Disparate Impact and Disproportionate Burden Policy Public Engagement

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Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

Outline

- Developing a DI/DB policy
- What does it mean for the MPO?
- Public engagement
- What we learned
- Next steps

Developing a DI/DB Policy

Disparate Impact and
Disproportionate Burden
Policy

Federal Regulations

Title VI

- Analyze impacts of state and federal funds in the aggregate and identify potential disparate impacts on minority populations

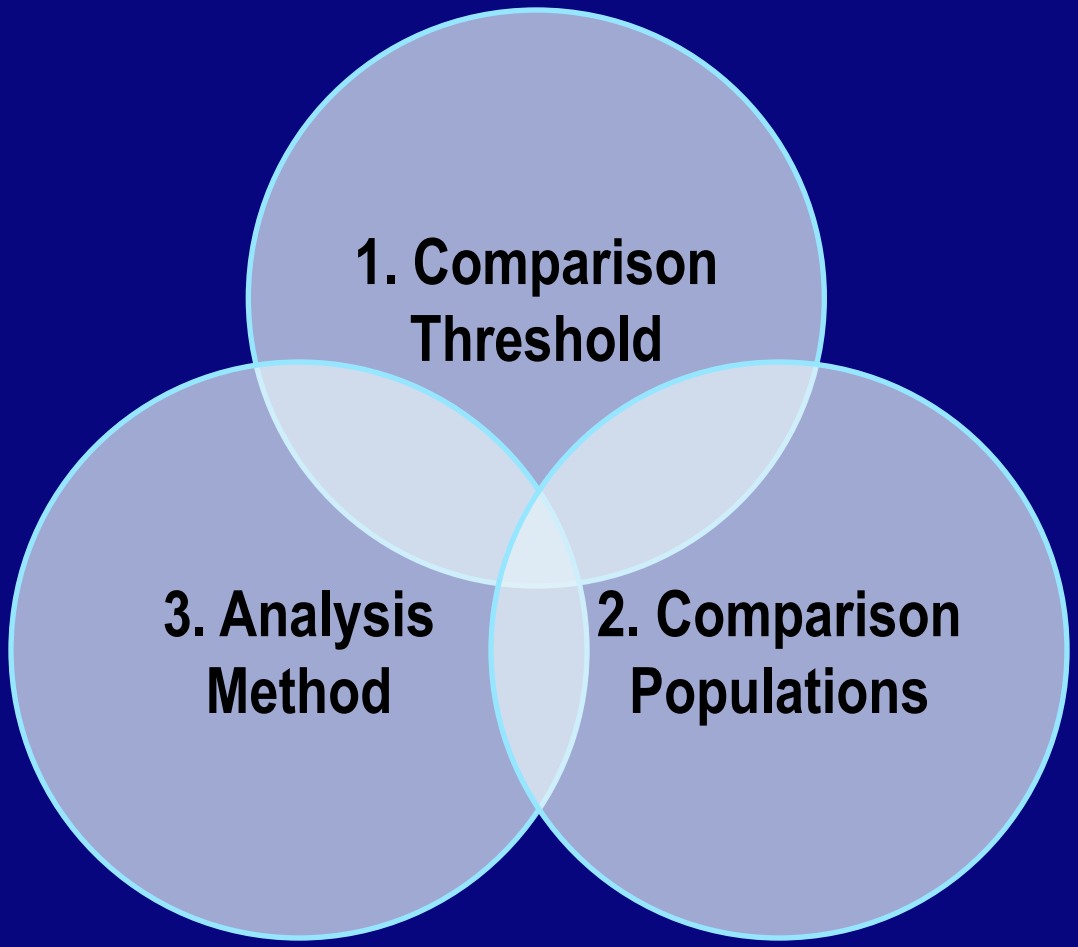
Environmental Justice

- Avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects of MPO activities on minority populations and low-income populations

What are the benefits of a policy?

- Serves as a transparent way to comply with regulations
- Offers direction for addressing equity
- Provides information about the impacts of MPO investments
- Puts the MPO at forefront of equity analyses nationwide

What is included in a policy?



1. Recommendation provided by stakeholders
2. Defined by federal guidance
3. Developed by MPO staff

Where have we been? Where are we going?

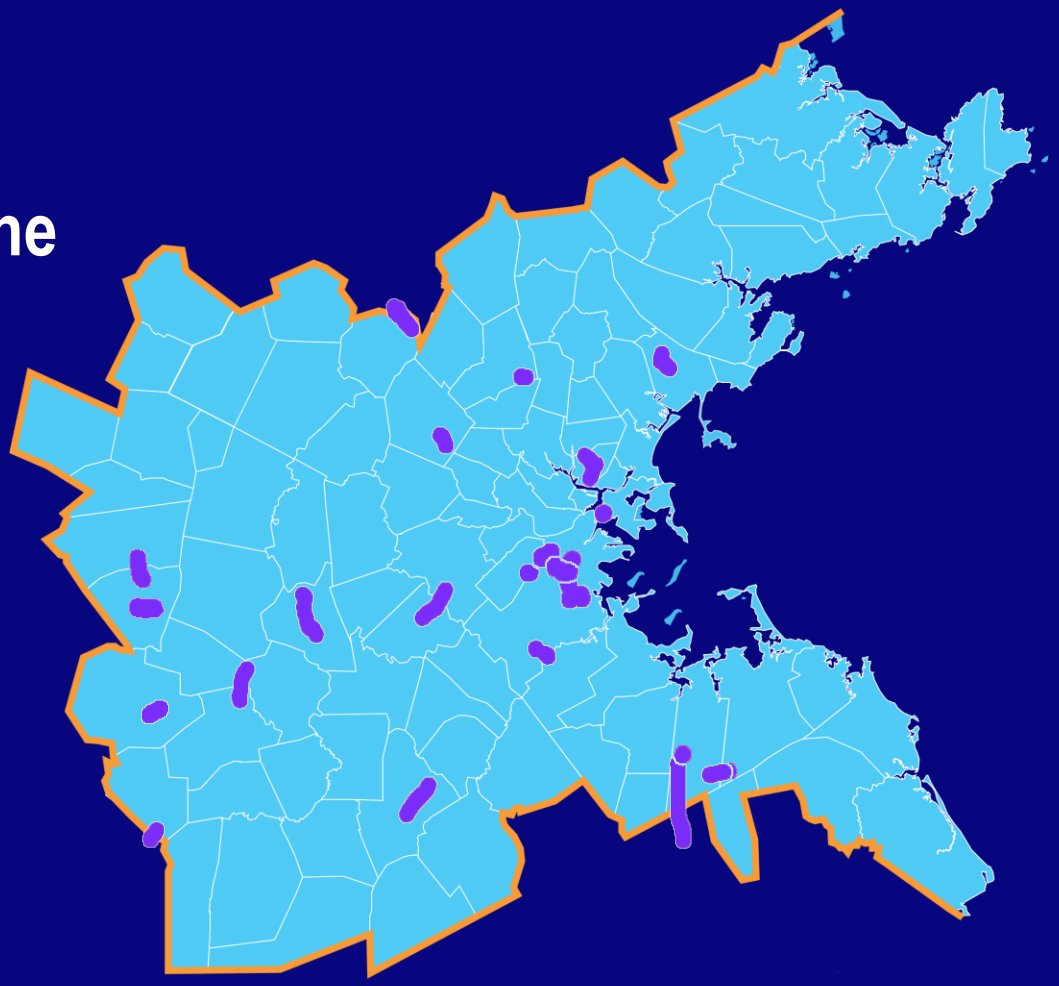
- ✓ Analyzed impacts of LRTP on environmental justice (EJ) populations since 2004
- ✓ Applied draft DI/DB policy in *Charting Progress to 2040*
- ❑ Aim to apply a DI/DB policy to *Destination 2040* program of projects

What does this mean for the MPO?

Disparate Impact and
Disproportionate Burden
Policy

Which projects will be analyzed?

Major highway and transit projects in the Long-Range Transportation Plan—as a group



If Disparate Impacts or Disproportionate Burdens are Found

- Avoid, mitigate, or minimize adverse effects
- Strategies for addressing impacts will vary depending on the impact
- Staff will present strategies to MPO board as necessary

Public Engagement

Disparate Impact and
Disproportionate Burden
Policy

Public Engagement Approach

- Three meetings with working group
  - Four MPO members
  - Eight representatives from organizations that represent EJ populations
    - Neighborhood groups
    - Advocacy organizations
    - Human service agencies
- One public workshop

Engagement Goals

1. Obtain input on transportation impacts

2. Working group reach consensus for comparison threshold recommendation

What We Learned

Disparate Impact and
Disproportionate Burden
Policy

Transportation Impacts—Analysis Priorities

1. Access to jobs
2. Access to healthcare
3. Transportation network connectivity
4. Access to public transit at off-peak hours
5. Congestion
6. Emissions
7. Travel time to work
8. Mode share

Working Group Recommendation

1. Any impact beyond the prediction interval should be considered a disparate impact or disproportionate burden (zero-percent threshold)

MPO Staff Response

1. Threshold should exceed zero percent
   a) Can have a difference without having discrimination
   b) Difficult to obtain parity between populations

Working Group Recommendation

2. Report projected impacts of the LRTP program of projects for each population

MPO Staff Response

2. Staff will report projected impacts of LRTP program of projects in *Destination 2040*

destination 2040

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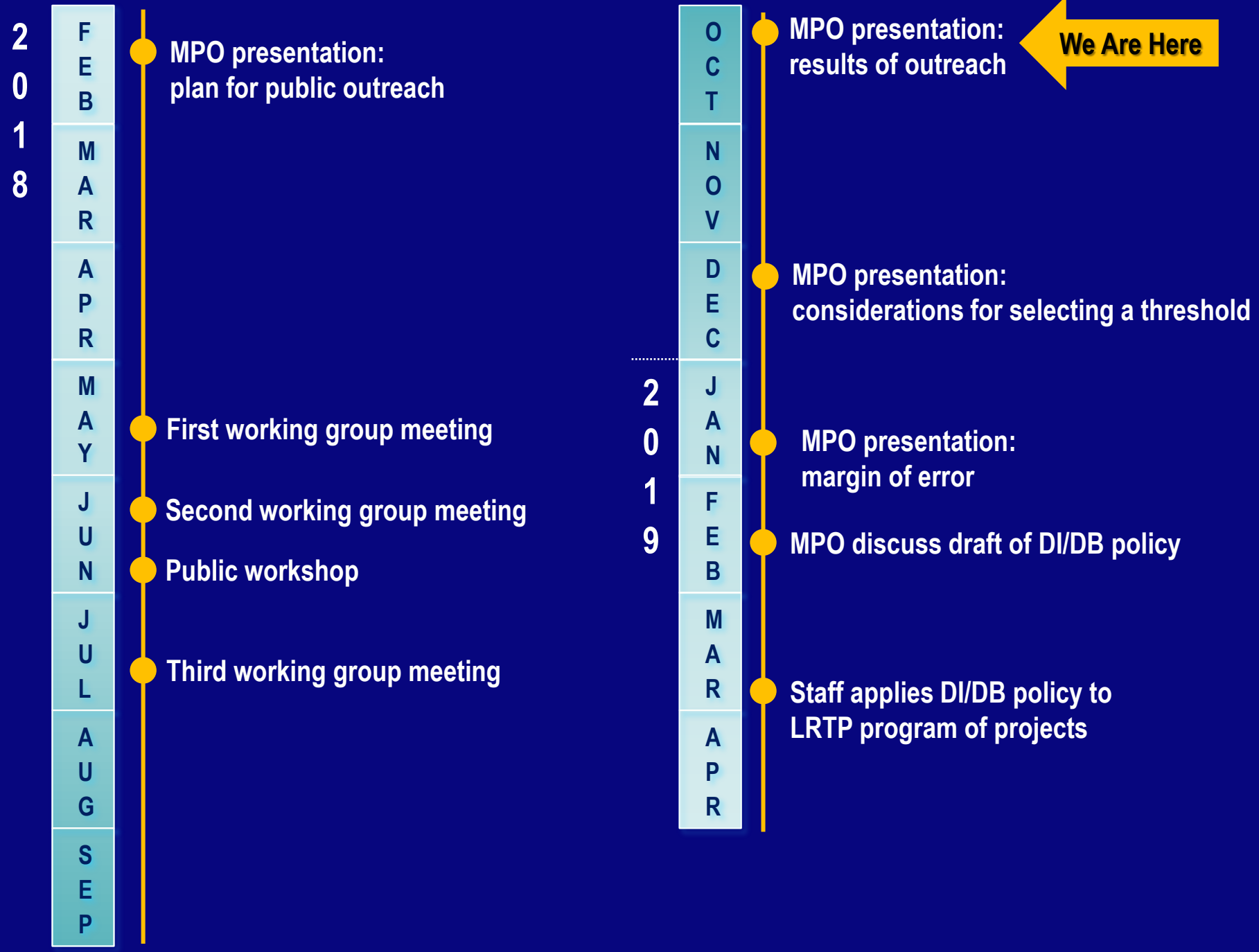
Next Steps

1. Identify prediction intervals for each model metric

2. For each model metric, identify the magnitude of change that would meaningfully affect people


2018
FEB
MAR
APR
MAY
JUN
JUL
AUG
SEP
MPO presentation:
plan for public outreach
First working group meeting
Second working group meeting
Public workshop
Third working group meeting
OCT
NOV
DEC
2019
JAN
FEB
MAR
APR
MPO presentation:
results of outreach
We Are Here
MPO presentation:
considerations for selecting a threshold
MPO presentation:
margin of error
MPO discuss draft of DI/DB policy
Staff applies DI/DB policy to
LRTP program of projects

Questions?