



# Metro Equity Platform Framework

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# Metro Equity Platform Framework

Access to opportunity: a core concept to public decision-making, public investment, and public service

- Vast disparity exists in LA County among neighborhoods and individuals:
  - To seize opportunity – jobs, housing, education, health, safety;
  - To improve their circumstances to do so.
- Transportation is an essential lever to enable that access.

# Metro Equity Platform Framework

## Why an Equity Platform now?

- As a transportation leader, Metro can and should address disparities.
- Metro has already signaled a change:
  - Measure M: performance metric considerations
  - New Long Range Transportation Plan committed early to Equity
  - Recent, targeted community collaborations (First/Last Mile, Rail to Rail grant effort)
- Exploratory outreach to LA County equity thought leaders

# Metro Equity Platform Framework

Multi-point Equity Platform built around four pillars:

I. Define and Measure

II. Listen and Learn

III. Focus and Deliver

IV. Train and Grow

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## I. Define and Measure

Need a common basis to build an equity agenda.

- “Equity” holds different perspectives and priorities for many.
- Inequity → fundamental differences in access to opportunity
- Race and Class—historically and currently—predominate disparities in LA County
  - Concentrated in poor, minority communities
  - Age, gender, disability, and residency also can expand or constrain opportunities

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## I. Define and Measure (cont.)

- Pursue an inclusive conversation that commits to:
  - Establish meaningful goals around a shared definition of equity – and actions to achieve those goals;
  - Define metrics to evaluate outcomes, including investment decisions;
  - Ensure consideration at the front end, not the back end;
  - Seek out and involve the diverse range of voices that must collaborate on above.

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## II. Listen and Learn

Establish comprehensive, multiple forums to engage the community meaningfully and actively in defining, measuring and acting on equitable outcomes.

- Open the conversation with LA's community members to address:
  - where achieving equity has been problematic — broadly, and specific to transportation;
  - where improved relationships, partnerships and actions can advance more equitable transportation outcomes going forward.

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## II. Listen and Learn (cont.)

- Recognizing past experience provides foundation for a different future.
- Community-driven conversation is essential.
  - Seek best practices.
  - Establish distinct advisory body for the equity agenda.
  - Engage CBOs in community outreach and problem solving.
  - Build local government technical capacity serving historically underserved communities



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## III. Focus and Deliver

The Long Range Transportation Plan is unifying activity with 2 major crosscutting Equity arenas:

- Where Metro Leads
  - Transportation planner, operator, builder and funder;
  - Performance-based investment decisions that:
    - a) advance outcomes to promote and sustain opportunities;
    - b) avoid outcomes that aggravate disparities in opportunity;
  - Operating/maintaining the system impacts opportunity as much as infrastructure investments.

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## III. Focus and Deliver (cont.)

- Where Metro Partners
  - Beyond Metro's core transportation responsibilities—Land Use
  - Gentrification/displacement/affordable housing
    - An urgent issue in every corner of the county
    - Metro cannot address alone—Partners are essential: local government, business, community advocates, foundations

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## IV. Train and Grow

A new equity agenda requires “top-to-bottom” ownership throughout the agency.

- Training in two important areas:
  - Methods to evaluate equity including data collection, measurement and analysis;
  - Approaches to effectively communicate and work with communities with priority and respect for equity issues.

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## Next Steps

- The Equity Platform is a framework.
- It intends to shape specific analyses and actions going forward.
- Experience may redirect and improve the platform.
- The PAC is an essential touchstone for input and checkpoint for progress.
- Presentations to the Metro Board are key.



Thank you