



# Title VI Program Update

## **Public Participation in Transportation Planning**

May 9, 2022 – 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Union County Government Center or  
Videoconference/Teleconference

# WHY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT

The SEDA-COG MPO spends public dollars on regional transportation planning and abides by federal policies for public participation and non-discrimination.

These policies prescribe a transportation planning process and primary decision-making documents:

- the region's 20-year Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
- the 4-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- the Coordinated Public Transit–Human Services Transportation Plan
- the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

The SEDA-COG MPO offers opportunities for the public to participate in updates to each plan or program, according to its Public Participation Plan and supporting Limited English Proficiency Plan.

May 9, 2022



# WHY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT



More importantly, the MPO aims to serve all citizens of the region and therefore needs to know its population generally:

- Population distribution
- Population change
- Employment distribution
- Commuting patterns
- Employment by industry

and specifically population segments that have traditionally been underrepresented in transportation planning,

so that all citizens are fairly considered in future transportation planning.

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MUST BE FAIR



The SEDA-COG MPO must ensure that all outreach strategies, communications, and public involvement efforts comply with Title VI, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other federal and state requirements.

Therefore, the SEDA-COG MPO makes concerted efforts to involve members of all socioeconomic and demographic groups in the public involvement process, including the following special populations.

- Minority Populations
- Low-Income Persons
- Limited English Proficiency Individuals
- Disabled Individuals
- Zero-Car Households
- Senior Citizens



## TO BE FAIR, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TAKES PLANNING

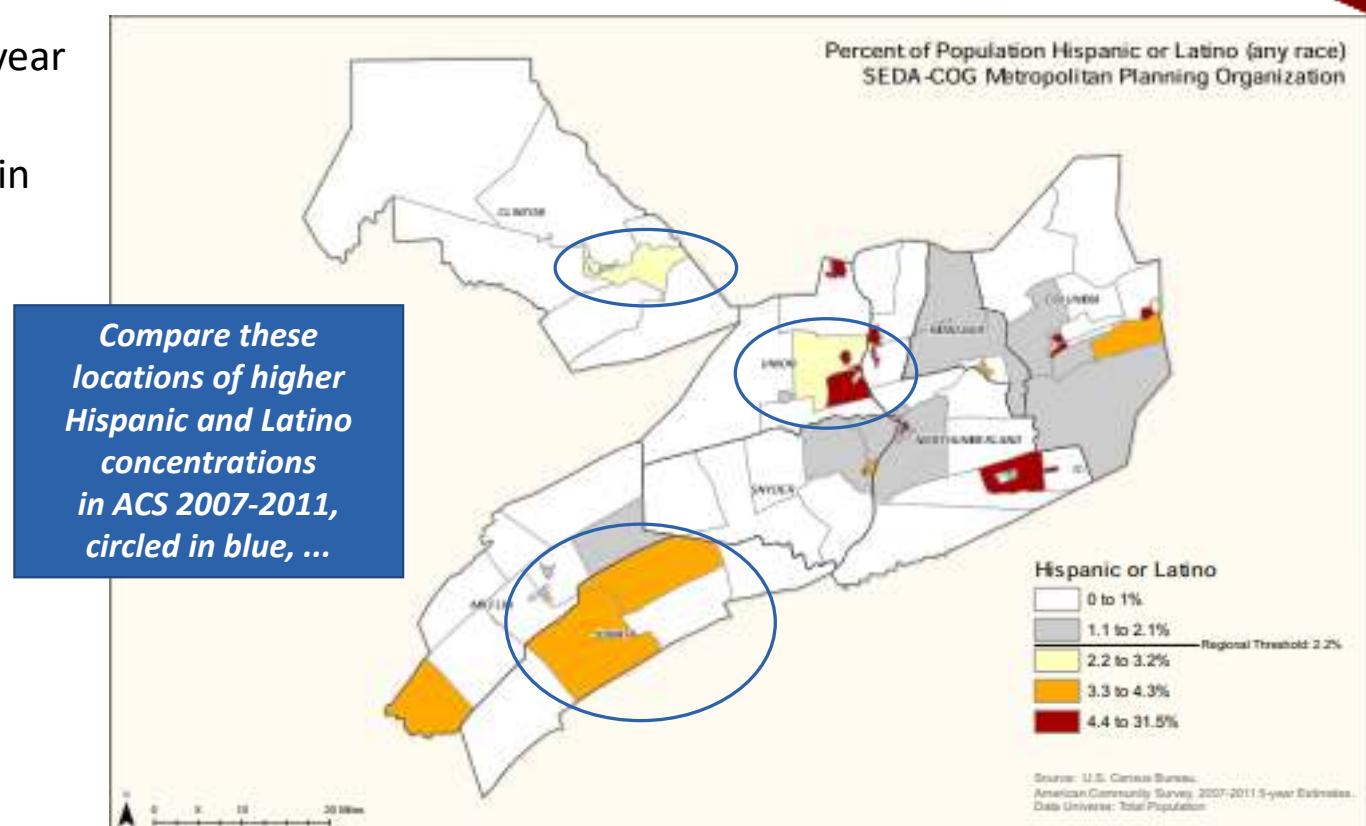
These efforts are established in the MPO's Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan.

The Public Participation Plan is maintained—now updated every three years—to address ongoing changes in regional demographics and socioeconomic, communication methods and preferences, and regulatory requirements.

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TAKES PLANNING

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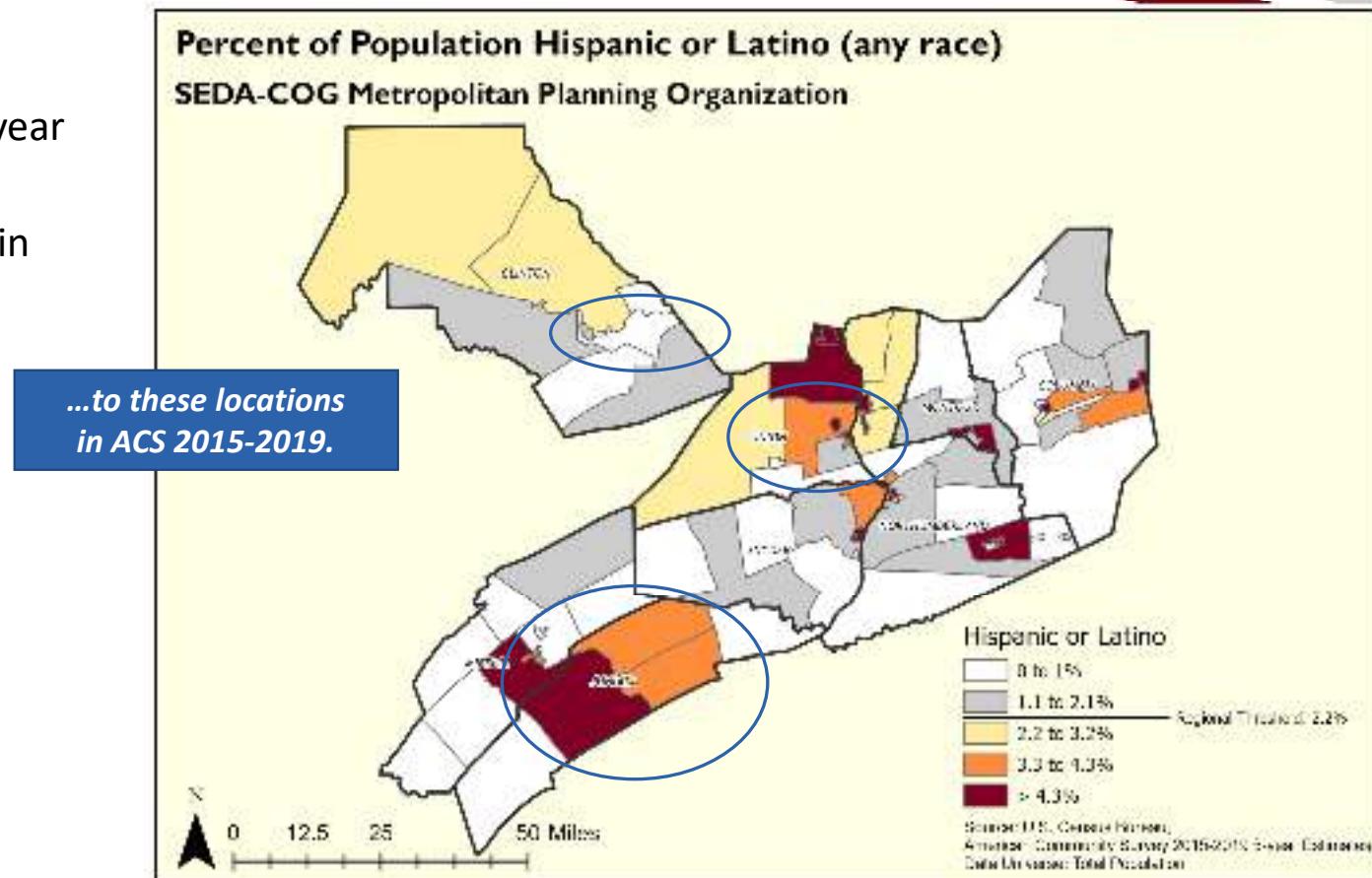
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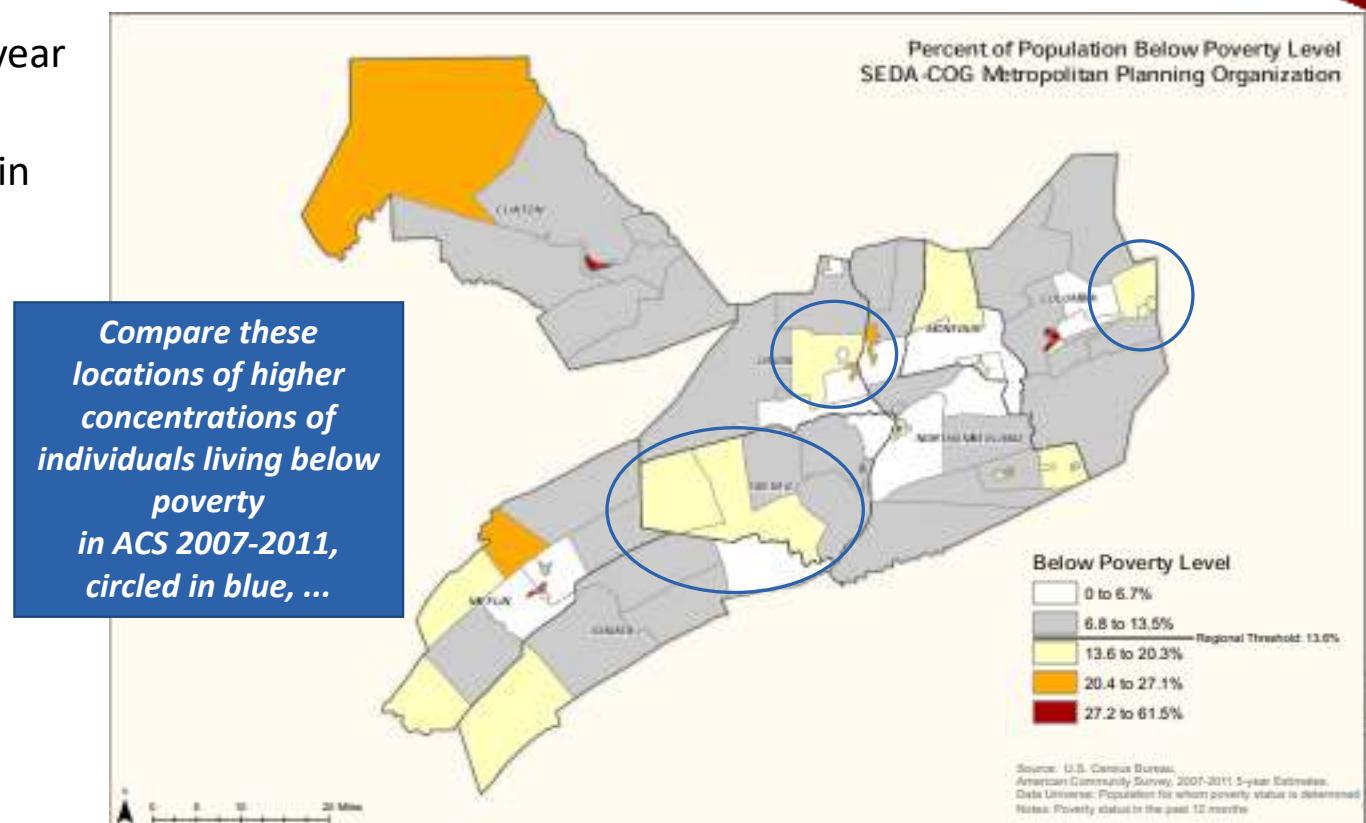


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There are socio-economic changes, like income and **poverty levels**.

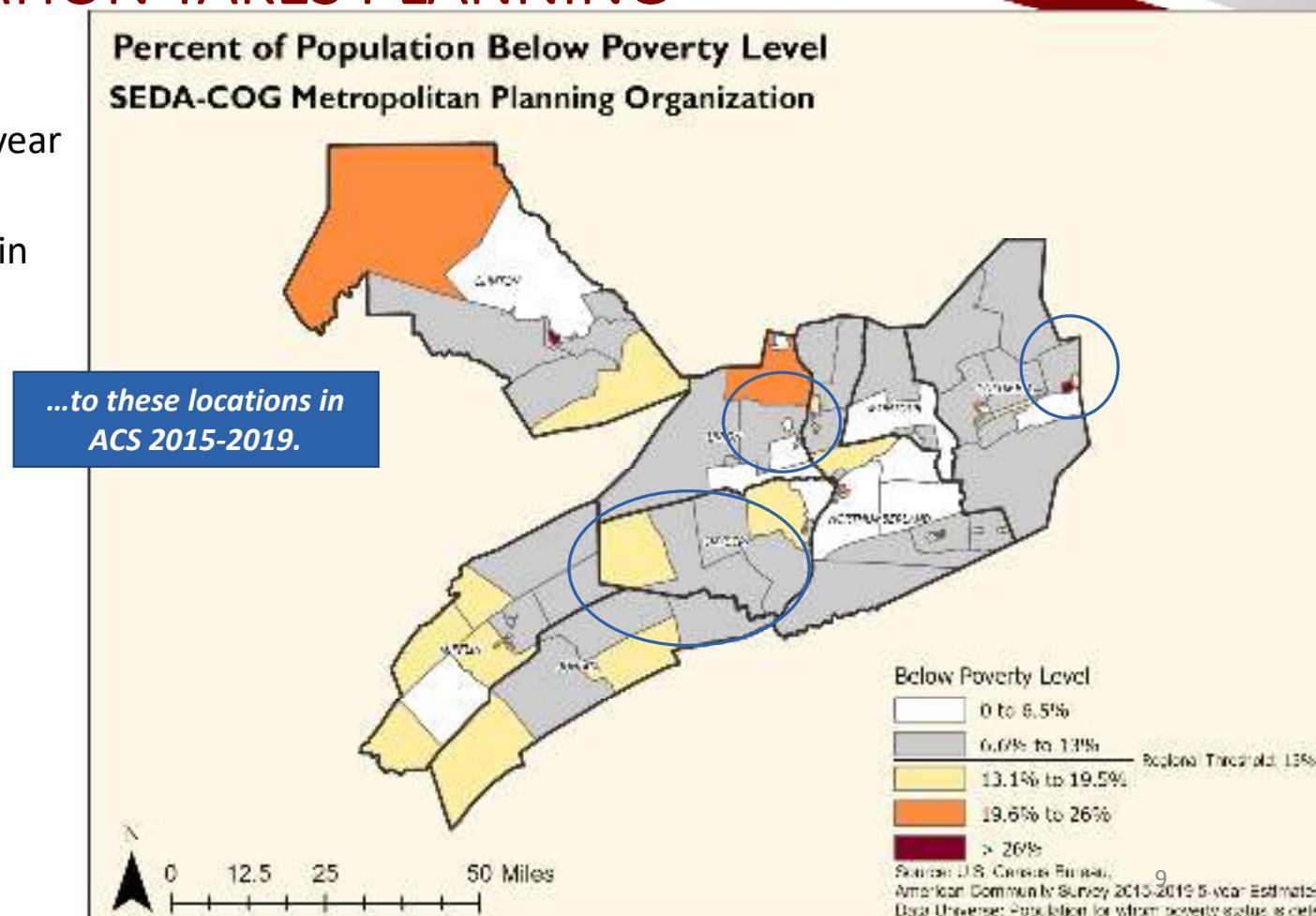


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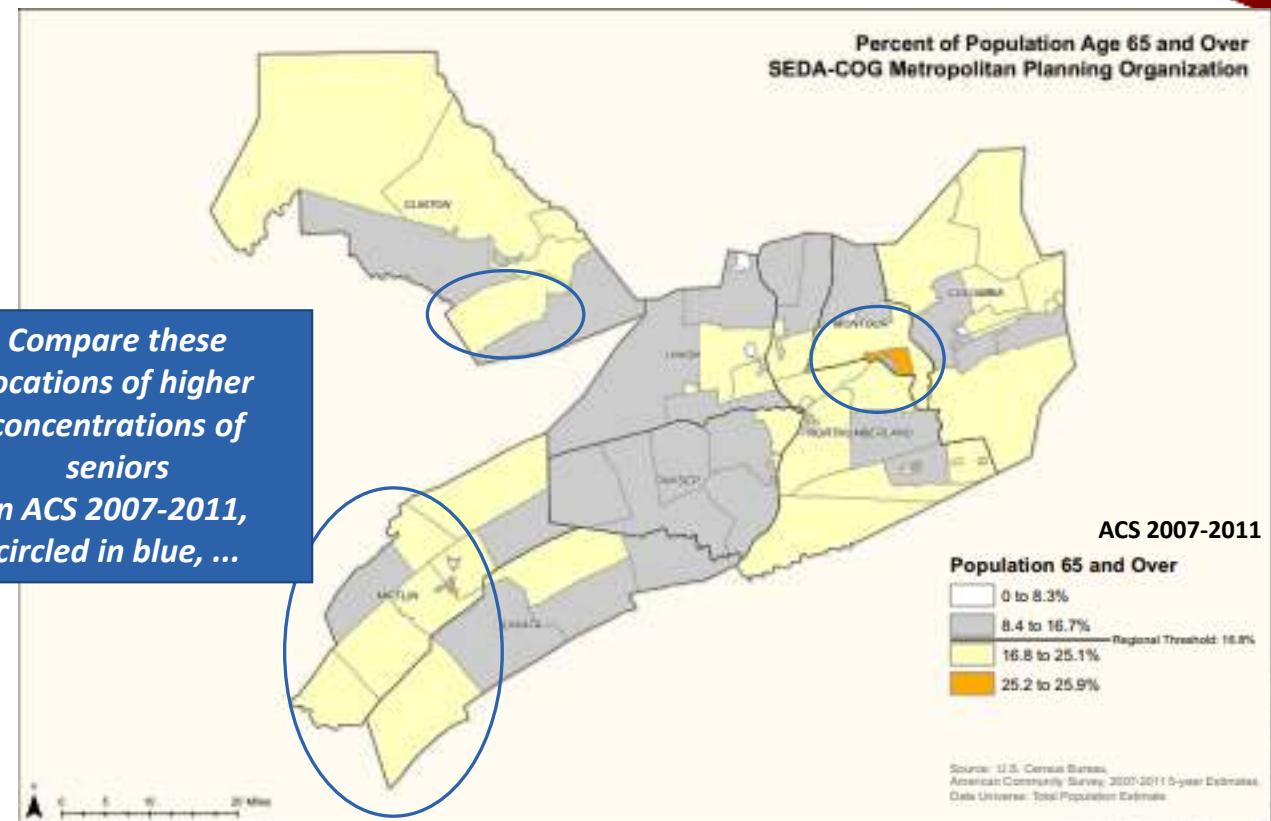
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There are socio-economic changes, like income and poverty levels.

There are changes in the **distribution of seniors, age 65 and over.**

*Compare these locations of higher concentrations of seniors in ACS 2007-2011, circled in blue, ...*



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TAKES PLANNING

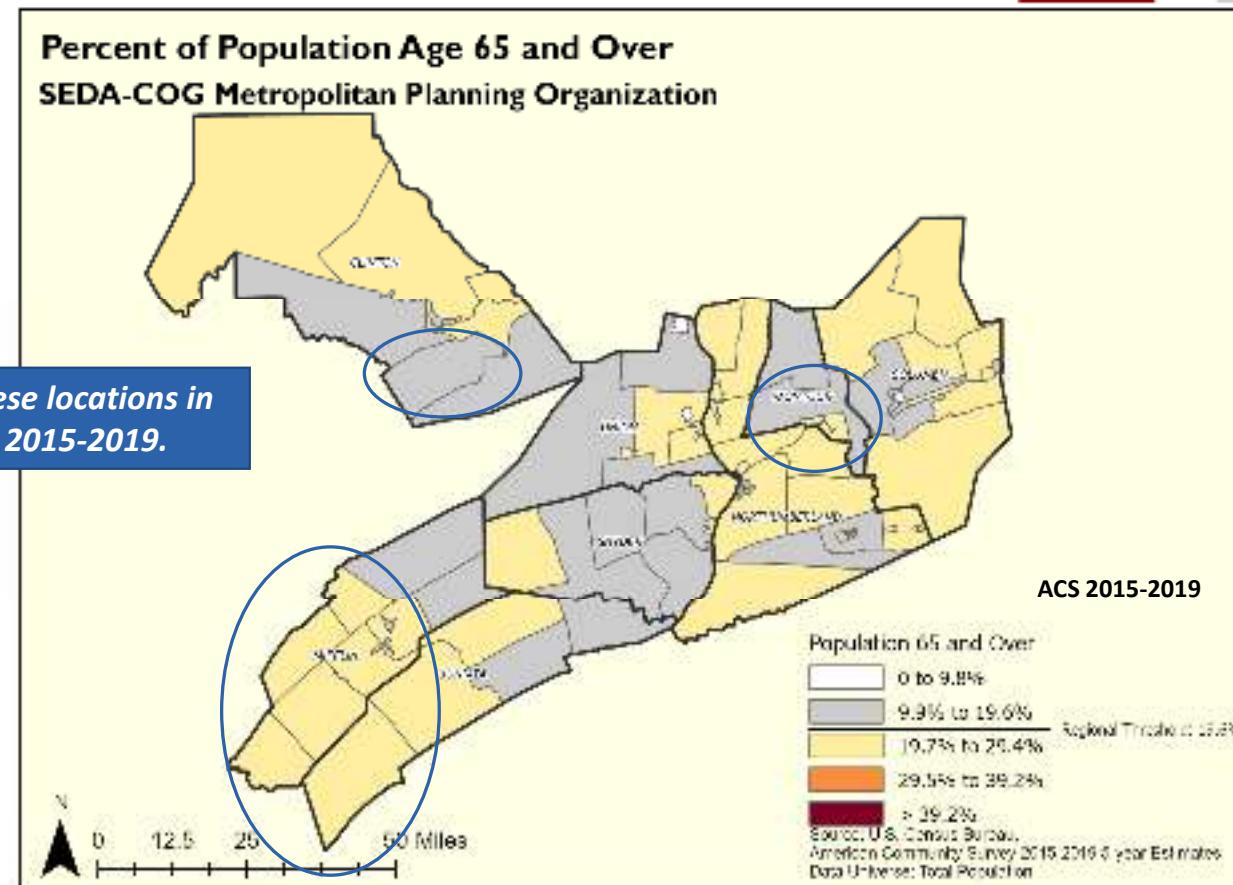
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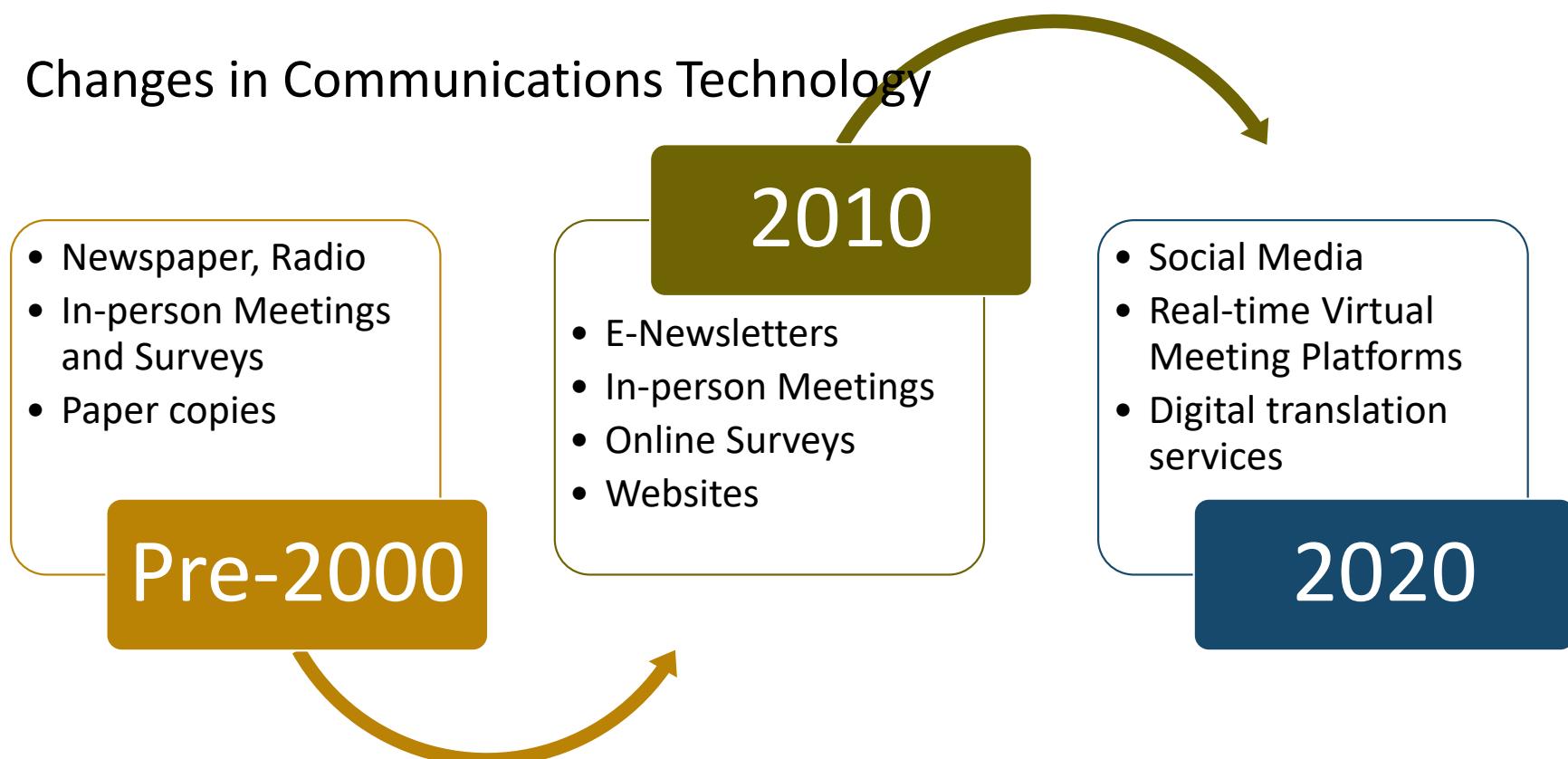
There are changes in the **distribution of seniors, age 65 and over.**

*...to these locations in ACS 2015-2019.*



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TAKES PLANNING

## Changes in Communications Technology



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN, 2022

SEDA-COG MPO's Public Participation Plan is guided by six goals that set the framework for outreach and involvement in the MPO's transportation decision-making processes.

1. Extend the reach of the participation program.
2. Encourage diversity of participants.
3. Increase the impact of participation.
4. Increase participant satisfaction.
5. Realize opportunities for education.
6. Formalize the use of performance indicators.

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION STRATEGIES

- Communication by mail, phone, fax, e-mail, or person-to-person contact
- Public meetings, workshops, open houses, and hearings that are held at convenient and accessible locations and times
- Distribution of public notices and press releases
- Distribution of reports, fact sheets, maps, and other documents for planning efforts
- SEDA-COG's website for documents, meeting schedules, agendas, minutes, news, etc.
- Paper copies of draft plans placed at county, municipal, and agency offices
- Distribution of an MPO e-newsletter
- Dissemination of public surveys and comment forms
- Posts and announcements through SEDA-COG's social media accounts

*Continued*

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION STRATEGIES

- Posts and announcements through SEDA-COG's social media accounts
- Partnering with community, civic, non-profit, and business groups to share information and host public input sessions
- Consulting with agencies and officials working with traditionally underserved populations or responsible for planning activities affected by transportation
- Publicizing that translation, interpretation, or other auxiliary services are available to the public
- Visualization aids to help the public understand transportation plans and/or programs
- Cross-promoting and working with data from state agency public surveys

# PRIMARY CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

## Updates

1. **Demographic data and maps** to reflect 2020 Census stats and 2015-2019 American Community Survey Estimates.
2. The **Interested Parties Distribution Lists**.
3. The **Public Meeting Comment Form** used to collect LEP information and evaluations of meetings.

## Additions

1. A Title VI Compliance statement and funding source disclaimer.
2. **Language Taglines**, translating “ATTENTION: If you speak another language, language assistance is available to you FREE OF CHARGE. Call 570-524-4491 (TTY: 711)” into **Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, German**.
3. **Further emphasis that the MPO will make all reasonable modifications** to policies, programs, and documents to ensure that people with disabilities and those with Limited English Proficiency have an equal opportunity to participate in all the MPO programs, services, and activities.

# PRIMARY CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

4. Regularly scheduled **MPO Committee meetings accommodate in-person and virtual participation.** One caveat: if an in-person public meeting is not feasible or advisable (e.g., public health or other emergency), the SEDA-COG MPO may offer a solely virtual meeting.
5. **Details and descriptions for public participation strategies and techniques, including:**
  - new virtual meeting formats,
  - MPO newsletter,
  - social media posts,
  - document translation request form on website,
  - YouTube channel for recordings of meetings,
  - SurveyMonkey,
  - ArcGIS Online and ArcGIS Hub sites.

# PRIMARY CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

6. Proposed tools for **enhanced visualization techniques** such as photo simulations, 3-D images, videos, animations, aerial footage, etc.
7. **Descriptions for virtual public involvement techniques** deployed since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and for their continued use to augment public participation options.
8. Major **future efforts**:
  - further consulting with interested parties;
  - seeking out EJ/LEP organizations, resources, and points of contact;
  - reviewing ADA accessibility features for meeting spaces;
  - coordinating with disability advocates and IT experts to make electronic materials and website content easier to access; and
  - investigating the formation of a Public Participation Panel.
9. Option for a **special meeting to consider TIP amendment approval votes** in between regularly scheduled MPO meetings under the TIP Amendments Process Checklist.

# PRIMARY CHANGES TO THE LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

## Updates

1. **Demographic data and maps** to reflect 2015-2019 American Community Survey Estimates.
2. The Appendix items for **Notice of Language Services, Title VI Notice to the Public, Title VI Complaint Form, and Title VI Complaint Procedures**. These will also be translated into Spanish.
3. The **Language Assistance Services** content to reflect that SEDA-COG now uses LinguaLinx for on-demand phone-based interpretation services and included LinguaLinx procedures and tip sheets as appendix items.
4. **Human Translation & Interpretation Service Providers Appendix** item.
5. **Community & Agency Contacts Appendix** item.

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## Additions

1. **References to the document translation request form** on SEDA-COG website.
2. The Public Participation Plan will be reviewed every three years.
3. **Language Taglines** as an Appendix.

# TITLE VI PROGRAM

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination mandates apply to all MPO programs and activities.

The SEDA-COG MPO's Title VI Program comprises a series of documents that demonstrate compliance with these nondiscrimination policies.

- A. Title VI **Notice to the Public**, including a list of locations where the notice is posted
- B. Title VI **Complaint Procedures**
- C. Title VI **Complaint Form**
- D. List of **transit-related Title VI investigations**, complaints, and lawsuits
- E. **Public Participation Plan**
- F. **Language Assistance Plan** for providing language assistance to persons with limited English proficiency (LEP)

# TITLE VI PROGRAM DOCUMENTS

G. **A table depicting the membership of non-elected committees and councils**, the membership of which is selected by the recipient, broken down by race, and a description of the process the agency uses to encourage participation of minorities on such committees

H. **A description of how the agency monitors** its subrecipients for compliance with Title VI, and a schedule of subrecipient Title VI Program submissions  
**N/A**

I. **A Title VI equity analysis** if the recipient has constructed a facility, such as a vehicle storage facility, maintenance facility, operation center, etc.  
**N/A**

J. **A copy of the board meeting minutes or resolution** showing the board of directors reviewed and approved the Title VI Program

K. **Demographic profile** of the metropolitan area

L. **A description of the procedures by which the mobility needs of minority populations** are identified and considered within the planning process

M. **Demographic maps that show the impacts of the distribution of State and Federal funds** in the aggregate for public transportation projects

N. **Analysis of the MPO's transportation system investments that identifies and addresses any disparate impacts**

# **TITLE VI PROGRAM UPDATE, 2022**

**Questions? Comments? Suggestions?**

**Thank you for attending tonight!**