Community and Social Impact Assessment

- May be conducted outside of NEPA
- Often incorporates EJ Review

Impact Assessment Areas
- Social Impacts
- Economic Impacts
- Land Use and Growth
- Public Service Impacts/Access
- Health Effects
- Environmental Effects
The fundamental principles of environmental justice in the context of infrastructure projects are defined as:

- Avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations;

- Ensuring full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the decision-making process; and

- Preventing the denial of, reduction in or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.
The Ties that Bind:
Public Outreach and Engagement

- Learn about community concerns and needs;
- Identify the project location and other concerns;
- Identify advocates and resources;
- Build coalitions with communities and groups;
- Capture diverse opinions and views; and
- Illustrate deep commitment transparency.
Citizen Engagement and Awareness

- Informs project decision making
- Improves understanding
- Develops long-term partnering
- Encourages thoughtful conversation
Guidance Documents

- CEQ Guidance for Environmental Justice May 1996
- USDOT Updated Environmental Justice Order 5610.2(a) May 2012 “Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations”
- FTA Title VI Circular 4702.1B and EJ Circular 4703.1
- EPA’s Plan EJ 2014 and its supplement Advancing Environmental Justice Through Title VI of the Civil Rights Act