

Title: Filling Gaps in State Freight Plan Participation

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ABSTRACT

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) commissioned an Equity Analysis to identify the locations of historically marginalized communities and better understand the freight system's impacts on these communities. This analysis aimed to support informed, equitable decisions about transportation investments and help identify areas to focus community and stakeholder engagement. This analysis consists of two major elements: the definition of equity focus areas and analysis of freight transportation impacts to these communities.

This analysis considered several measures to determine whether an area represents a historically marginalized community. Any census tract containing a high concentration of at least one of the following measures would be considered a historically marginalized community:

- Young people - people under 18 years old,
- Older Adults - people over 65,
- People with a disability - adults living with a disability,
- People of color - people who identify as non-white,
- People with limited education - people without a high school degree,
- People with low income - People below the poverty line,
- People with limited English - households with limited English proficiency, and
- Unemployed people - areas of high unemployment.

This analysis identified areas of high concentration (defined as greater than twice the statewide average) of measures of historically marginalized communities. An interactive map highlighted equity focus areas or areas of concentrations of multiple marginalized communities. The statewide freight stakeholder database including members of the general public, community organizations, industry representatives, and governmental partners was analyzed to identify gaps in coverage within these communities.

Understanding the gaps in the stakeholder database, targeted outreach and engagement can be included in future freight planning initiatives.