



Transportation Equity Framework 2023



Vermont Climate Council
November 14, 2022

Act No. 55 of 2021 Legislative Assembly

An act relating to the Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation, Section 41. Transportation Equity Framework Report

The Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the State's 11 Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs), shall undertake a:

- comprehensive analysis of the State's existing transportation programs (soup to nuts) and develop a recommendation on a transportation equity framework...
- through which the annual Transportation Program (the Agency Capital Program), and the Agency's Annual Project Prioritization Process, can be evaluated...
- to advance mobility equity, which is a transportation system that increases access to mobility options, reduces air pollution, and enhances economic opportunity for Vermonters in communities that have been underserved by the State's transportation system.



Federal Actions

2021 Executive Order 13895
(Advancing Racial Equity and support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government)

Justice40 Initiative
goal that at least 40 percent of the benefits of Federal infrastructure investments (clean energy/efficiency, transit, housing) are distributed to disadvantaged communities

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (also known as the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law”) (BIL)
November 15, 2021

US DOT Equity Action Plan was released in January 2022

US DOT Strategic Plan released in March 2022



the **Transportation Equity Framework** is...

- a plan that describe the roles, responsibilities, and expectations for the implementing partners (AOT and RPCs)
- focused on external activities on how the partners provides services and conducts its business.
- developed with meaningful engagement and an emphasis on including those who may not traditionally take part in project and plan development, e.g. historically disadvantaged (marginalized, underserved, overburdened) communities.





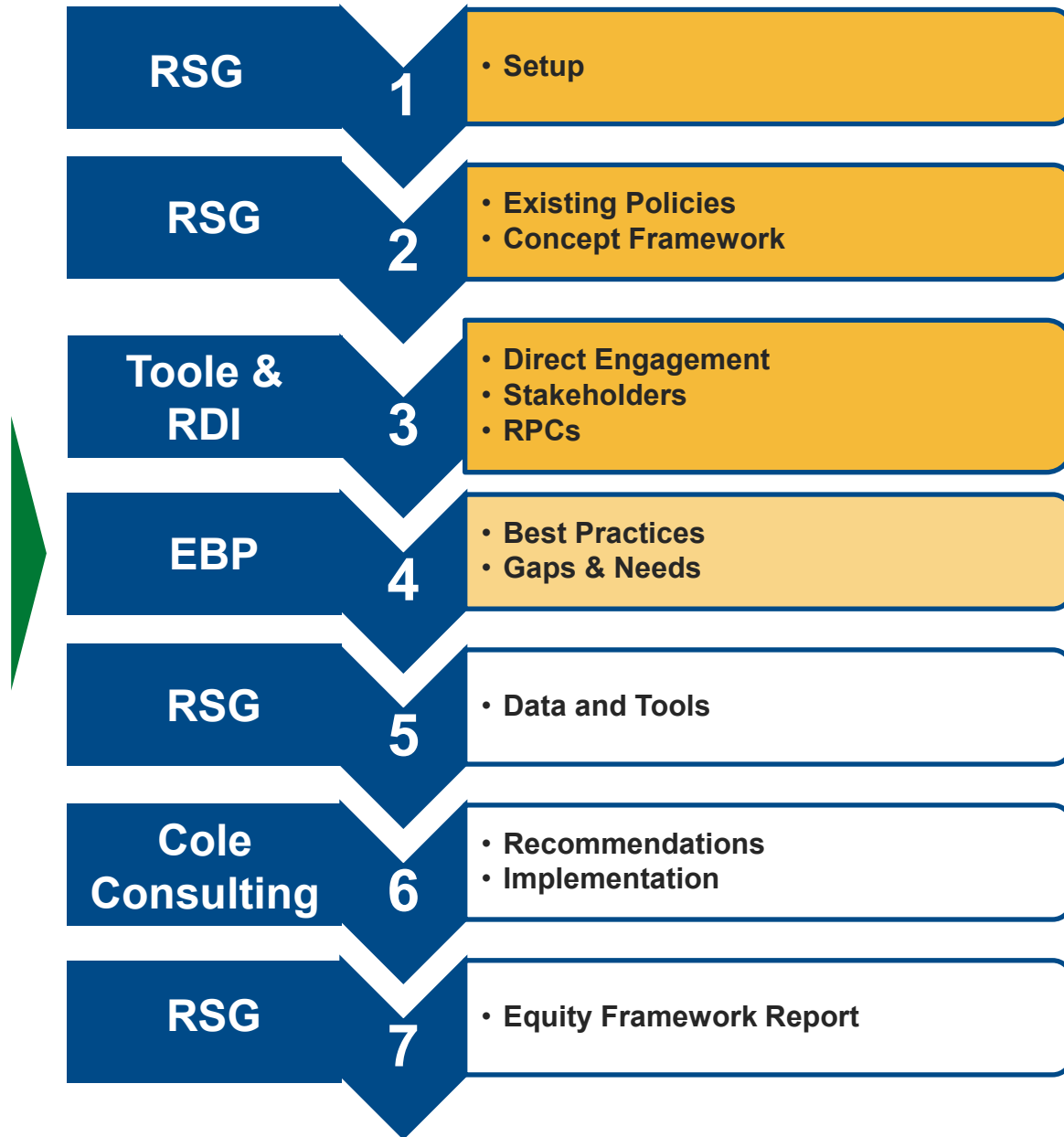
Project Tasks

Working Group

Working Group Member	Organization	Title
Nancy Prescott	Dept. of Motor Vehicles	Motor Vehicle Operations Director
Mike Winslow	Addison County RPC	Transportation Planner
Meghan Brunk	VTrans	District 2 Tech
Lori Valburn	VTrans	Civil Rights Program Manager
Patricia Martin	VTrans	Title VI and ADA Coordinator
Erin Sisson	VTrans	Deputy Chief Engineer
Charlie Baker	CCRPC	Executive Director
Carey Hengstenberg	Agency of Natural Resources	Environmental Analyst
Andrea Wright	VTrans	Environmental Policy Manager
Amy Tatko	VTrans	Director of Comm. and Public Outreach
Katharine Otto	VTrans	Planning Coordinator



Tasks





Task 3: Stakeholder and Public Involvement

Stakeholder and Public Involvement

What

Direct Engagement

Stakeholder Engagement

Regional Planning Commissions

Who

BIPOC, Low income, and other community members

Implementers and service providers

Community organization representatives & Advocacy Groups

Conveners and coordinators

Local Decision Makers

Technical practitioners and planners

Anticipated Insights

Recommendations for community-driven decision making around initiatives which impact their lives.

- Challenges to integrating equity into work
- Resources needed to advance equitable outcomes
- Current processes, procedures and implementation mechanisms

- Information sharing
- Education on equity topics
- Feedback on framework, tools, and procedures



Direct Engagement

Four communities:¹

- Winooski/Burlington BIPOC young adult community
- Northeast Kingdom elderly mobile home residents
- Bennington low-income housing community
- Rutland area low-income individuals, un/under-housed

Variety of community engagement activities, including one-on-one interviews, community events, and door knocking in neighborhoods

Timeline:

- June - October 2022: Conduct direct engagement activities
- October - November 2022: Review and synthesize information from the direct engagement activities for the plan

¹Qing Ren and Bindu Panikkar (2021), Vermont Environmental Disparity Index, University of Vermont



Stakeholder Interviews

Ten in-depth interviews:

- VPIRG
- Migrant Justice
- NAACP Rutland Branch
- Community Asylum Seekers Project
- AOT Civil Rights Director, Lori Valburn
- VAPDA (Charlie Baker and Catherine Dimitruk)
- VTrans Deputy & Chief Engineer, Erin Sisson & Ann Gammell
- South Burlington DMV Branch Operations Manager, Vicki Good
- VTrans Public Transit Program Manager, Ross MacDonald
- VTrans Asset Management Bureau Director, Kevin Marshia



RPC Engagement

The meetings with each RPCs between July and October. Meetings between 1 and 2 hrs in length. Most meetings are with the Transportation Advisory Committees, invited staff, and other invited community members (i.e., equity committees)

Context: Sharing Task 2 materials, any insights from Task 3 available at the time of the meeting and describe overall scope and genesis for the work.

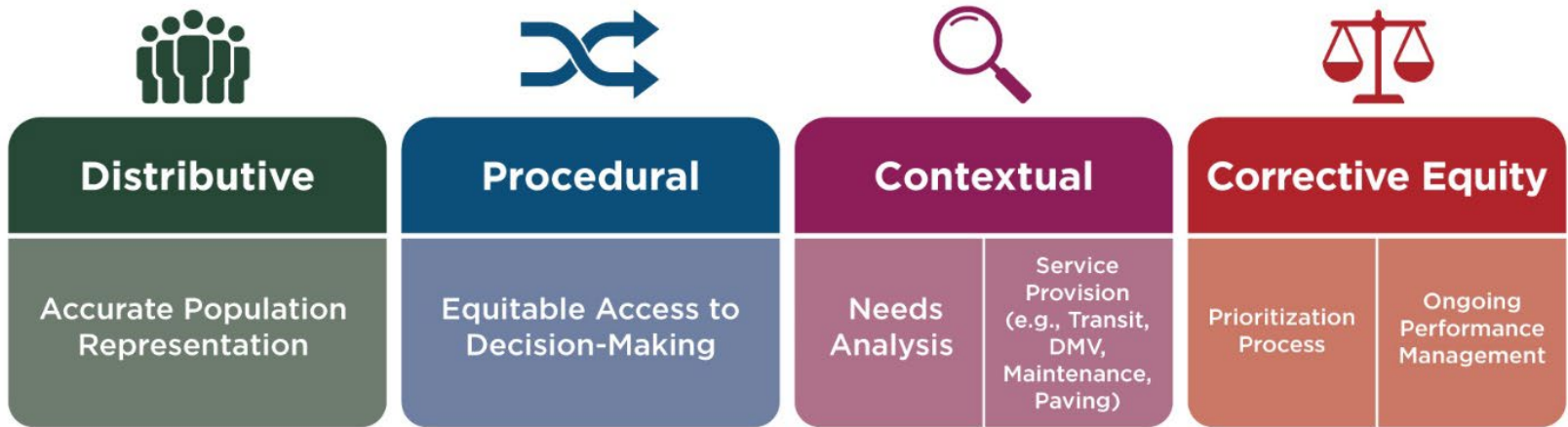
Actions: Collaboratively share and learn to better understand what transportation equity means for each RPC and each region in the state. Jointly discuss how equity can be embedded in the activities of the RPC.

Goal: Create awareness of the project. Understand the resources and process being developed. Build communication linkages between the Agency of the RPCs to foster greater community awareness and role of equity in transportation planning. Strengthen RPC voice to the process.





Preliminary Framework



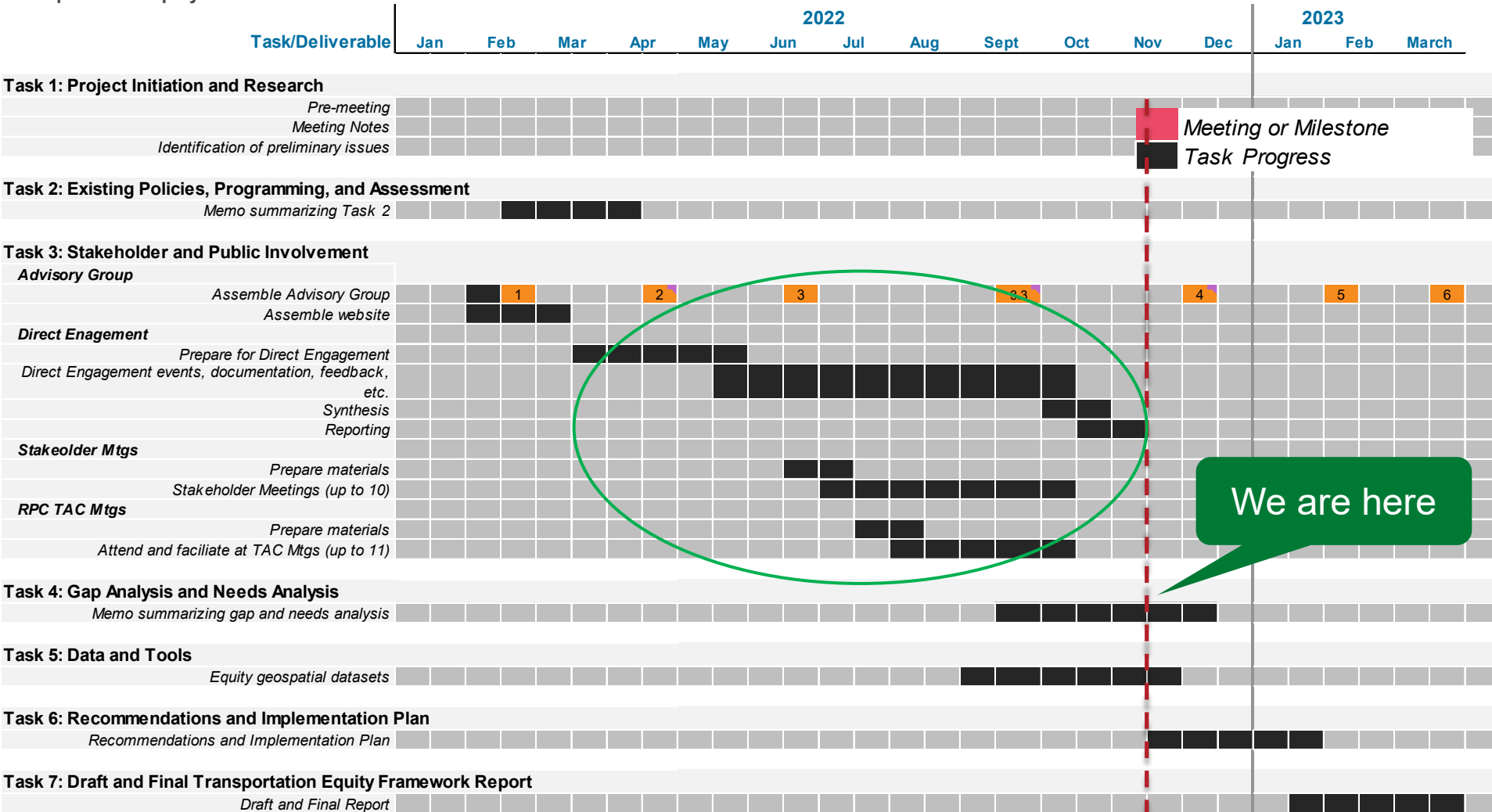
- How can we obtain an accurate representation of the population and identify communities of concern?
- How can **all voices** be heard, participate, and engage in the planning process and create space for their involvement? **Are those most burdened or affected by the plan part of the dialogue?**
- **What needs exist for each of our communities?** Are there **inequities** in the outcomes experienced by members of our society?
- Are the services **provided in an equitable manner?** Are the **services available** to all members of the population – regardless of ability, income, language, etc.?
- **How will future actions (investments, policies, etc.) deliver equitable outcomes?**





Schedule

Transportation Equity Framework



Project Webpage

Updated to include:

- Events
- RPC .ppt
- Project updates
- Links to resources

The screenshot shows the website <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/equity>. The header includes the Vermont Official State Website logo and the Vermont Agency of Transportation logo. The main content area is titled "TRANSPORTATION EQUITY" and features a "Project Update" section. The update text states: "Access to safe, high-quality, affordable, and convenient transportation options is essential for all Vermonters. Where and how people are able to move around their communities affects our quality of life, our health, our earth, and our economic opportunities. Throughout history, equitable transportation investments have not always been prioritized, resulting in disparities in transportation access from community to community. Now, the Vermont Agency of Transportation is taking action to develop a statewide Transportation Equity Framework that will guide the Agency in how investments and services are carried out throughout the state. This process is just beginning, and we look forward to working with communities across Vermont to help build this framework." Below the text is a collage of images including a street scene, a person on a bicycle, and a building, with a central green hexagon containing the text "Transportation Equity Framework 2023". The right sidebar lists "Upcoming Events" such as "Transportation Conversation in Bennington (9/11 in-person, 9/13 virtual)", "Housing Conversation in Bennington (9/25 in-person, 9/27 virtual)", "NEK Transportation Solutions Forum (9/25 virtual)", and "Burlington Housing Conversation (9/30 in-person)".

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/equity>

dave.pelletier@vermont.gov or 595-9675

Project Email:

AOTequity@gmail.com

