

Title VI Activities at CRCOG

MPO Certification Review
July 14, 2009

Title VI Presentation

- 1. Environmental Justice**
- 2. Limited English Proficiency**
- 3. Persons with Disabilities**
- 4. Public Involvement**

Environmental Justice and CRCOG's Transportation Planning Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & TITLE VI
CHALLENGE GRANT

December 2002

Environmental Justice

- Active & effective EJ program since 2002
- US DOT Challenge Grant used to develop EJ policy & programs
- Now fully integrated or institutionalized

Key Elements

- EJ Advisory Board
- Close relations with CCEJ
- EJ representative on Transportation Com.
- Quantitative assessment of TIP & major projects
- Special outreach efforts for studies, ...

Environmental Justice and CRCOG's Transportation Planning Program



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & TITLE VI
CHALLENGE GRANT

December 2002

Capitol Region Council of Governments

EJ Advisory Board

Functions: Review RTP, TIP, & UPWP

- Review EJ equity assessment
- Suggest relevant issues that CRCOG should address in planning program

Meetings & Membership

- Meet only as needed: new TIP, new RTP, special issues
- Membership: ad hoc but largely CCEJ members, some TC members, & some Jobs Access representatives

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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & TITLE VI
CHALLENGE GRANT
December 2002

Capital Region Council of Governments

Relationship with CCEJ

CCEJ (CT Coalition for Environ. Justice)

- Worked with them since 2002 Challenge Grant
- Developed good relationship with CCEJ
- Members participate in EJAB
- Mark Mitchell (Director) is member of Transp. Com.
- Occasionally, we attend their meetings to present studies or plans & get their input directly
 - Having an organization focused on EJ that is willing to collaborate with us has helped make our program effective & meaningful

Environmental
Justice
and
CROG's
Transportation
Planning Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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Capital Region Council of Governments

EJ representative to Transportation Com.

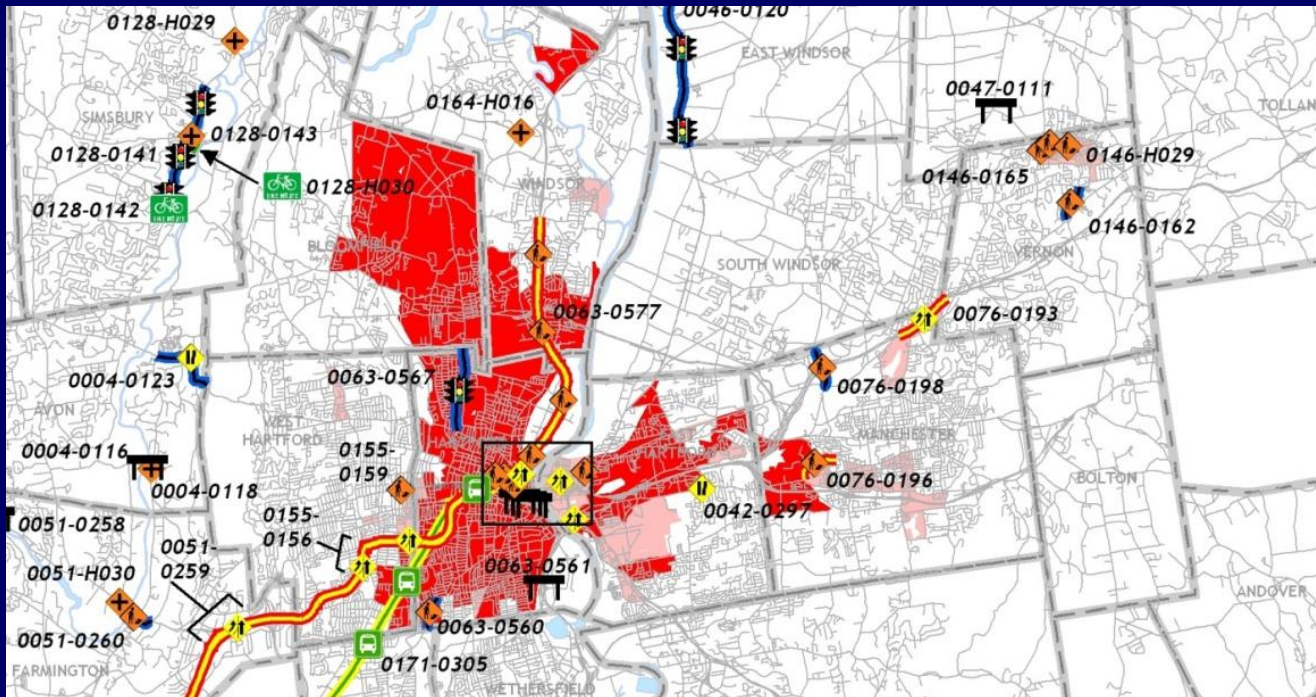
Full voting member & key contributor

- Might be single most important change
- Institutionalized EJ in decision-making process
- Increased awareness of EJ issues like transit & clean diesel
- Clearly influenced CRCOG policies
 - STP-Urban selection criteria
 - STP-Enhancement project selection

EJ Equity Assessment: quantitative tools

TIP

- Established EJ target areas (approved by EJAB)
- Developed assessment methodology using GIS
- Institutionalized as part of regular TIP adoption, being used again for FY 2010 TIP



EJ Equity Assessment: quantitative tools

2007 TIP:

No bias in
distribution of funds

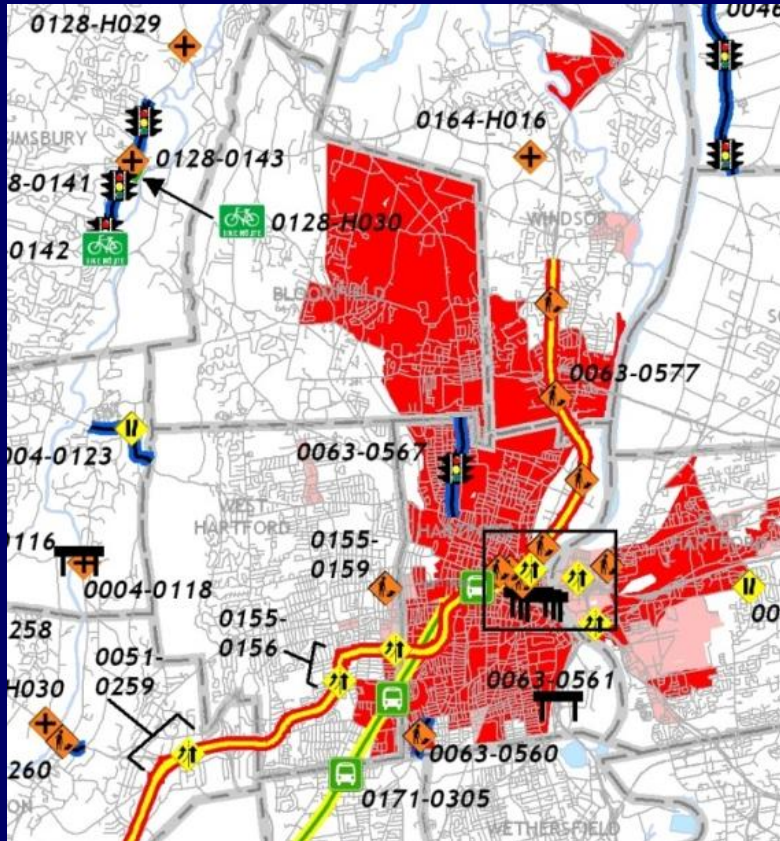
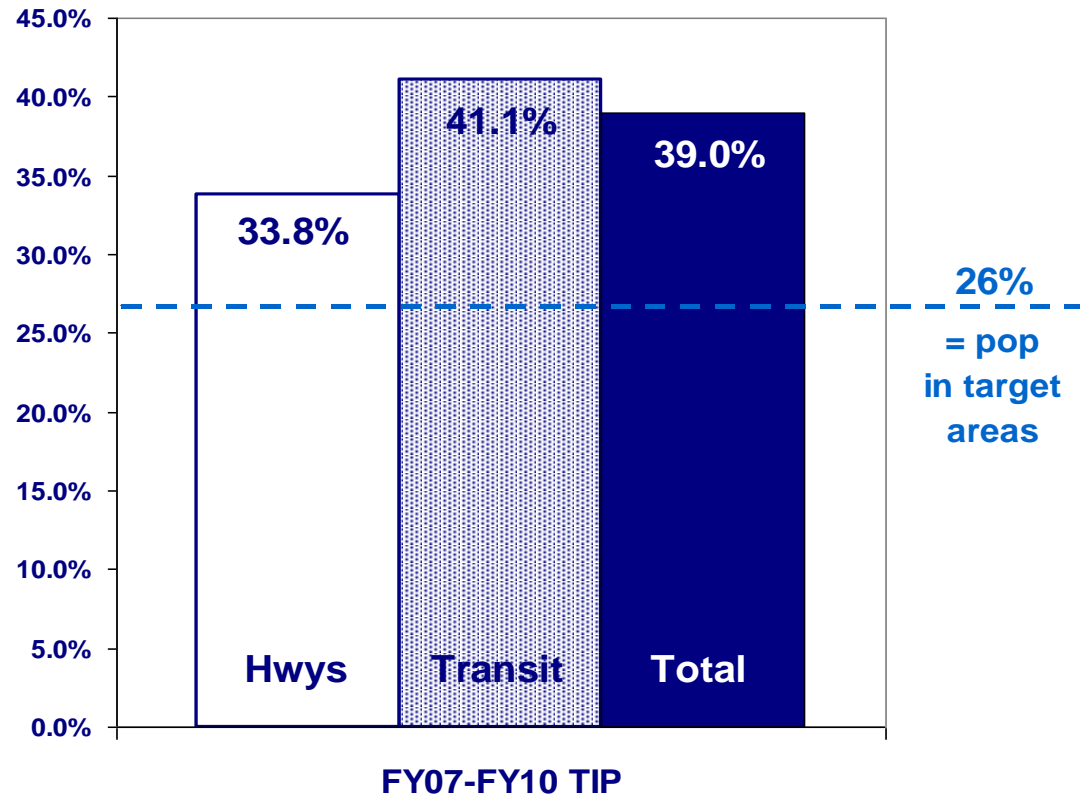
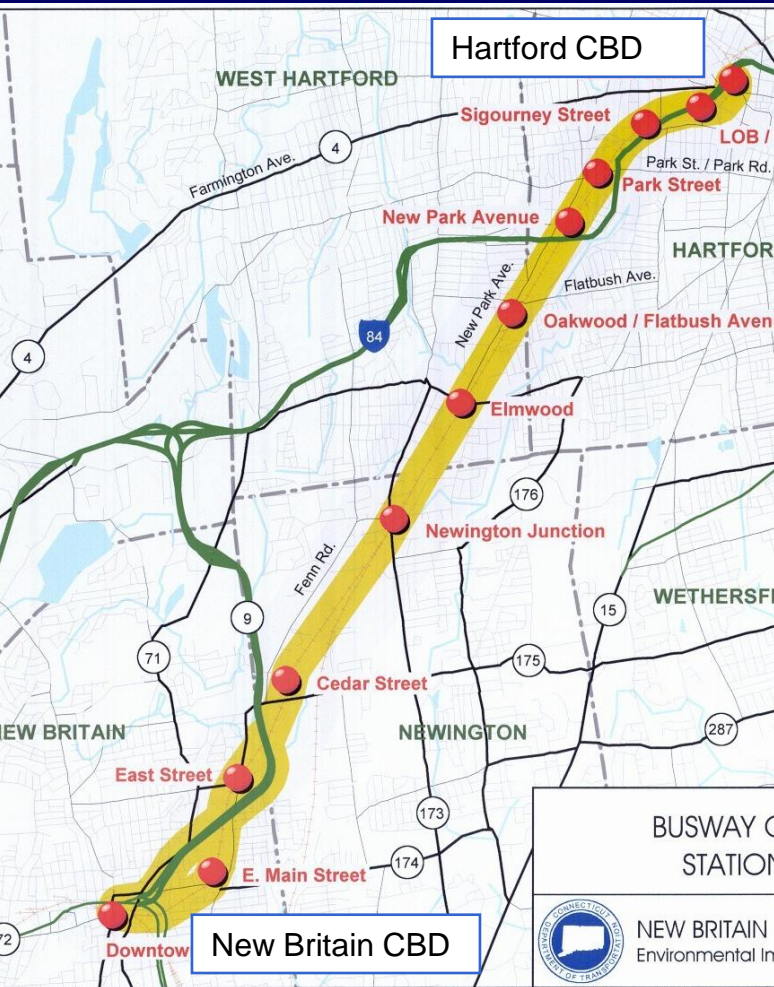


Figure 1: % of TIP Funds in Target Areas



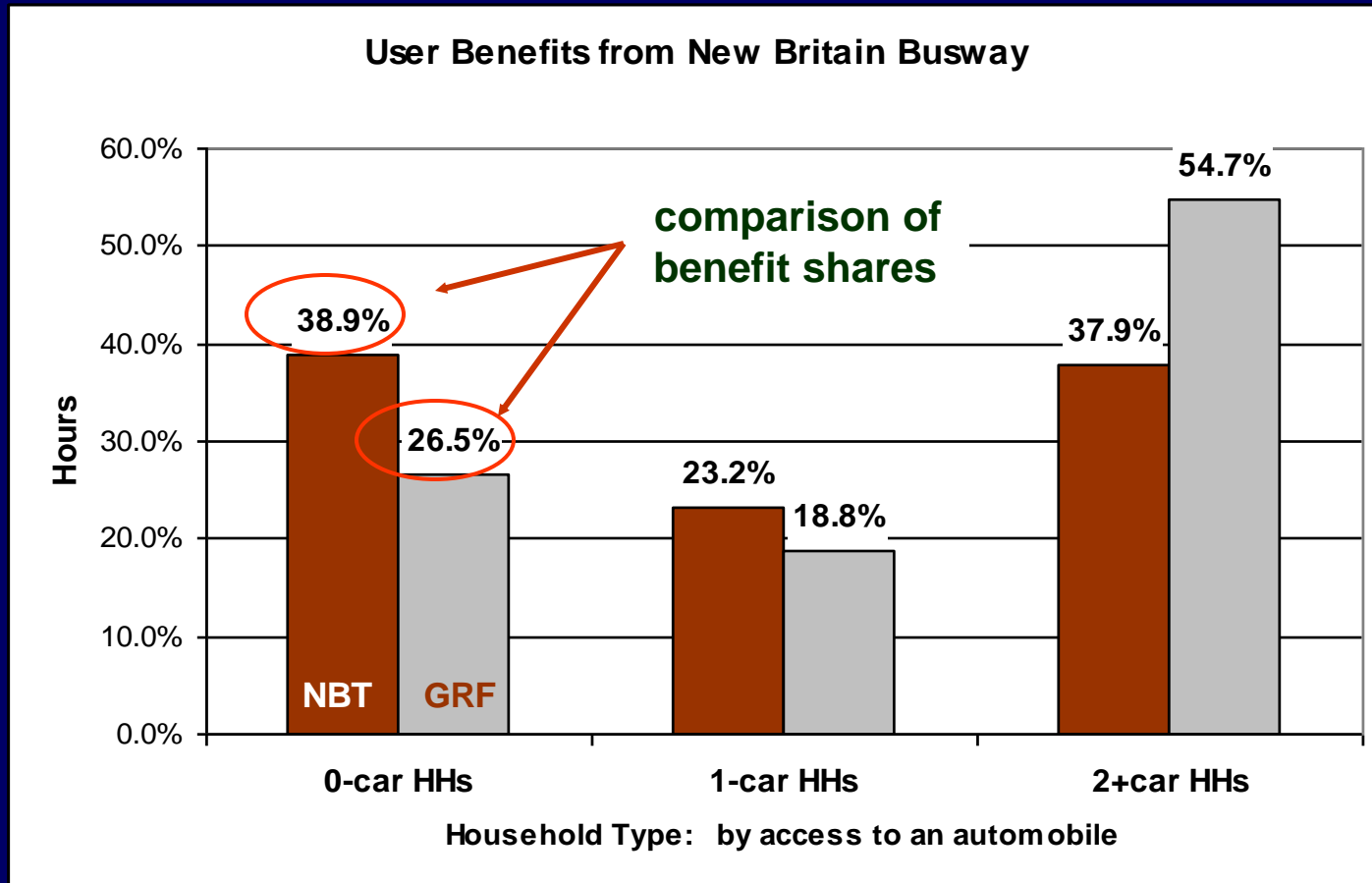
EJ Equity Assessment: quantitative tools



Evaluating Major Projects:

- Who benefits from major projects?
- Adapted FTA user benefit analysis
- Demonstrated - great tool for equity assessment.
 - Applications:
 - New Britain Busway
 - Griffin Busway

Griffin BRT vs New Britain BRT



Strong implications for Environmental Justice:

NBT gives larger share of benefits to 0-car HHs: 38%

- Strengthens justification for project.

Reducing Language Barriers

Guidelines on making CROCOG transportation programs more accessible to those who don't speak English well

Approved by CROCOG Policy Board on May 25, 2005

Reducing Language Barriers

Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

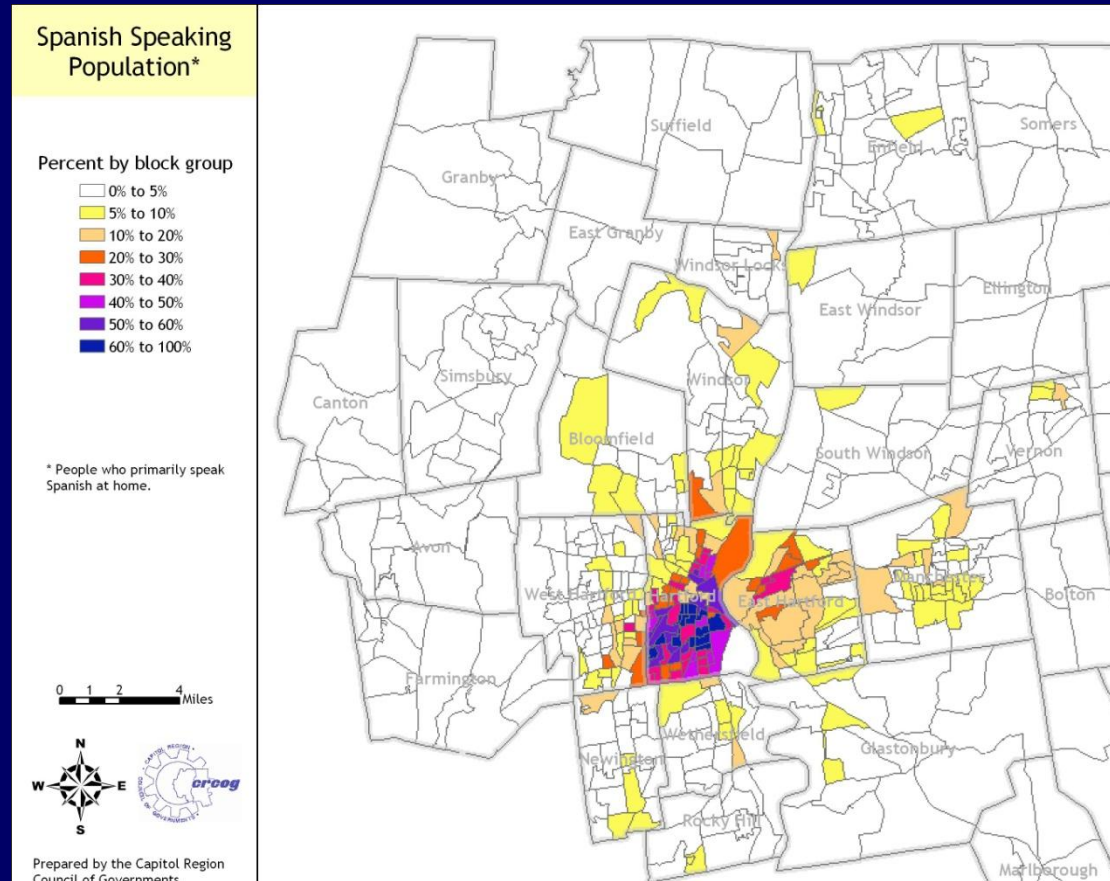
- Active & effective LEP program since 2005
- EJAB & CCEJ helped develop this policy
- Now fully integrated or institutionalized

Reducing Language Barriers

LEP Policy: Focused on Spanish language
largest language group in region

9.74% speak Spanish

4.00% Spanish LEP



Spanish language policies:

- Regular meetings: Spanish interpreter provided upon request:

Un traductor estará disponible para esta reunión si usted lo solicita al 522-2217, lo más pronto posible.

- Transit meetings:
 - Automatically provide interpreter
 - Notices entirely in Spanish
 - Advertise in Spanish language newspaper & on buses

Notices posted on buses



Public Meeting
Reunión Pública

Wednesday October 1, 2008 5:30 to 7:30PM
Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street
Talk to CTTRANSIT about the bus service! All are welcome.

Miércoles, 1º de octubre de 2008, 5:30 a 7:30PM
Biblioteca Pública de Hartford, 500 Main Street
¡Hable con CTTRANSIT acerca del servicio de autobuses!
Todo el mundo es bienvenido.

The library is accessible for persons with disabilities. Persons requiring auxiliary aids (such as sign language services) should call 860-522-8101, ext 221, or email ggregg@cttransit.com before September 24. There will be someone at the meeting to translate comments or questions received in Spanish.

La biblioteca tiene acceso para personas con discapacidades. Las personas que requieran asistencia auxiliar (como servicios de lenguaje por señas) deberán llamar al 860-522-8101, ext 221 o enviar correo electrónico a ggregg@cttransit.com antes del 24 de septiembre. Asistirá a la reunión una persona para traducir comentarios o preguntas en español.

Our Community Partners:
Nuestros Socios de la Comunidad:



Other Spanish language efforts

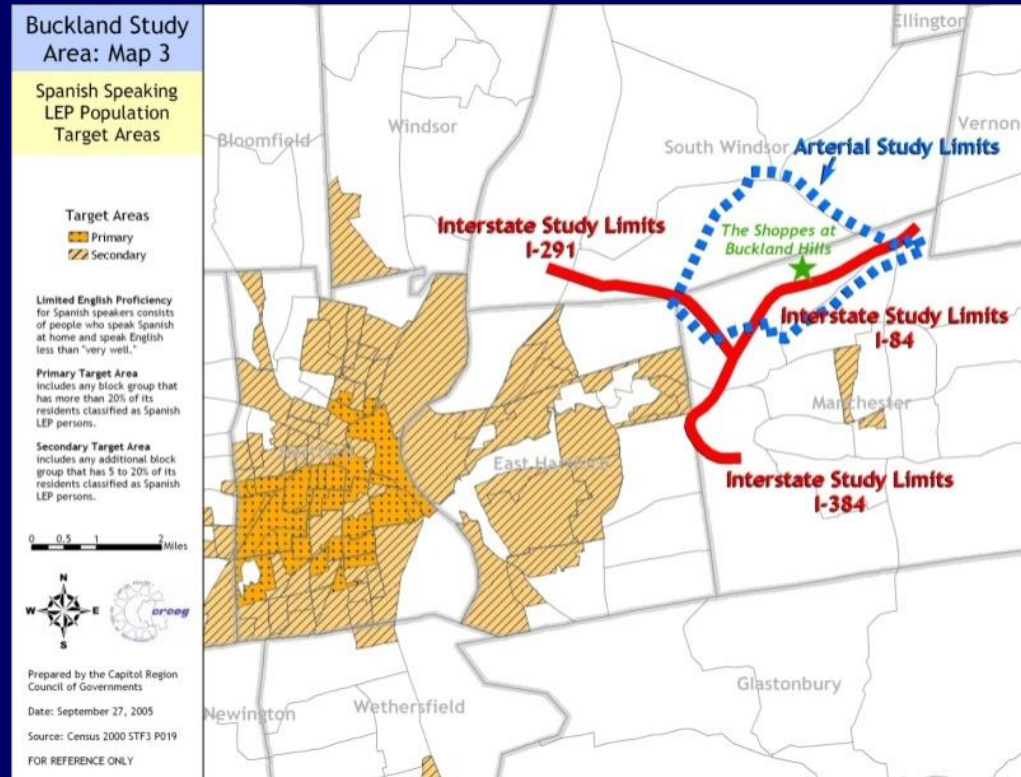
- Translated key documents:
 - RTP Exec Summary
 - TIP brochure
- Telephone service: Spanish interpreter offered
- Special studies: conduct a pre-study assessment



Other language efforts: Spanish & others

Special Studies:

- Prepare language analysis for study area
 - Spanish
 - other languages
- Customize outreach program for each study



Assess language needs before each study

Reducing barriers for persons with disabilities

CRCOG is committed to reducing barriers that prevent people from participating in our process.

- Provide appropriate accommodations at meetings

NOTE TO PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: We do not discriminate on the basis of disability. Individuals who need auxiliary aids are invited to make their needs known by contacting us by mail, phone, fax or email as soon as possible.

- Provide sign language interpreter 2-3 times/year
- Provide special seating area for persons in wheelchairs

Reducing barriers for persons with disabilities

- Changed meeting to more accessible location:
 - elevator in previous building too small for some motorized wheelchairs
- Modified website:
 - more accessible for visually impaired
- Held workshops on ADA compliance

Sponsored workshops and webinars on ADA

- 9/04: Innovative Pedestrian Crossing Treatments, ASCE webinar
- 1/05: ADA Guidelines and Pedestrian Accessibility
- 9/05: CT Services for the Blind: presentation on issues for blind pedestrians to Bike-Ped Committee
- 5/06: Seminar on the new ADA Regulations for access in the public right of way
- 4/09: CT Services for the Blind provided a workshop on issues for blind pedestrians, includes walking audit.

Public & Community Involvement

- Major area of emphasis for CRCOG
- Devote substantial time & effort to involve communities in our process
- Illustrated this in prior session on special studies
- Quickly review major policy elements here

Public & Community Involvement

Major policy elements:

- **Public Participation Plan**
 - Mostly recently updated in 2007
 - Compliant with all federal requirements
- **PPP addresses all aspects of CRCOG planning process**
 - Environmental Justice, LEP, ADA
 - Review of TIP, RTP, UPWP, ...
 - Special Studies
 - Project selection (STP Urban,)
- **Conduct annual assessments to evaluate effectiveness of practices**

Mark Mitchell, M.D., Director of CCEJ