



# Accessibility and Equity in Statewide Planning

## MPO/RPA Quarterly Meeting

IOWA | DOT

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# Accessibility and Equity in 2022 State Long-Range Transportation Plan (SLRTP)

- General discussion
- Accessibility system objective
- Equity rightsizing policy statement
- Accessibility/mobility analysis
- Strategies
- Possible implementation activities



## Equity

- In a general transportation planning sense, equity means that the benefits and burdens of transportation are distributed fairly, and individuals have access to affordable and reliable transportation options that help them meet their needs. Fairly does not necessarily mean equally, as there may need to be additional consideration for underserved groups to be able to achieve the same level of access to and benefit from the transportation system as other groups.
- Transportation policies and investments can directly or indirectly contribute to disparities; conversely, they can also help reduce the negative effects of existing inequities and improve quality of life.

## Accessibility

- The end goal of transportation: being able to get somewhere that you need or want to go.
- Many different ways to view and measure accessibility. Is a particular transportation mode, infrastructure, or service (all referred to generically as “system”) truly accessible?
  - Is the system physically available and accessible by users with different ability levels?
  - Is the system easy to use, safe, comfortable, affordable, and timely?
  - Are there barriers that make the system more difficult or less desirable to use, such as limited hours of service, winter weather, or congestion?
  - Does the system provide access to desired destinations?
  - Are mobility substitutes available, like telework or obtaining services via the internet?
  - Do underserved populations have similar levels of access to the system as other populations?

# Accessibility System Objective

## SYSTEM OBJECTIVES



### ACCESSIBILITY

*Definition:* Users can readily access the transportation system and services without barriers

*Areas to measure progress:* Access to systems, service delivery, equity

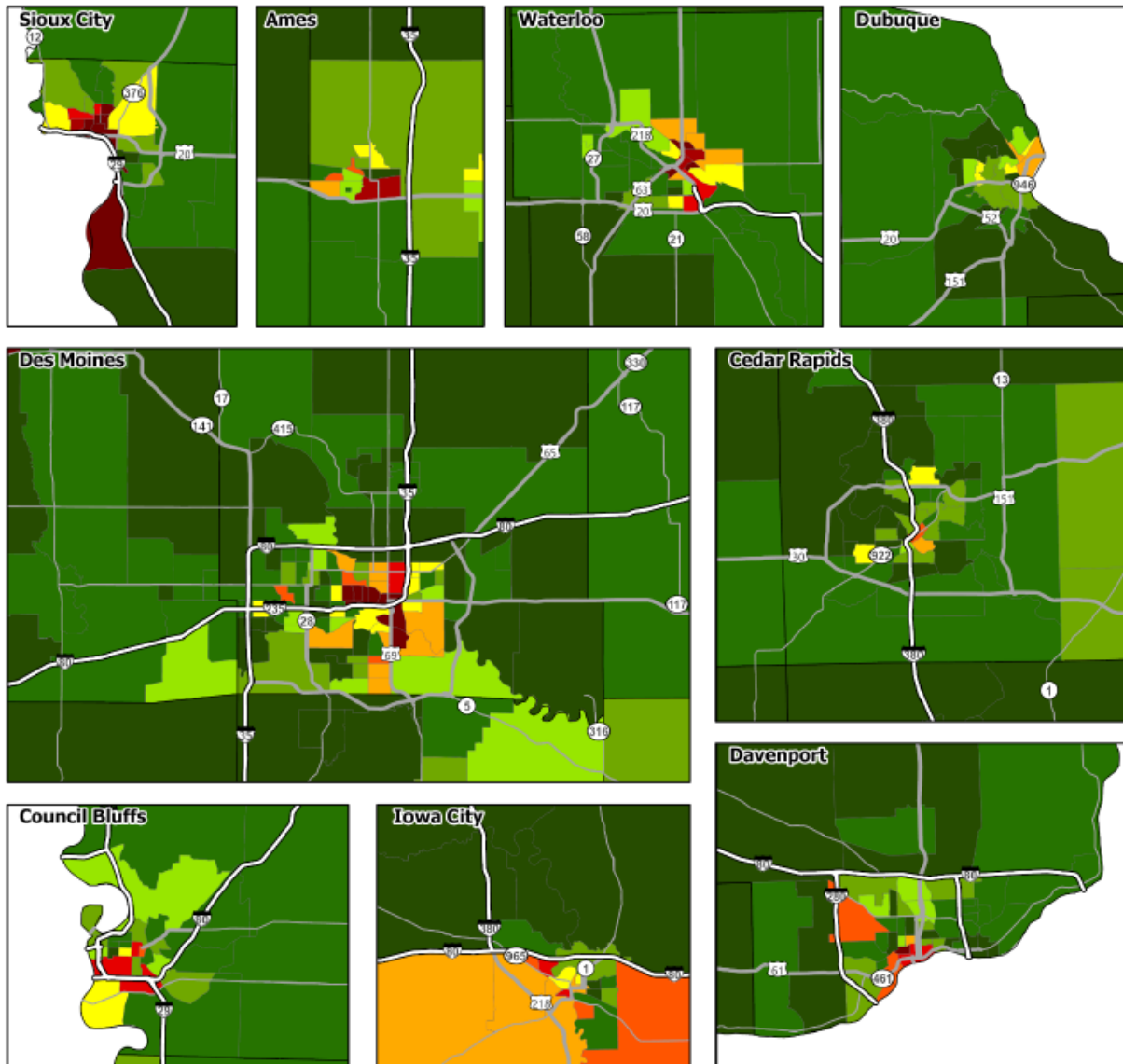
## Equity Rightsizing Policy Statement

- The department shall evaluate the ways transportation policies and investments impact equity and consider strategies to support an equitable transportation system. Such consideration should include reviewing sociodemographic and socioeconomic disparities and barriers that inhibit underserved communities from fully accessing and utilizing the transportation system.

## Accessibility/Mobility Analysis

- Analyzed factors that may limit mobility, ability to access transportation infrastructure, and/or travel via a personal vehicle.
- Aim: Identify populations at higher risk of mobility challenges. These populations may be particularly in need of or best served by alternatives to driving and non-traditional public outreach techniques.
- Attributes considered
  - Youth – under 18
  - Older adults – 65 and over
  - Minority (non-White and/or Hispanic/Latino)
  - Foreign-born
  - Limited English proficiency
  - With a disability
  - Households below poverty level
  - Zero vehicle households
  - College enrolled
  - Single parent households

# Accessibility/Mobility Analysis



## Applicable SLRTP Strategies

- Adopt and integrate system objectives into department decision-making, including for planning, programming, and project development activities.
- Implement the rightsizing policy across planning, programming, and project development activities.
- Enhance accessibility planning.
- Continue exploring ways to ensure equity in department policies and investments.
- Continue to enhance accessibility of Motor Vehicle Division services.
- Continue to enhance efforts that improve personal accessibility and mobility options for all users and reduce barriers to using the transportation system.



# Possible Implementation Activities

- Analysis
  - Refresh/reevaluate accessibility analysis post-2020 Census; review crossover with transit dependency analysis and determine if/how both analyses continue to be updated.
  - Explore different versions of tools to identify EJ or underserved populations.
  - Explore other types of accessibility analysis, like those listed in the SLRTP as other ways to measure accessibility.
  - Explore analysis that combines socioeconomic and transportation data, such race or income disparities in crashes.
- Planning
  - Consider development of an equity/accessibility strategy or plan.
    - Currently working on whitepaper.
  - Determine ways to better integrate user perspectives into planning.
  - Consider planning efforts similar to the reconnecting communities program.
  - Continue to develop and enhance mobility management and community partnership efforts, including initiatives like Get There Your Way and those that target specific underserved groups of individuals.
  - Develop a set of recommendations for how equity and accessibility should be included in the project prioritization and selection process.

## Questions?

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