

Case Study 1

Environmental Justice & Equity Case Study

Due April 3

Throughout the course we have addressed many issues with regards to passenger transportation. Your project should focus on a topic related to environmental justice (EJ) and passenger transportation that is of personal interest. According to FHWA, there are three fundamental environmental justice principles:

- To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations.
- To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.
- To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.

This report is two parts: (1) explore the definitions and metrics which define if a project is equitable and/or follows environmental justice (EJ) principles and (2) look at a case study (or project) in depth and determine if the project follows environmental justice principles.

Part I

This section of the report and presentation is to explore how environmental justice and transportation equity defined. Some questions which you should answer are:

- How is equity measured / defined?
- What performance measures are used to determine if a project follows environment justice principles?
- What is an Environmental Impact Statement?
- Why is public engagement important?
- Based on your research, how do you feel Baltimore is doing from an environmental justice perspective?

Part II

You are expected to select one case to study. This case can be an example of either a transportation project done well or poorly from an EJ framework (you must specify which category it is). For example, you could look at how building the interstate system affected a particular city or town such as Overton in Miami, FL as discussed in the *Divided Highways* documentary. Describe how the project fits in the EJ framework. In addition, relate the case study to topics discussed in class such as transportation system components and key points. Lastly, discuss the importance of the public outreach process in transportation. Did the case engage in public outreach?

Report & Presentation

The report is worth 60% of your grade and the presentation 40%.

Your presentation should be limited to 10 minutes. PowerPoint or some other visual presentation is expected. Presentations will be given in class April 3 & 5. The order of the presentations will be randomly chosen and posted to Blackboard. **However out of fairness all presentations must be uploaded to Blackboard by April 3. You may work individually or in pairs. Case**

study topics are due March 27. Post your topic to blackboard using the link in the Case Study 1 folder which can be found under assignments.

Your report must be well written. The report should be limited to around 5-pages double spaced. Proper citation is required. In-text citations and a bibliography is required. For more information about citations, see the following link: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/>.

Resources

More information about environmental justice issues and sample case studies can be found at the links below. Note: these are just example case studies. Though you may use them, I prefer if you take some time to explore other sources to find other examples of cases.

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/environmental_justice/

<http://www.des.ucdavis.edu/faculty/handy/TTP220/ejhandbook.pdf>

<http://ejkit.com/>