

RTD Accountability Committee
Equity Assessment Mission Statement

Social, economic, financial, and environmental equity is a paramount consideration for the RTD Accountability Committee. The Committee will consider the needs of communities of concern, including but not limited to minority, low-income, individuals with disabilities, older adult, and veteran populations. Effort will be made through the Committee's work to ensure benefits are shared across the RTD service area and that no one group bears a larger burden of environmental or financial impacts. Actions that include spatial and other forms of analysis, community engagement, and consulting experts will be used at appropriate times to inform the work and final recommendations of the Committee.

Operationalizing Equity in the Deliberation of the Committee and Subcommittees

Each subcommittee will engage community organizations with expertise in equity such as the Center for Community Wealth Building, the Denver Institute of Equity and Reconciliation, and Mile High Connects during their initial deliberations as part of the research phase. During the formation and consideration of issues and policy options, an equality lens will be applied. This lens should include the following questions:

1. How could this recommendation benefit or burden communities of concern? Is there likely to be an increase or decrease in equity?
 - a. How are we defining benefit and burden?
 - b. How do we measure this impact?
2. Could this recommendation impact specific communities or geography more than others? If so, which communities and how?
 - a. What are the demographics of the most impacted areas?
 - b. Are neighborhoods equally required to help achieve the policy recommendation? If not, does this raise issues of equity and justice?
3. Could there be unintended consequences? If so, can they be mitigated?
4. Does this policy/strategy address historic, systemic, environmental, or institutional barriers that have impacted this community?

DRCOG staff and/or the on-call consulting team will assist subcommittees and the Committee to conduct appropriate equity assessments of draft recommendations. Draft recommendations, along with the assessments, will be made available for public review and input. Each subcommittee will consider the assessment and any input obtained through public engagement before making final subcommittee recommendations to the full committee.

The full committee will consider subcommittee recommendations and finalize draft recommendations to bring to a public hearing. Input received from the public hearing will be considered before the committee makes final recommendations. As needed, dissenting opinions will also be included with the final recommendations.