

# COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

## Introduction

For the Community Considerations scoring criterion, “**community**” is defined as people and groups of people who are near, adjacent to, and/or impacted by the proposed project. This includes those who live, work, attend school, or access essential destinations (such as healthcare, shopping, or services) within the project area. Prioritized consideration is given to communities of color, Indigenous communities, low-income, disabled, youth, and older adult populations. The term “community” does not include transportation system users who only travel through the area without connecting to destinations within it. Transit users and others outside personal vehicles may be considered part of the community if their trips begin, end, or include stops within the project area.

## Foundational Policies

The Regional Solicitation Community Considerations criterion draws on multiple Metropolitan Council and Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) policies, including:

1. **Imagine 2050 and Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Goal:** Our region is equitable and inclusive. Racial inequities and injustices experienced by historically marginalized communities have been eliminated and all people feel welcome, included, and empowered.
2. **Imagine 2050 Equity Statement:** Equity means that historically excluded communities – especially communities of color – have measurably improved outcomes through an intentional and consistent practice of adapting policies, systems, services, and spending so that they contribute to the repair of both historic and ongoing injustice.

Imagine 2050 contains an Equity and Environmental Justice Framework, which is a people-centered approach that should guide regional processes and actions to work toward a more equitable region. A description of the framework is linked here [Imagine 2050: Regional Vision, Values, Goals](#). The three components of the framework include:

- A people-centered, data-driven decision-making approach.
  - Prioritized engagement with overburdened communities.
  - Provision of benefits to the communities that go beyond harm mitigation.
3. **TPP Policies or Objectives:** TPP Policies and Objectives related to achieving the regional equitable and inclusive goal include:
    - Conduct engagement activities and implement shared decision making with historically underrepresented communities throughout policy making, planning, and project development to ensure equitable distribution of the benefits and burdens of transportation investments.
    - Evaluate processes, policies, programs, and plans to ensure that community benefits and burdens from transportation investments are distributed equitably.
    - Implement investments that repair harms and impacts to historically disadvantaged communities from past highway investments.
    - Implement strategies against gentrification and displacement caused by transportation investments.
  4. **TAB Communities to Consider:** Beginning with the Regional Solicitation redesign in 2014, the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) has identified “**specific communities**” that should be

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prioritized in transportation decision-making processes: **people of color, Indigenous people, low-income, disabled, youth, and older adult populations**. These specific communities should be engaged and empowered in transportation decision-making processes, and projects should be developed to specifically address their transportation needs.

5. Metropolitan Council staff have provided a [Data Atlas](#), an interactive mapping platform, that can be used to understand the composition of the communities of consideration within your project area. This map can serve as a basis for your response to each measure, but applicants are encouraged to provide additional detail and understanding of community.

## Other Key Concepts

**Community Definition:** For the Community Considerations scoring criterion, “**community**” is defined as people and groups of people who are near, adjacent to and/or impacted by the proposed project. This includes those who live, work, attend school, or access essential destinations (such as healthcare, shopping, or services) within the project area. Prioritized consideration is given to communities of color, Indigenous communities, low-income, disabled, youth, and older adult populations. The term “community” does not include transportation system users who only travel through the area without connecting to destinations within it. Transit users and others outside personal vehicles may be considered part of the community if their trips begin, end, or include stops within the project area.

**Scoring:** Three qualitative measures are used for the Community Considerations criterion as described below. Applicants will receive a High, Medium/High, Medium, Medium/Low, or Low rating for each of the three measures: **(1) Community Data and Context, (2) Community Needs and Future Engagement, and (3) Community Benefits**

**Funding Priority:** Projects receiving a High score on each of the three measures, if any, will be considered for funding priority. Up to one (1) project from each solicitation round that was not otherwise selected for funding will be recommended for full funding in either the Dynamic and Resilient or Environment investment areas and their application categories.

**Applicant Training Opportunities:** The Met Council will provide optional yearly trainings for local agency staff to build their understanding of the Community Considerations criterion and measures.

**Community Considerations Scoring:** Scorers for the Community Considerations criterion will be selected based upon their experience and knowledge in community work, will have completed the Community Considerations training, and will meet multiple times as a group of scorers to discuss and agree upon scoring expectations. Projects recognized as a funding priority will be reviewed and agreed upon by all Community Considerations scorers. Two Community Considerations scorers will be paired and assigned to each project application.

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## Measures Description

Measures	Rating/Points	%
<p><b>A. Community Data and Context</b></p> <p>Describe the project area’s community data and context* including locations of specific communities and important regional and local destinations the community members access regularly. Relate the community data to the project purpose. Supplement widely available demographic data with community-specific information via additional maps or descriptions. Include any transportation history impacting the communities and intentional or unintentional past and ongoing harms caused by the transportation system.</p> <p>*Examples of detailed community data: demographics (race, ethnicity, age, low income, disabled), affordable housing locations, essential services, employers/job centers, schools, cultural resources, places of worship and social destinations.</p>	<p><b>Low / Low-Medium / Medium / Medium-High / High</b></p>	<p><b>33% (6.7 points)</b></p>
<p><b>B. Community Needs and Future Engagement</b></p> <p>Describe how the project was identified, and how it addresses a community need. Community needs may be identified through long-range or strategic planning, community surveys, formal or informal meetings and conversations with community members or neighborhood groups, outreach, and other means. Describe any discussion with specific communities, and how it contributed to identifying the project need. Describe how community engagement will occur throughout the project.</p> <p>Reference the engagement spectrum on page 55 of the Imagine 2050 <a href="#">Regional Vision, Values, and Goals</a> chapter of the Regional Development Guide. Describe and link (if possible) documented organizational structures that support future engagement on the project; these structures could include policies, procedures, financial or staff resources, or other documents.</p>	<p><b>Low / Low-Medium / Medium / Medium-High / High</b></p>	<p><b>33% (6.7 points)</b></p>
<p><b>C. Community Benefits</b></p> <p>Provide a description of the anticipated project benefits and how these benefits address the needs of the identified communities. Describe any past or ongoing burdens the project will mitigate and how any potential new impacts or burdens will be addressed.</p>	<p><b>Low / Low-Medium / Medium / Medium-High / High</b></p>	<p><b>33% (6.7 points)</b></p>
<p><b>Final rating/score</b></p>		<p><b>100%</b></p>

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## Scoring rubric

Applicants will receive a High, Medium/High, Medium, Medium/Low, or Low rating for each of the three measures. The expectations should be considered as cumulative, i.e., Medium builds on Low; High builds on Medium. Scoring via this rubric will be based exclusively on the application materials provided.

### A. Community Data and Context

The project application...

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes general census data on “specific communities,” (e.g. “community has x% low-income population, versus the regional average of y%”).</li> <li>Has a basic list of important destinations without demonstrating local knowledge.</li> <li>Has a project area description but lacks community insight or context.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has local maps and/or description beyond census data.</li> <li>Has granular data or maps (e.g., knowledge of a concentration of specific communities in this neighborhood or location).</li> <li>Identifies affordable housing locations and areas of low-income.</li> <li>Links data to project purpose.</li> <li>Identifies past system burdens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has granular, neighborhood-scale data and context on specific communities.</li> <li>Identifies cultural assets &amp; significant sites validated by the communities (e.g., this community of low-income residents expressed a need to be able to walk to a health care destination).</li> <li>Describes any past and present transportation harms to communities.</li> <li>Has data on cultural history of communities.</li> </ul>

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## B. Community Needs and Future Engagement

The project application...

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not link past planning and information-gathering work with communities to identify project need.</li> <li>• References planning work that is too broad to practically influence project need.</li> <li>• Does not include description of input and interactions with “specific communities” that helped identify the project need.</li> <li>• Does not include description or commitment to future engagement efforts with communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes how the project need was identified through planning and information-gathering work with communities.</li> <li>• Describes how input from “specific communities” helped identify the project need and purpose.</li> <li>• References Imagine 2050 Engagement Spectrum (engagement and power sharing levels) and identifies future community engagement activities.</li> <li>• Describes how specific communities will be included and prioritized in future engagement efforts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• References documented organizational policies, procedures and commitments that support future engagement with specific communities on the project, E.g.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Policy, procedure, and/or budget to compensate engagement participants.</li> <li>-Formal, approved engagement plan.</li> <li>-Anti-displacement policy, strategy, or funding.</li> <li>-Reparative project goals shaped by community.</li> <li>-Commitment to financial opportunity for local businesses and contractors.</li> <li>-Advisory committee charter.</li> <li>- Dedicated project engagement staff.</li> <li>-Other governing board or council action demonstrating a commitment to community considerations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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## C. Community Benefits

The project application...

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does not describe project benefits for specific communities.</li><li>• Describes benefits in general terms for all users.</li><li>• Does not acknowledge potential project burdens, despite high potential for them to arise.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describes benefits for specific communities.</li><li>• Ties benefits directly to community-identified needs.</li><li>• Describes how benefits were identified through engagement.</li><li>• Includes early mitigation plans for project burdens.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describes how project repairs past burdens and removes barriers.</li><li>• Describes how project improves safe access to priority destinations.</li><li>• Describes how project adds context-sensitive features beyond transportation needs (e.g. art, greenspace, other community-influenced elements).</li></ul>