

Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title and purpose of this initiative:

Request to Authorize the Town Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Central Pines Regional Council for a FY25-26 Transportation Demand Management Grant.

The purpose of this agenda item is for the Town Council to consider authorizing the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Central Pines Regional Council for the FY25-26 Transportation Demand Management Grant Program, Triangle Transportation Choices.

Department: Planning

What are the racial and equity impacts?

Subject to executing the MOA to accept the award, the Town would be able to seek 50-percent reimbursement for preapproved activities designed to encourage the use of alternative modes of travel and reducing frequency of traveling during the AM/PM commuting peak. For residents with limited to no access to a car, TDM events can provide useful information about transportation options and equipment. TDM events also provide an opportunity to learn about transportation infrastructure projects in the planning, design or construction phase.

Who is or will experience community burden?

The program is not anticipated to create a burden to the community, in that residents can choose to participate in an event, or not, and participation is free. Shift workers and people who have limited time and/or flexibility in scheduling, and young children may have difficulty learning about the events and opportunities to get involved. Language may also present a barrier for some residents.

Who is or will experience community benefit?

During TDM events staff typically has safety related bike/ped equipment available for free, as well as bus maps and transit information, opportunities to participate on group bicycle rides, guided by experienced riders and other events to learn how to use different transportation options and to feel comfortable doing so, as well as feeling more connected to the community.

What are the root causes of inequity?

Lack of representation among decision makers, lack of a seat at the table, finding it difficult to attend or participate in public events can contribute to inequity. Having an overall distrust in government and governmental processes, based on personal experiences and/or examples of structural racism in government decisions, particularly those relating to departments of transportation can also cause inequity. In the case of some TDM events, it may also include not having access to a bicycle to participate in a group ride or not knowing how to ride a bicycle.

What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?

Participation in the grant means that some staff time and funding is not available for other priorities that may more directly benefit community members such as shorter time frames for review of applications.

How is your department planning to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences?

The department utilizes OneOrange and Inclusive Carrboro strategies to evaluate outreach and engagement efforts. Related to this grant, the department will make choices relating to the size of the proposed budget, the locations of activities and the demographics and expected benefits to community members, the selection of activities and programs, and extent of staff participation.