Friendly Reminders Before We Get Started

Please mute yourself and turn off your webcam during presentations.

If you encounter technical difficulties during the meeting, you can:

- ✓ Send a chat message directly to Host or IT Support
- ✓ Email epamidatlsummit@michaeldbaker.com with the subject line "Zoom Support"

This session is being recorded and will be made available after the summit.

*This presentation, and the accompanying slides, have not been subject to EPA management review, and thus do not necessarily represent the position of EPA or the United States on the matters discussed.

EQUITY EMPHASIS AREAS

An Approach for Equitable Regional Planning

Timothy Canan, AICP
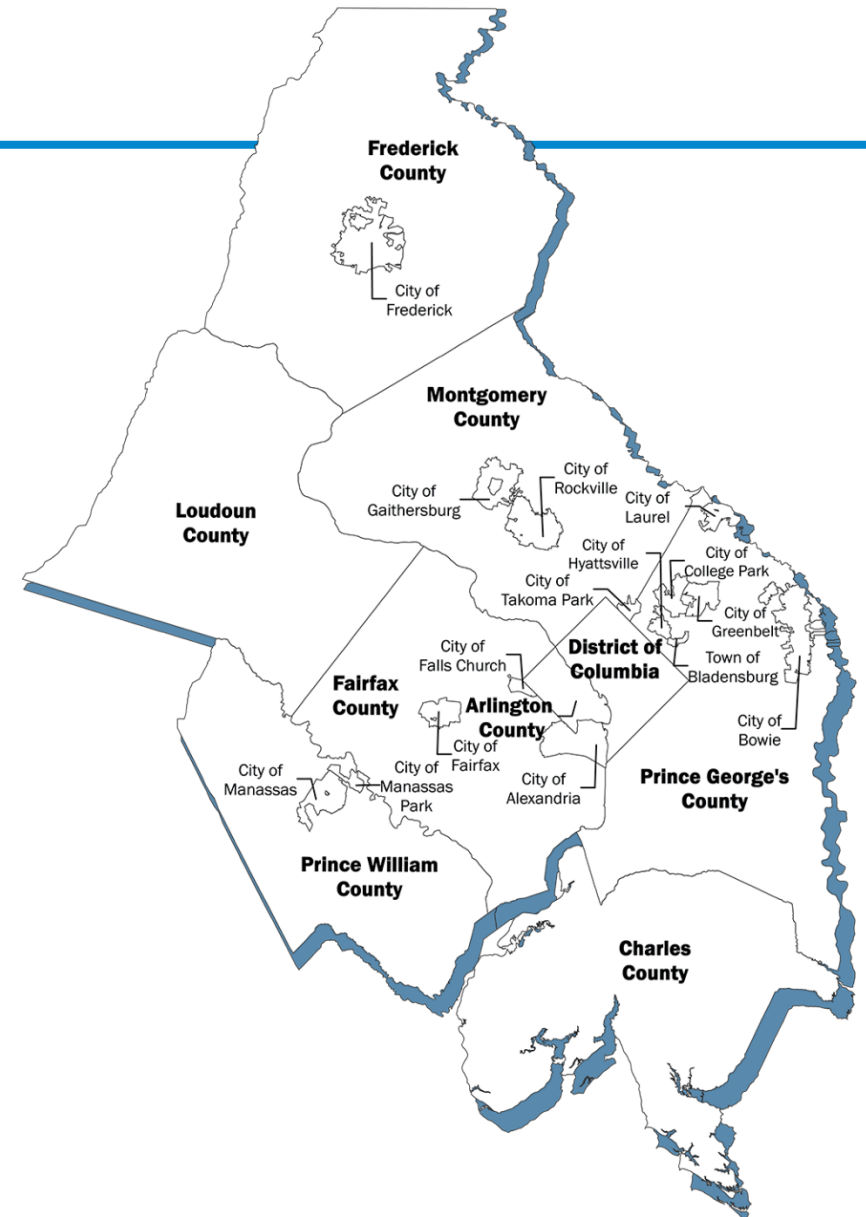Planning Data and Research Program Director

EPA Mid-Atlantic Region 2023 Virtual Summit
May 17, 2023

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

About COG

- An independent, nonprofit association founded in 1957

- Brings area leaders together to address regional issues and plan for the future

- 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress

- Home of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation planning

- 125+ staff

Metropolitan Washington
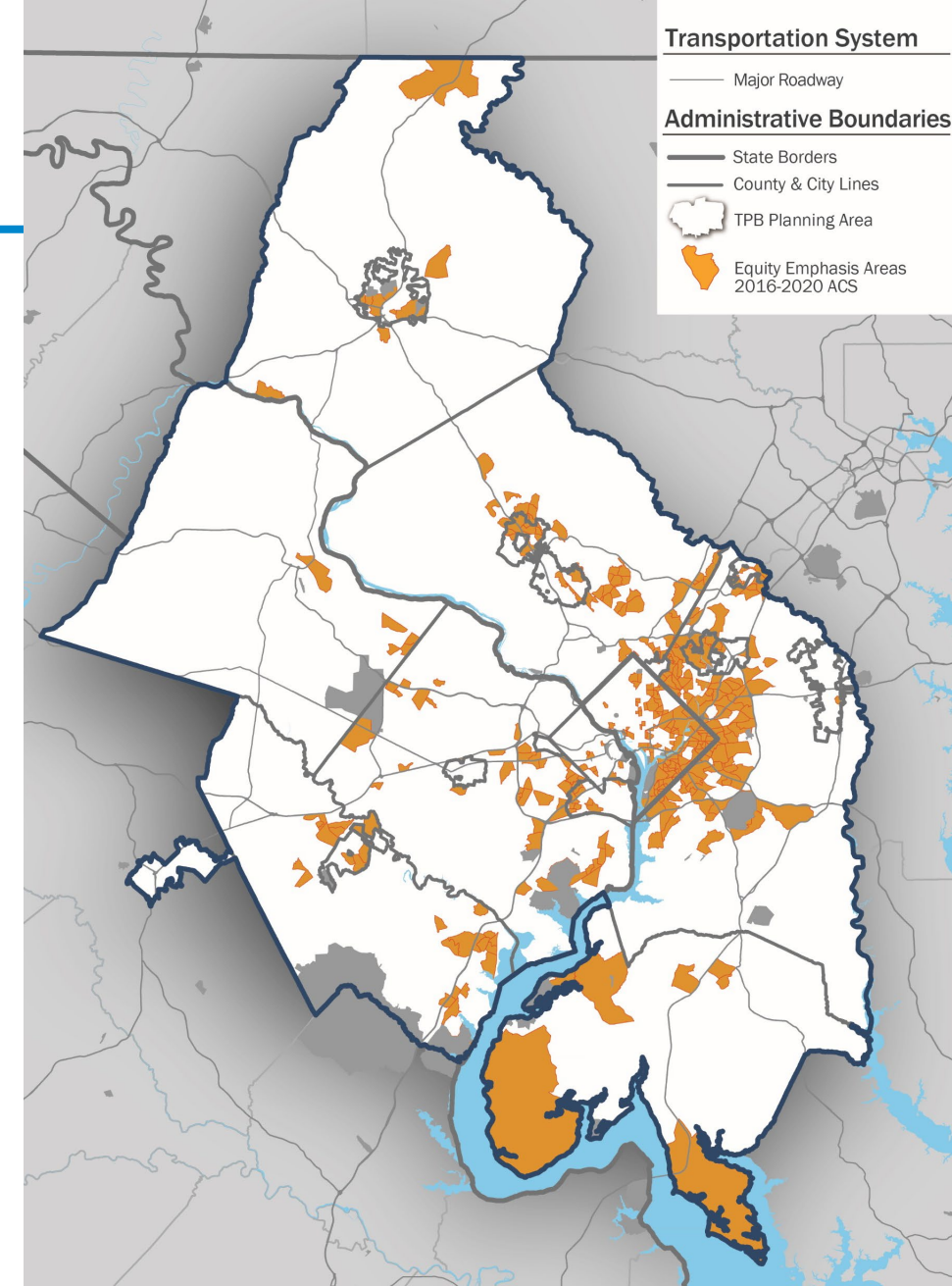**Council of Governments**

Background

- The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is federally required to consider impacts of the region's long-range transportation plan, *Visualize 2045*, on low-income and minority residents.

- Staff developed a methodology to identify census tracts in the region with comparatively higher concentrations of low-income and minority residents.

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

Equity Emphasis Areas

Equity Emphasis Areas	364 of 1,321 tracts are EEAs Comprise 12% of Region's Land Area Contain 25% of Region's Population
Low-Income	55.5%
Black or African American	43.2%
Asian	20.1%
Hispanic or Latino	43.3%

Source: 5-year estimates from the American Community Survey (2016-2020)

Transportation System
— Major Roadway
Administrative Boundaries
— State Borders
— County & City Lines
⬡ TPB Planning Area
▮ Equity Emphasis Areas 2016-2020 ACS

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments
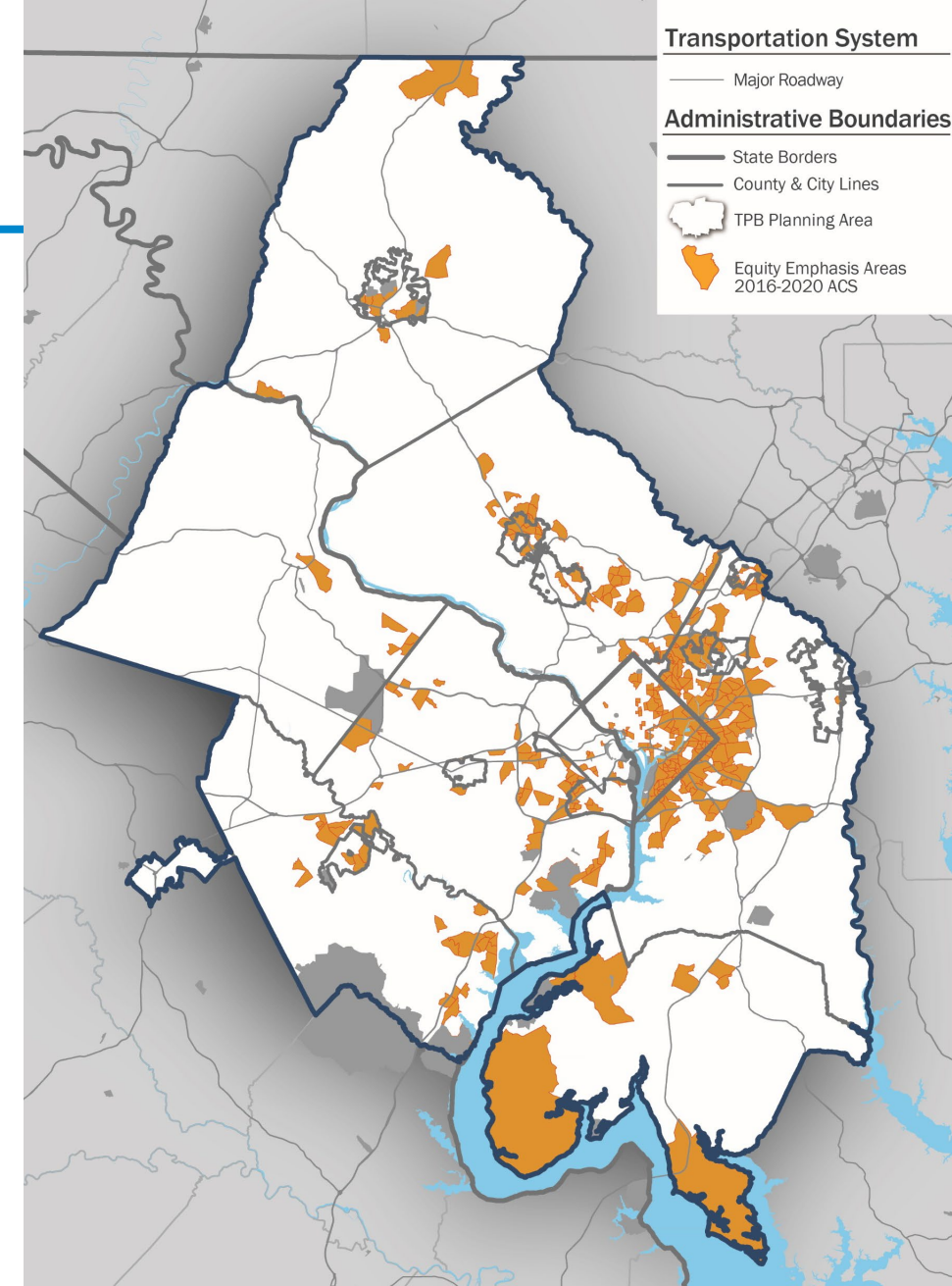
EEA Methodology

- **Criteria 1:** Low-Income concentration more than 1.5 times the regional average

  Low-income is defined as household income less than one-and-a-half times the federal government's poverty thresholds.

- **Criteria 2:** Very High concentrations of 2 or more racial and ethnic population groups

  OR

  High concentrations of at least one racial/ethnic population groups and a low-income concentration at or above the regional average

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

Index Scores Used for EEA Criteria

Criteria 1: Low-Income concentration more than 1.5 times the regional average

Criteria 2: Very High concentrations of 2 or more racial and ethnic population groups, OR High concentrations of at least one racial/ethnic population groups with a low-income concentration at or above the regional average

RATIO OF CONCENTRATION (ROC or times the regional average)	INDEX SCORE Low-Income*
Between 1.5 and 3.0	4.5 to 9.0
Greater than 3.0	9.0
Index Score	4.5 to 9.0

☑ Equity Emphasis Area (Total Index ≥ 4.00)
☐ Not an Equity Emphasis Area (Total Index < 4.00)

RATIO OF CONCENTRATION (ROC or times the regional average)	INDEX SCORE			
	Low-Income*	African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino
Less than 1.0	0	0	0	0
Between 1.0 and 1.49	1.0 to 1.49			
Between 1.5 and 3.0	See Criteria 1 (4.5 to 9.0)	1.5 to 3.0	1.5 to 3.0	1.5 to 3.0
Greater than 3.0	See Criteria 1 (9.0)	3.0	3.0	3.0
Total Index Score	Index scores are totaled			

☑ Equity Emphasis Area (EEA) (Total Index ≥ 4.00)
☐ Not an Equity Emphasis Areas (EEA) (Total Index < 4.00)

Index values can be used to indicate the intensity disparity that may exist in an EEA relative to other EEAs or other census tracts in general. This may be useful for prioritizing needs to be addressed in planning and investment.

Metropolitan Washington **Council of Governments**

Justice40

> *"We'll create good jobs for millions of Americans...and we'll do it all to withstand the devastating effects of climate change and promote environmental justice."*
>
> -President Joe Biden, 2022 State of the Union

What is Justice40?

- President Biden's Jan 2021 **EO14008: Tackling Climate Change at Home and Abroad** created the government-wide Justice40 Initiative, establishing the goal that at least **40% of the benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities.**

- Includes funding programs for numerous federal agencies

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments
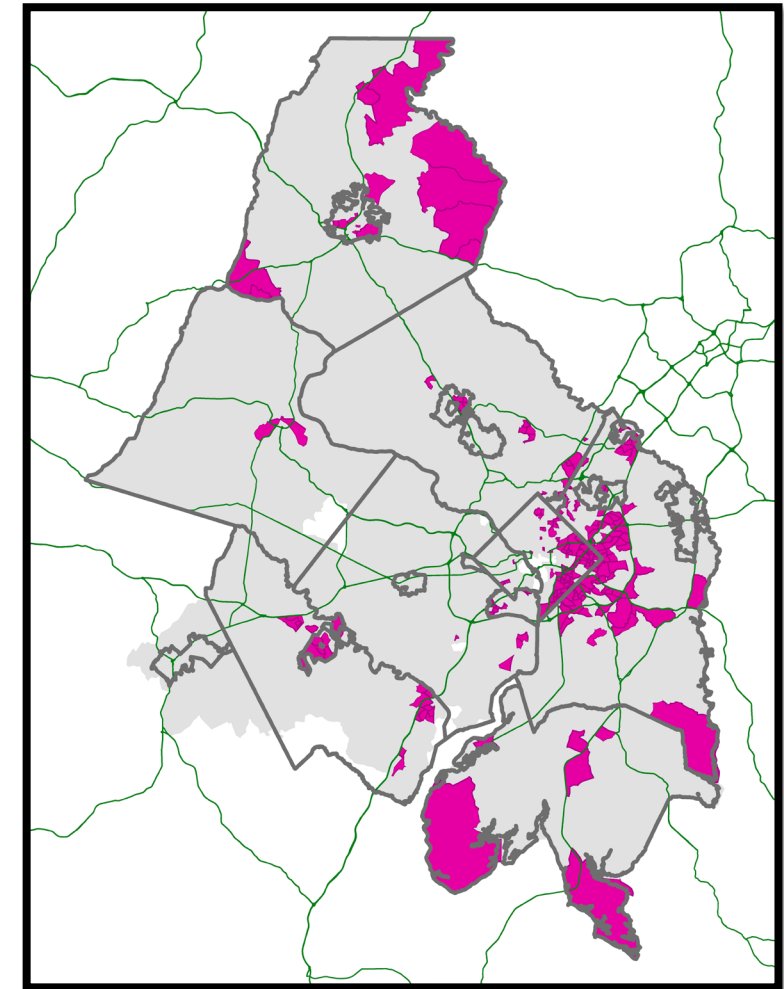
EJ40 Disadvantaged Communities Index

- For the Justice40 Initiative, USDOT developed a working definition of disadvantaged to identify communities and opportunities for program investments.

USDOT's Disadvantaged Community Index

A Disadvantaged Community is a group of individuals living in **geographic proximity** to one another or **sharing common conditions** or **group experiences** (i.e., migrant workers, Native Americans) that experience cumulative burden across economic, social, and environmental factors.
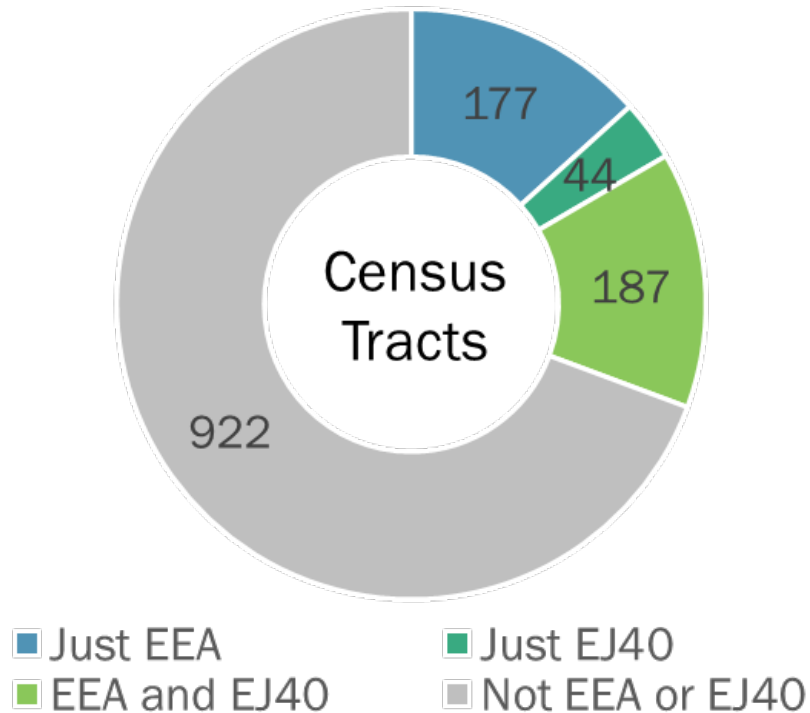
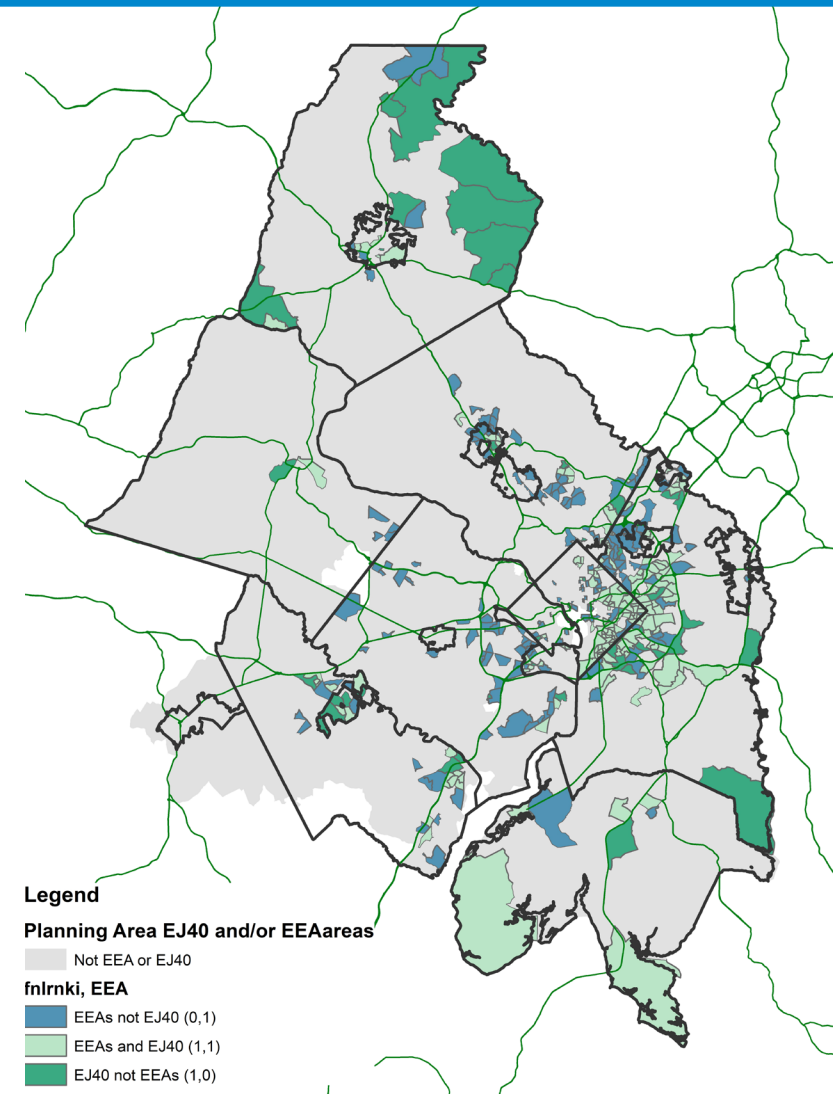*Transportation Insecurity*: communities that spend more, and take longer, to get where they need to go

Environmental Burden: communities experiencing disproportionately high levels of pollutants & toxins

Social Vulnerability: communities with high levels of poverty, low access to jobs and education, and communities with a shared history of discrimination

Health Vulnerability: communities with adverse health outcomes, disabilities, and low access to health care services

Climate and Disaster Risk: communities vulnerable to natural hazards and that are experiencing increased risk caused by climate change

Each of the five components is composed of indicators (and variables that fall under each indicator).

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

Comparing EEAs & EJ40 Disadvantaged Communities

Census Tracts

- 177
- 44
- 187
- 922

- ■ Just EEA
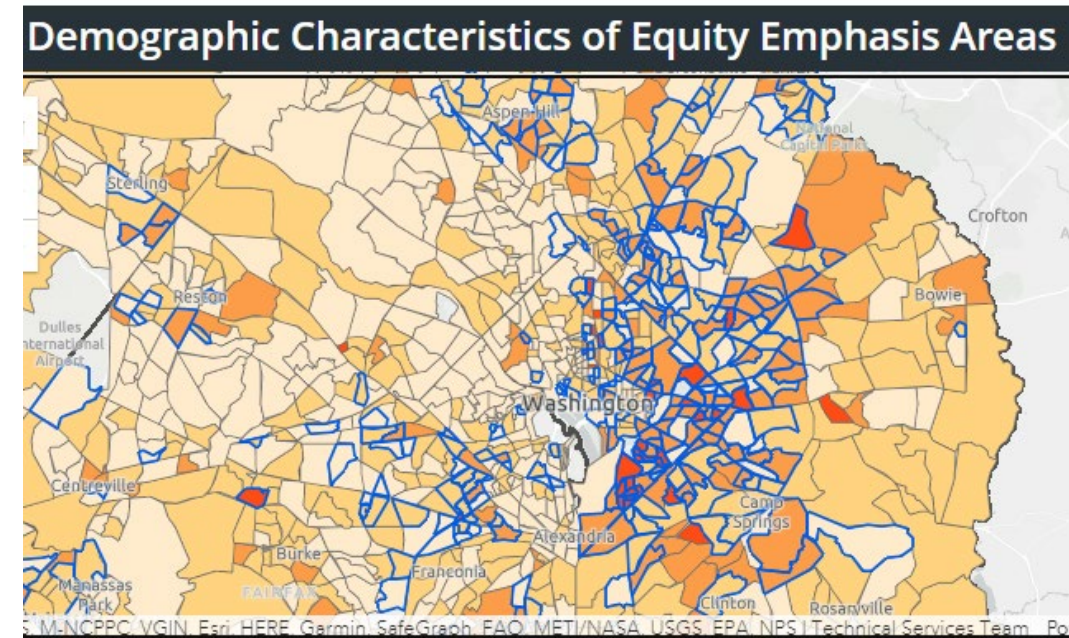- ■ Just EJ40
- ■ EEA and EJ40
- ■ Not EEA or EJ40

Note: While the concepts of EEAs and EJ40 Disadvantaged Communities are similar, the resulting areas do not match perfectly because different data criteria are used to define them.

Legend

Planning Area EJ40 and/or EEAareas

Not EEA or EJ40

fnlrnki, EEA

EEAs not EJ40 (0,1)

EEAs and EJ40 (1,1)

EJ40 not EEAs (1,0)

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

Broader Application of EEAs

- EEAs can be applied even more broadly in many other local and/or regional planning activities:

  - Community Planning
  - Housing
  - Health
  - Public Safety
  - Education
  - Economic Opportunities
  - Others!

- Identify where additional housing, services, community facilities transportation may be needed.

- Climate planning initiatives, including tree canopy planning.

- Food security programming.

Unemployment in EEAs

Demographic Characteristics of Equity Emphasis Areas

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

How EEAs are applied in metropolitan Washington

Montgomery County, MD

- CIP prioritizes projects serving EEAs

- Green Bank – 20% of funds to support activities in EEAs

- Shovel Our Sidewalks Act – prioritizes EEAs where there is great dependence on public transportation

- Transit access planning around EEAs for Purple Line planning

City of Frederick, MD

- Park Master Plan – focus on EEAs

District of Columbia

- EEAs used in citywide planning activities, including planning/zoning, housing & social services, transportation & transit, and capital project planning

WMATA

- Overlay WMATA Joint Development sites with COG EEAs

Greater Washington Community Foundation

- EEAs used to identify black, brown and other communities of color experiencing homeownership disparities.

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

How EEAs are applied at COG

Department of Transportation Planning

- Environmental Justice Analysis for mobility and accessibility impacts of projects in the long-range transportation plan

- Regional Roadway Safety Monitoring

- TPB Grant Programs – evaluation criteria

  - Transportation Land Use Connections

  - Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program

  - Regional Roadway Safety Program

  - Transit Within Reach Program

Climate Energy Air Program

- Energy Planning – map energy burden of EEAs to assist planning for sustainable energy

- Risk and Vulnerability Assessment – map EEAs at risk of extreme heat, flooding, and sea level rise
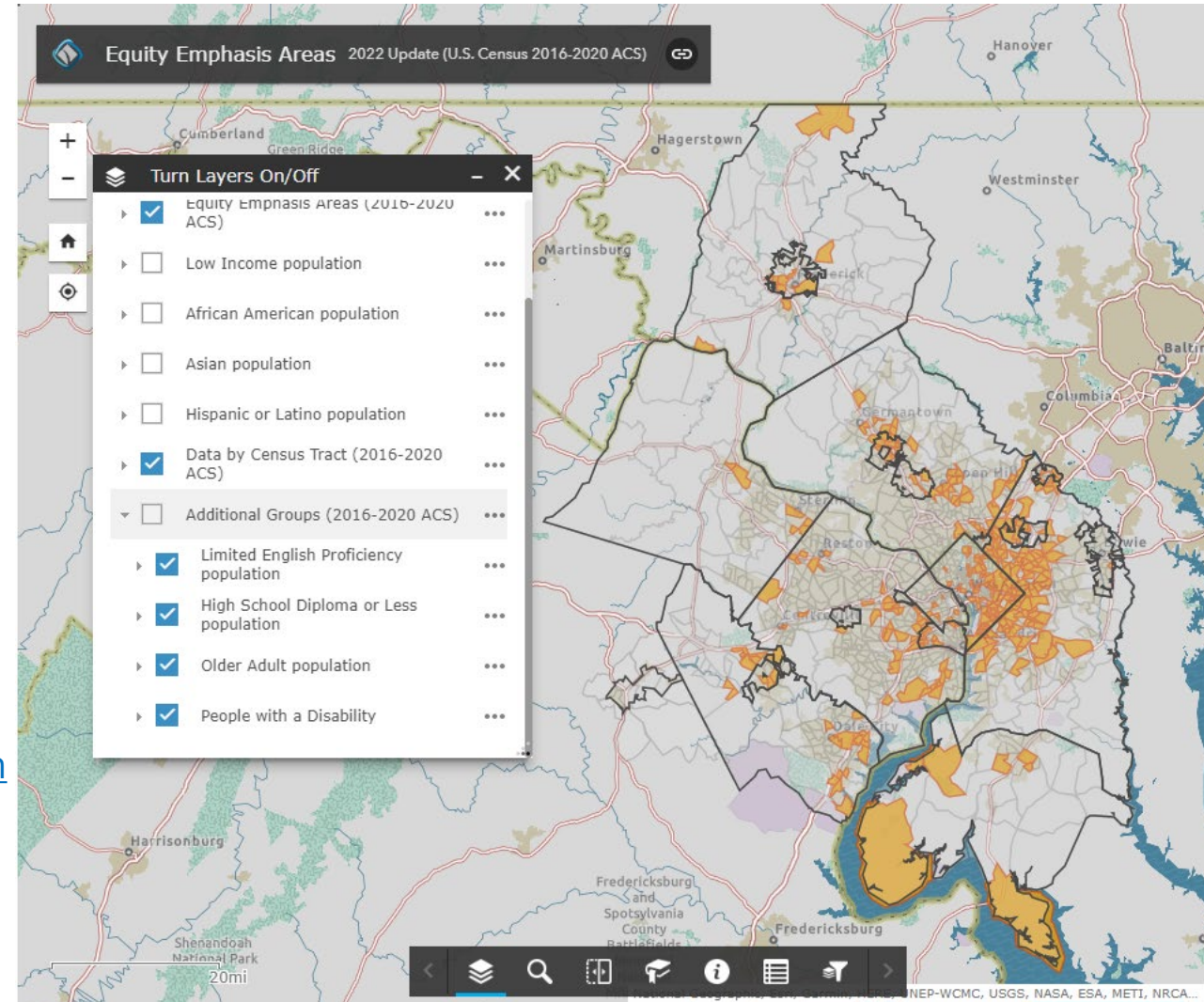
Water Resources Planning

- Urban Tree Planting – Prioritizing distribution of tree sampling to EEAs as part of restoring watersheds

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

COG's EEA Online Resource

COG has developed an interactive online tool for users to further explore EEAs and apply their concept in other planning activities, using additional demographic criteria, such as:

- Limited English Proficiency

- Educational Attainment

- Age

- Disability

- Unemployment

- Others

https://hct-eea-mwcog.hub.arcgis.com/pages/eea-main

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

Timothy Canan, AICP

Planning Data and Research Program Director
(202) 962-3280
tcanan@mwcog.org

mwcog.org

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300

Washington, DC 20002

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments