From: Chan, Veronica
To: 'elizabeth.fischer@fhwa.dot.gov'
CC: Spurgeon, Lawrence; 'Miyamoto, Faith'
Sent: 6/21/2006 3:13:22 PM
Subject: FW: EJ for Transportation Planning

Hi Elizabeth,
As you requested, below is the email where we had based our decision that the best direction would be to take the analysis of OMPO Report as the baseline conditions for EJ conditions on Oahu. Please, let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks,
Veronica

-----Original Message-----
From: Fischer, Elizabeth [mailto:Elizabeth.Fischer@fhwa.dot.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2006 3:12 PM
To: Sokugawa, Kathy K.; Gordon Lum (E-mail)
Cc: Mammano, Vincent P.; Turchie, Donna <FTA>; Rey.Domingo@hawaii.gov
Subject: EJ for Transportation Planning
Importance: High

This has been a week filled with conversations about EJ/Title VI and the required vs. perceived depth/ fineness of EJ analysis.

We all share the same goal - to provide transportation services and facilities for those with greatest need. However, there seems to be semantic confusion on how finely detailed the data analysis should be (e.g., census block or smaller vs. TAZ or Native Hawaiian+Tongan+Samoan+Japanese+Filipino+... vs. NHOPI & Asian) to meet that goal.

The State of Hawaii is recognized by the US Census Bureau, and more importantly in this circumstance by the US DOT, as being a "majority minority" State where economic diversity is more clearly defined than ethnic diversity. As such, we believe that TAZ level data could be the finest data level used for EJ analysis on Oahu. On the neighbour islands, Super-TAZ level data could suffice.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN THE OMPO PLANNING PROCESS: DEFINING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POPULATIONS, March 2004 (www.oahumpo.org/T6EJ/Final2001/2004Update.pdf), jointly published by OMPO and the C&C, identifies an effective means by which to identify ethnic and economic diversity and the areas needing EJ focus on Oahu. This is an appropriate method for use in this state and on this island; and is an analytical process which could be adapted for use on and by the neighbour islands.

OMPO's EJ areas definition process was recognised by the TRB at its 2006 Annual meeting and will be further recognised in a dedicated peer-reviewed paper published by the TRB. With more major metropolitan areas mainland joining Hawaii and Oahu, the OMPO EJ analysis method has the opportunity to set the stage for other MPOs to follow in its footsteps. (See Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program: Metro Shifts Since 2000 report: www.brookings.edu/metro/pubs/20060307_frey.htm.)

For more information on the 2000 Census and coming changes for the 2010 Census, see: www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/census/index.htm.

Thanks for all your good work and most of all our shared concern to do the right thing for those with the greatest need.

Liz
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Elizabeth E Fischer, RLA, ASLA
USDOT FHWA Hawai'i
300 Ala Moana Blvd Rm 3306
Honolulu HI 96850-3306

808.541.2700 x325 - v
808.541.2704 - f
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elizabeth.fischer@fhwa.dot.gov
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Ho'okahi ka'ilau like ana
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