



Creating a Framework to Determine Purpose and Need for Increased Travel Options in the Megaregion for Vulnerable Communities (#CM2-7)

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Project Information Form:

<http://sites.utexas.edu/cm2/files/2018/03/Year-1-Carol-Lewis-Creating-a-Framework-to-Determine-Purpose.pdf>

NEED FOR INCREASED TRAVEL OPTIONS VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Megaregional travel crosses boundaries of political jurisdictions and typical planning boundaries. Detailed work is often done on specific projects (like high speed rail) with little or no attention to the needs of vulnerable populations. State DOTs consider environmental justice in project planning, but in a localized manner, not focusing on interregional travel needs.

It is important as megaregion planning matures that access to opportunities promoting equity across rural communities improves. There should be better connections and access to employment, health care and other trip purposes from rural to urban communities within the megaregions, especially for high need populations.

The objective of this research is to formulate a rubric styled framework for planners to craft purpose and need statements that will support development of transportation projects for vulnerable populations in megaregions. The framework will be designed to assist decision making by providing an assessment tool to identify the location of vulnerable populations and determine the travel needs that can be met in the megaregion beyond traditional jurisdictional boundaries.

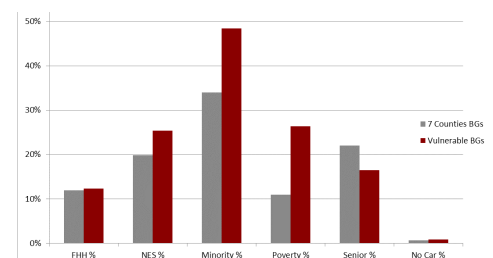
The study is designed to identify vulnerable populations in the Texas Triangle corridors coupled with an investigation of their mobility needs. The purpose is to link these communities with improved mobility to meet essential and desired lifestyle improvements.



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Variables	Definition
Minority Population	African Americans, American Indians, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Hispanics or Latinos
Low-Income Population	Total income in the past 12 months below poverty level
Senior Population	Persons 65 years and older.
Zero Automobile Ownership	Households with zero automobiles available.
Female Headed Households	Households with more than one person, in which no male head of household is present.
Language Proficiency	Households that speak English less than very well.

Vulnerable Block Group Variables



Comparison: Counties to Vulnerable Block Groups

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