

2045 MTP/SCS**Environmental Justice Definitions and Thresholds****Draft for Discussion**

Minority: The definition of minority individual was considered any non white or mixed race person according to the 2015 5-Year American Community Survey (ACS) data. Conversely, a non minority individual was considered any white or non Hispanic person. For the purposes of this analysis, a tract was considered to be predominantly minority if greater than 65% of the total population was non white. This is the same definition used in the adopted 2040 MTP/SCS.

Low Income: AMBAG chose to use 200% of the federal poverty level for 2015 as the definition for low income. This reflects the higher cost of living in the AMBAG region. For the purpose of this analysis, a tract was considered predominantly low income if greater than 33% of residing families earned less than 200% of the federal poverty level annually.

Low Mobility:

Aged Population: Population aged 65 and over that had income below the poverty level are considered low mobility. For this analysis, a tract was considered low mobility if 15% of the population aged 65 and over had income below the poverty level.

Zero-Car Households: Households that have zero-vehicle ownership fall into the low mobility category. For this analysis, a tract was considered low mobility if 15% of the households in the tract have zero-car ownership.

Disability: Census reports disability in six categories: Hearing difficulty, vision difficulty, cognitive difficulty, ambulatory difficulty, self-care difficulty, and independent living difficulty. For this analysis, all categories of disability are used. Tracts with 11.12% disabled population, or the highest 20% above the regional average, was selected.

Low Community Engagement:

Limited English Proficiency: Households where English is not the primary language and English is not spoken “very well.” A tract was considered to have low community engagement if 15% of the tract were households where English is not spoken “very well.”

Educational Attainment: Population over age 25 who have not earned a high school diploma. A tract was considered to have low community engagement if 15% of the tract is over the age of 25 without a high school diploma.

Note: 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) data was used to analyze the existing conditions for the 2015 base year for use in the 2045 MTP/SCS.

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