's Equity Priority Communities. Initiatives span multiple sectors: transportation, housing and land use, energy, and climate resilience. A majority of interventions fall under actions to expand access, build community power, and create wealth through technical assistance, programming of funds, and service delivery.

Overall number of projects



Examples:

- Home Program, Heat Pump Water Heater Mid-Stream Program (BayREN)
- Lifeline Transportation Program (FPP)
- Climate Adaptation & Resiliency Strategies (DPD)



Train and Grow

Train and Grow initiatives include providing technical assistance to inform and educate stakeholders and the public on topics such as how to find affordable housing, use the Clipper system, apply for competitive grants, and conduct equitable community engagement. Internal initiatives include Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training, Disadvantage Business E/SBE Annual Outreach Plan.

Overall number of projects



Examples:

- Annual Outreach Plan (FCS)
- Leading with Equity Work Group (RPP)
- Express Lane START Pilot (FOAM)

Agency-Wide Themes that Crosscut All 4 Pillars

Advancing the mission of leading with equity in every program we administer and every policy we set.

Themes described below provide a snapshot of hyperfocused projects. Transformative initiatives like Plan Bay Area, ABAG's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Plan, and Means-Based Interventions crosscut all 4 Pillars and Agency-Wide Themes.

MTC Equity Platform 4 Pillars



Listen and Learn



Define and Measure



Focus and Deliver



Train and Grow

Agency-Wide Themes

Affordability and Wealth Creation

Initiatives address affordability through planning and policymaking, public engagement, operations, and technology. These initiatives include providing subsidies/discounts and technical assistance from housing and accessing transportation options to energy and water management.

Sample Projects:

- Regional Housing Technical Assistance
- Bay Area Regional Water Bill Savings Program
- Urban and Multi-Benefit Drought Urban Relief
- BikeShare for All
- Clipper START Pilot
- Express Lane START Pilot
- Clipper BayPass Pilot

Access to Opportunity

"Access to Opportunity" means connecting people to jobs, education, and resources by providing transportation options, and stable and affordable housing, while strengthening equity and civil rights compliance in discretionary grant programs.

Sample Projects:

- Doorway Housing Portal
- Blue Ribbon Transit Transformation Actions
- CARB Mobility Options
- Community Economic Recovery Fund
- OBAG 3
- Active Transportation and Complete Streets Program
- Transit Performance Initiative Program

Civic Engagement and Community Power-Building

Civic engagement and public participation aims to provide opportunities for early and continuing involvement in projects, plans and decision, and to provide full public access to key decisions. Community Power-Building initiatives focus on foundational elements such as building trust, strengthening relationships while working together to reach visible goals in policy, programs, and projects.

Sample Projects:

- Community-Based Transportation Plans
- Participatory Budgeting
- EDMM 352 Update
- Community Choice/Redesigned Lifeline Grants
- MTC Public Participation Plan

Climate Adaptation

Initiatives that reduce negative impacts of climate change on local infrastructure and systems, including but not limited to household burdens and costs, for people living, working and commuting in and through the Bay Area. It consists of policy and/or program-oriented adjustments to living in an age of climate change.

Sample Projects:

- Zero-Emission Bus and Charging Infrastructure
- Sea Level Rise Adaptation Funding and Investment Framework;
- Water Upgrades Saves Program