



ALASKA
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Equitable Transportation

December 11,
2024

Statewide Equitable Community Connectivity Action Plan



Statewide Equitable Community Connectivity Action Plan

Objective: Assess and eliminate transportation barriers to reconnect communities via equitable, multimodal solutions.

Partners: DOT&PF, AML, and Federal Land Management Agencies

Focus Areas: Equity-driven analysis, multimodal planning, community engagement, integration with state planning.

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State of Alaska Department of Transportation Office of Civil Rights

We strive to foster a diverse, inclusive, and equitable environment by providing guidance, support, and oversight to ensure compliance with civil rights laws and regulations.

Our Vision is to ensure transportation services are provided in a non-discriminatory manner, where all communities and individuals have equal access to opportunities in Alaska's transportation system

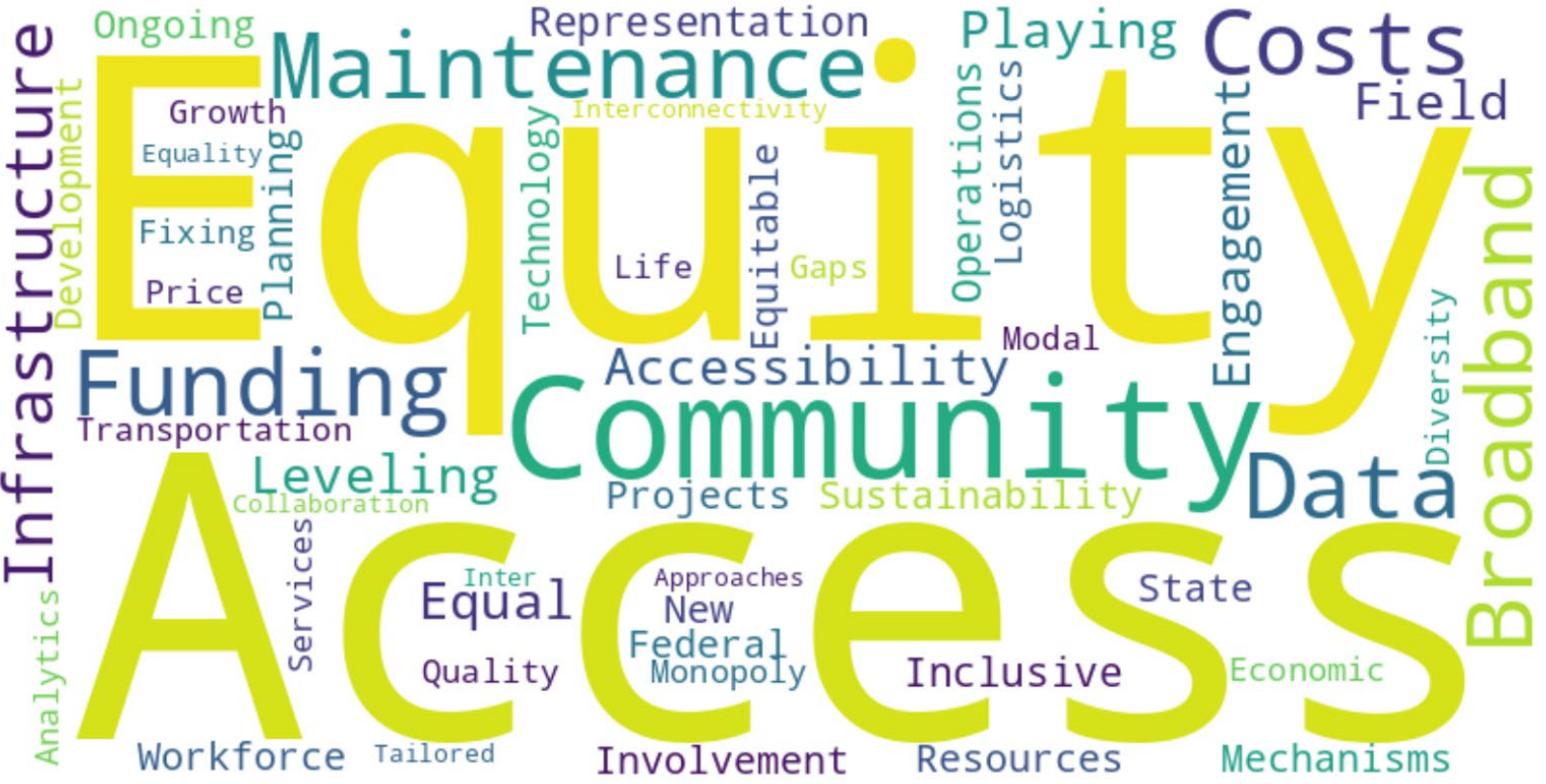
Statewide Equitable Community Connectivity Action Plan

Statewide Equity Conversations

This is not our first equity conversation with local government stakeholders

- Fall 2023 Infrastructure Symposium
- Spring 2024 Infrastructure Symposium

Statewide Equity Conversations: Key Themes



Statewide Equity Conversations: Key Themes

Equity in Infrastructure and Accessibility

Leveling the Playing Field

A focus on creating equal opportunities for infrastructure development and access across both urban and rural communities, including the idea that seasonality affects infrastructure needs in Alaska.

Vision for Equal Access

Emphasis developing both seasonal and permanent infrastructure to ensure communities have equitable access to transportation and associated benefits.

Statewide Equity Conversations: Key Themes

Community Engagement and Representation

Inclusive Planning

Strengthening community engagement through advisory boards, focus groups, and decentralized planning methods, ensuring that planning processes reflect local needs and perspectives, particularly those of smaller, resource-limited communities.

Statewide Equity Conversations: Key Themes

Maintenance, Operations, and Sustainability

Ongoing Maintenance versus New Projects

There's a critical need for not just new infrastructure but also for maintaining existing structures. The disparity in maintenance capability between communities highlights a significant equity issue.

Workforce Development

Addressing the need for local job creation through training and certification programs to support community members in maintaining and operating infrastructure.

Statewide Equity Conversations: Key Themes

Funding and Resources

Equitable Funding Mechanisms

The discussions pointed to the need for adjusting funding strategies to account for the unique challenges of different communities, such as those in remote or rural areas that face higher costs and fewer resources.

Federal and State Involvement

There's a call for more cohesive and unified state-wide approaches to equity, possibly through an equity statement or more integrated policies that do not compartmentalize community needs.

Statewide Equity Conversations: Key Themes

Broadband and Technology

Access to Broadband

An essential utility that needs to be accessible to ensure connectivity and support modern infrastructural needs.

Transportation Costs and Logistics

Costs and Logistics Challenges

High transportation costs and logistical challenges in remote areas impact economic growth and the quality of life. Issues like the monopoly of services (e.g., air travel and barge services) and price fixing are significant barriers.

Statewide Equity Conversations: Key Themes

Specific Community Needs and Interconnections

Modal Diversity and Interconnectivity

Funders need to recognize that Alaska's diverse transportation needs cannot be met by a single mode of transport; a combination of air, land, and water transport must be tailored to each community's specific circumstances.

Inter-community Collaboration

The importance of connections not only within communities but also between them, facilitating access to essential services like healthcare and groceries.

Statewide Equity Conversations: Key Themes

Data and Analytics

Addressing Data Gaps

There's a pressing need for better data collection and analysis to support equitable transportation planning, especially to accurately reflect and address the unique conditions of Alaska.

Equity vs. Equality

Tailored Approaches

Emphasizing that equity in transportation does not necessarily mean providing the same resources to all but ensuring that each community gets what it needs to have equitable access to opportunities.

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What Does Transportation/Transit Equity Mean?

Transportation/Transit Equity focuses on ensuring that everyone has fair and adequate access to transportation options, regardless of their economic status, physical ability, or geographical location.

This concept is crucial in community planning and public policy as it directly impacts an individual's ability to access essential services, employment, and educational opportunities.

Statewide Equitable Community Connectivity Action Plan

What Does Transportation/Transit Equity Mean?

Accessibility: Providing affordable, reliable, and accessible transportation options that connect people to essential services, jobs, and education.

Inclusivity: Ensuring that the transportation systems consider the needs of all users, including the elderly, people with disabilities, and those living in remote or underserved areas.

Fairness in Infrastructure: Equitably distributing resources for transportation infrastructure to prevent any community from being disproportionately underserved or affected by transportation projects.

Environmental Justice: Minimizing the environmental impacts of transportation systems, ensuring that no group bears a disproportionate share of negative consequences, such as pollution and noise.

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SECCAP Project Activities Overview

Timeline: 2 years

Deliverables:

- GIS and Data Portal with Story Map
- Transit Equity Framework: Evaluation, Best Practices, and Implementation Guide
- Transportation Equity Framework: Evaluation, Best Practices and Implementation Guide

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SECCAP Deliverables

GIS & Data Portal

Purpose: To enhance the understanding of current transportation disparities, facilitate data-driven decision-making, and promote transparency in how transportation projects impact diverse communities.

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SECCAP Deliverables

Transportation Framework: Evaluation and Best Practices, with Implementation Guide

Purpose: To equip planners, policymakers, and community stakeholders with the tools to systematically assess and enhance equity in transportation planning and to implement changes that ensure more equitable transportation outcomes.

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SECCAP Deliverables

Transit Plan: Evaluation and Best Practices, with Implementation Guide

Purpose: To improve transit equity, ensuring that all Alaskan communities, especially those that are marginalized or geographically isolated, have reliable and affordable access to public transit.

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Discussion Prompts

- **What unique geographic and cultural challenges does Alaska face that impact transportation equity?**
- **In your view, which communities are most affected by transportation inequities in Alaska? Why?**
- **What specific transportation needs are currently not being met for these communities?**