The Intersectionality of Complete Streets and Equity

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Preserving land and natural resources throughout New Jersey for the benefit of all.

130,000 acres preserved since 1960
Who We Are: NJ Conservation Foundation

- Accredited Land Trust
- 130,000 acres
- Founded in 1960
- One of New Jersey’s oldest and largest land trusts
Mission Statement

The mission of NJ Conservation Foundation is to preserve land and natural resources throughout New Jersey for the benefit of all.
Essential Question:
What are the corridors of access to preserved open space and farmland?

– Highways
  • Cars
  • Public Transit
– Local trails
– Regional trails
– On-road Bike lanes
– Greenways
– **Complete Streets**
– ...and more!
Green Connectivity: Garden State Greenways

Statewide vision for a system of interconnected open space & greenways
Conservation Blueprint

• Identifying land priorities for farms, habitat, water, and people

• Finer mapping of corridors and barriers
Equality vs. Equity
What Communities Benefit from Complete Streets?

• Low-income
• Minority
• Limited English proficient
• Carless households
• Disabled
• Youth
• Elderly
• ...everyone!
The Intersectionality of Complete Streets and Equity

- Multi-Modal Access
- Universal Access
- Connectivity
- Public Participation
- Utilization of USDOT Monies for Projects that Improve Air Quality and Quality of Life
Examples of Transportation and Inequity

• Poorer communities have nearly **double** the fatality rates of pedestrian incidents of wealthier communities.
• Lower-income communities are **less likely** to encounter vital elements of transportation infrastructure
• ... **and more**
Some Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for Equity

LEGAL:
- Civil Rights Act of 1964,
- Americans with Disabilities Act, etc.

EQUITY

REGULATORY:
- Federal, State, and Local policies,
- executive orders,
- administrative orders, etc.

EQUITY
What is Environmental Justice?

“...the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Environmental Justice will be achieved when everyone enjoys:

- the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and
- equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.
Some Key Milestones in Environmental Justice

- **1960s**: Civil Rights leaders note public health dangers in environmental inequities
- **1990**: EPA convenes Environmental Equity Workgroup
- **1991**: 1st National People of Color Env’l Ldrship Summit
- **1994**: President Clinton issues EO 12898
- **1997,1998**: USDOT and FHWA issue original EJ orders
- **2002**: 2nd National People of Color Env’l Ldrship Summit
- **2004**: Governor McGreevey issues EO 96
- **2009**: Governor Corzine issues EO 131
- **2012**: USDOT and FHWA issue EJ Orders
- **2016**: NJDEP Commissioner Martin re-establishes NJ EJ Advisory Council via Administrative Order
- **2017**: U.S. Senator Cory Booker Introduces EJ Bill
Some Transportation and EJ/Equity Priorities Remedied by Complete Streets

• Provision of transportation access to jobs

• Development of quality of transportation systems near minority and low-income communities;

• Allocation of USDOT dollars to projects that benefit communities
Some Elements of an Ideal Complete Street Policy

• Promote *the community’s vision*
• Involve *all users*
• Encourage *street connectivity*
• Complement *community context*
Complete Streets are Equitable Streets!
Thank You!

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