



TEXAS MEGAREGION CORRIDOR EQUITY RUBRIC

State transportation agencies and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) across the country apply variables seeking equity in transportation projects. The goal is to improve access to employment, health care and other essential services for vulnerable or at-risk populations. Previous research in Cooperative Mobility for Competitive Megaregions (CM²) identified variables that are appropriate for developing Purpose and Need statements for transportation projects and created an Equity Purpose and Need Rubric for use by transportation planners in megaregion settings. The next step proposed will apply the rubric to a specific Texas Megaregion corridor enabling assessment and determination of the robustness of the tool.

The gap between those who have financial resources and those without is a commonly discussed phenomenon in US dialog. The Center for American Progress (2013) reports that more than 4 million Texans are in poverty, typically concentrated in the state's largest cities and along the Texas/Mexico border. Increasingly, these low income, ethnic and senior residents might be left on the fringes of society if attention is not focused on their travel requirements (US DOT, 2016). Crossing jurisdictional boundaries for these communities to reach services that have moved further from historical locations will create additional future challenges.

Identification of transportation need by planners and engineers is generally preceded by development of a statement of Purpose and Need. Previous research developed a template of variables and a rubric to apply when agencies are determining purpose and need for vulnerable populations. This research will apply the rubric to the US 290 Texas Megaregion corridor that connects Houston and Austin. The focus will be on whether equity considerations are merited in this corridor per the rubric tool.

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Application of the Equity Rubric for Purpose and Need to a Demonstration Corridor in the Texas Megaregion (#CM2-24)

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Project Information Form:
<http://sites.utexas.edu/cm2/files/2018/03/Year-2-Carol-Lewis-Gwendolyn-Goodwin-Application-of-the.pdf>



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY



US Highway 290



US 290 Corridor