



# WEBINAR SERIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

## GUIDANCE FOR CONDUCTING COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Federal Highway Administration

Office of Human Environment

# Speakers



Sharlene Reed  
FHWA Office of Human Environment

Brenda C. Kragh  
FHWA Office of Human Environment

Katiann Wong-Murillo  
FHWA Resource Center

Ann Steedly  
Planning Communities, LLC

Anne Morris  
Anne Morris and Associates, LLC



# Agenda

- Introduction
- History and Context of Community Impact Assessments (CIAs)
- Applications of CIAs
- The CIA Process
- Public Involvement and Data Collection
- Questions and Answers



# INTRODUCTION

SHARLENE REED

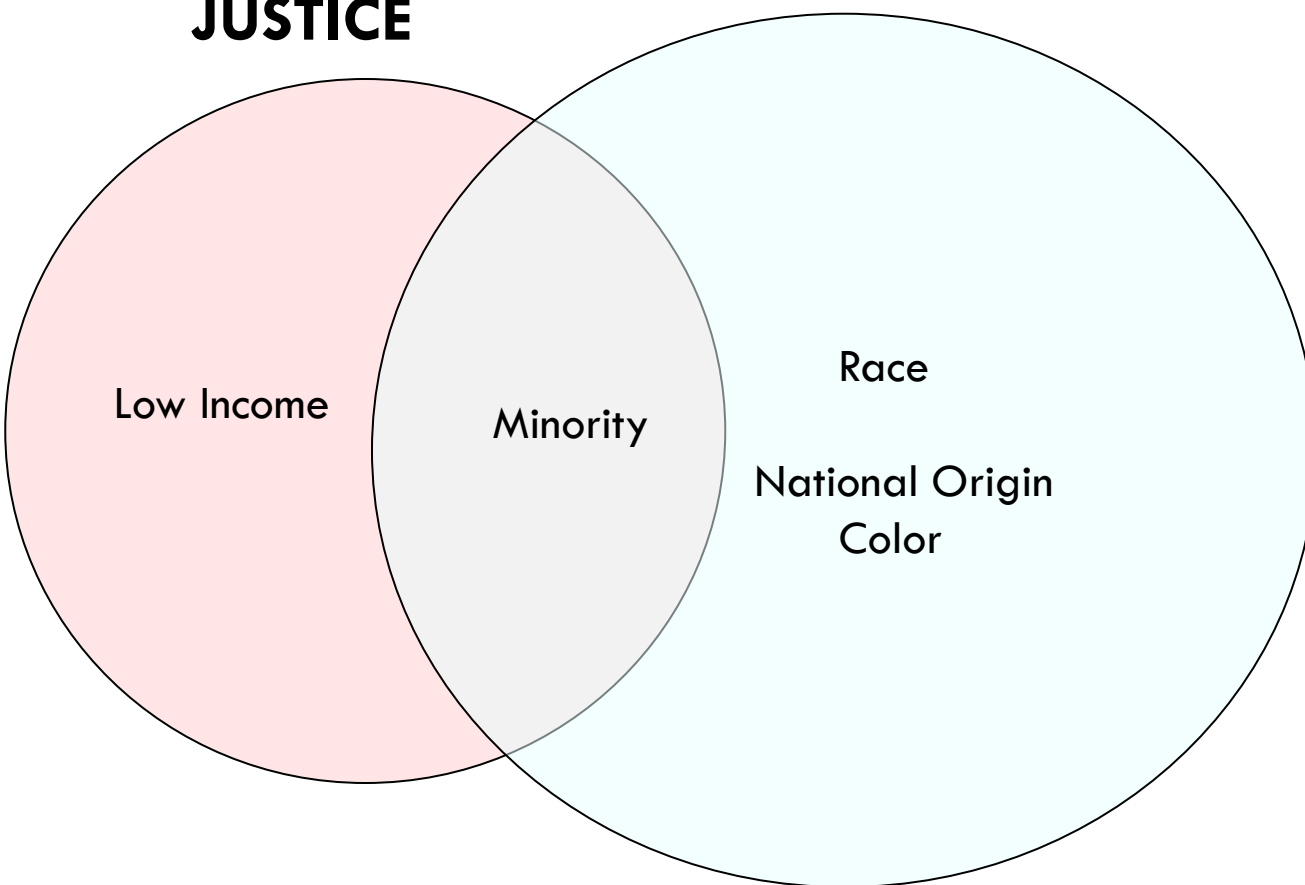


# Laws and Executive Orders (EOs) on Nondiscrimination



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

## TITLE VI



### Other Non-Discrimination Statutes:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Religion

### Other EOs:

- Limited English Proficiency
- Children

# DOT/FHWA EJ Populations



## Minority

- ▣ Black
- ▣ Hispanic
- ▣ Asian American
- ▣ American Indian and Alaskan Native
- ▣ ***Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander***

## Low Income

- ▣ US Department of Health and Human Services guidelines

# Summary



- Many statutes and executive orders relate to nondiscrimination
- Community Impact Assessments (CIAs) are an important tool to ensure compliance



# HISTORY AND CONTEXT FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

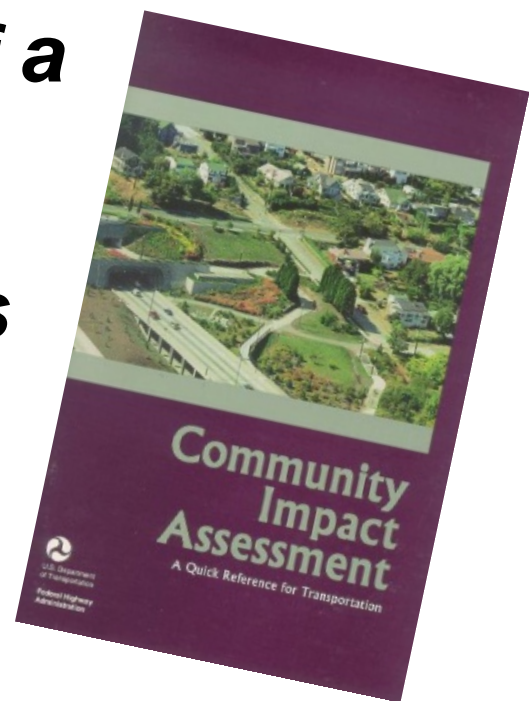
BRENDA C. KRAGH



# Definition of CIA



**“A *Community Impact Assessment* is an *iterative* process to evaluate the effects of a transportation action on a community and its quality of life.”**



# 1970 Federal Aid Highway Act



## Title 23 United States Code Section 109(h)

- air, noise, and water pollution;
- destruction or disruption of man-made and natural resources, aesthetic values, community cohesion and the availability of public facilities and services;
- adverse employment effects, and tax and property values losses;
- injurious displacement of people, businesses and farms; and
- disruption of desirable community and regional growth.

**The 23 USC 109(h) requirements have appeared in regulations as well as FHWA Order 6640.8a (NEPA) and 6640.23a (EJ).**

# CIA Foundation and Milestones



## Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)

### Environmental Protection (Natural & Human)

1960-Mid 90s

1960s

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969

1970

23 United States Code (U.S.C.) 109(h)

1994

Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice

1996

CIA Quick Reference Guide ("The Purple Book")

1997-2007

1991-1997

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act

1997

FHWA publishes Flexibility in Highway Design

1997- 2001

FHWA pilots CSS with 7 states

1998-2003

Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

1998

1st National CIA Workshop

2003

FHWA targets nationwide CSS implementation by 2007

2005-2009

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users

### Public Involvement and Integrated Planning

Current

Planning & Environmental Linkages

Complete Streets

DOT/HUD/EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities

Livability Initiative with Multi-Modalism

# Summary



## CIA

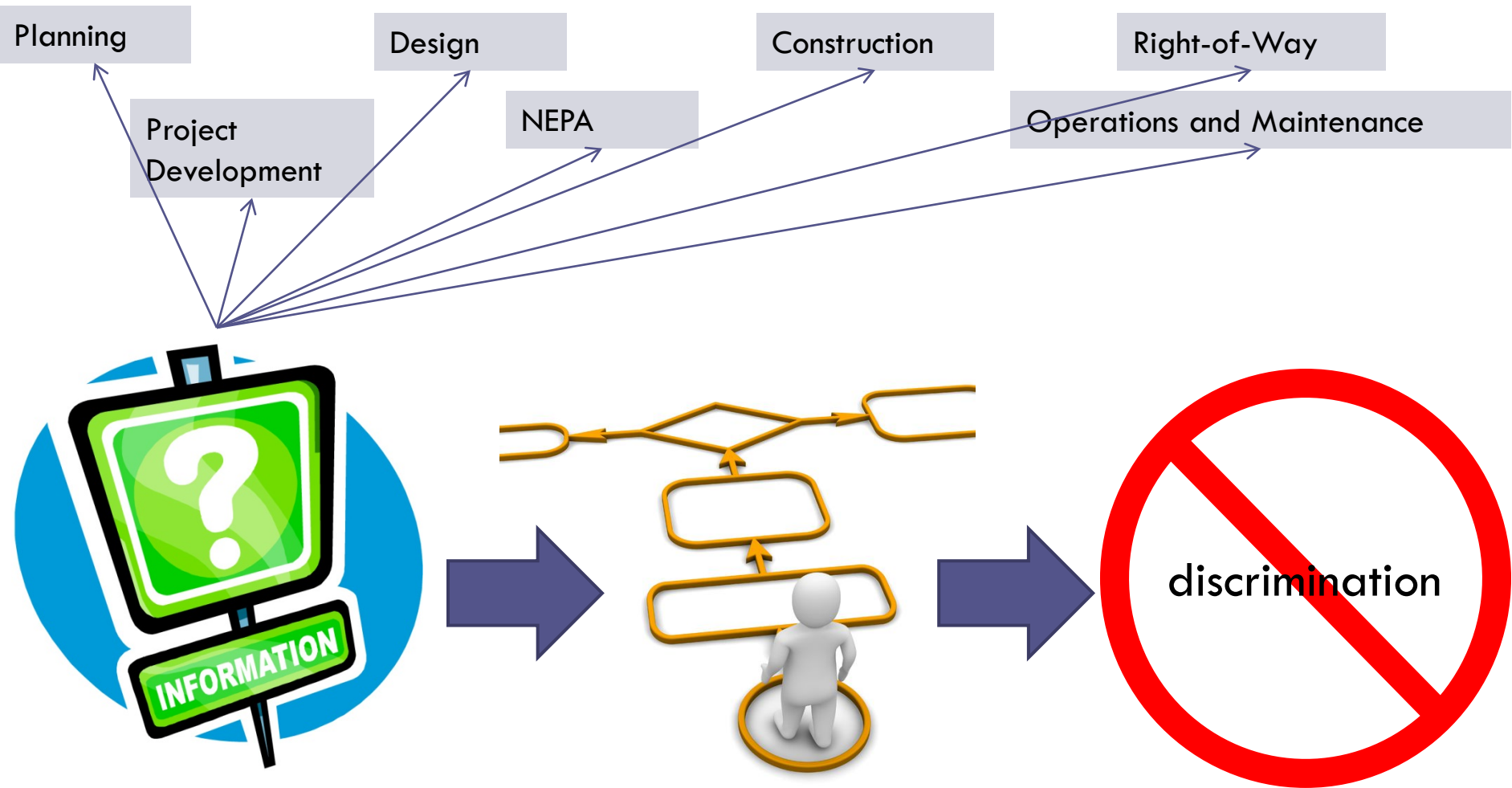
- Is an *iterative* process
- Developed to help practitioners better address Federal requirements



# APPLICATIONS OF COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

KATIANN WONG-MURILLO

# Applications of CIA



# CIA in the Transportation Process



## Planning

- Scope of problem(s)—range of transportation solution(s)
- Develop initial study area and understanding of community context



## Project Development

- Consider past actions and current transportation needs in developing alternatives
- Evaluate alternatives and select the final approach



## Design and Right-of-Way

- Incorporate community aspects and input into design (avoid re-design)
- Avoid, minimize, and mitigate community impacts



## Construction

- Follow through on commitments
- Communicate with the public during construction



## Operations & Maintenance

- Continue monitoring of community commitments
- Respond to day-to-day community related system operations and maintenance issues

# CIA in Transportation Planning



- Identify transportation needs
- Assess system level impacts (positive and negative)
- Identify regional demographics
- Ensure appropriate facilities for neighborhoods
- Avoid disproportionate allocation of costs or benefits

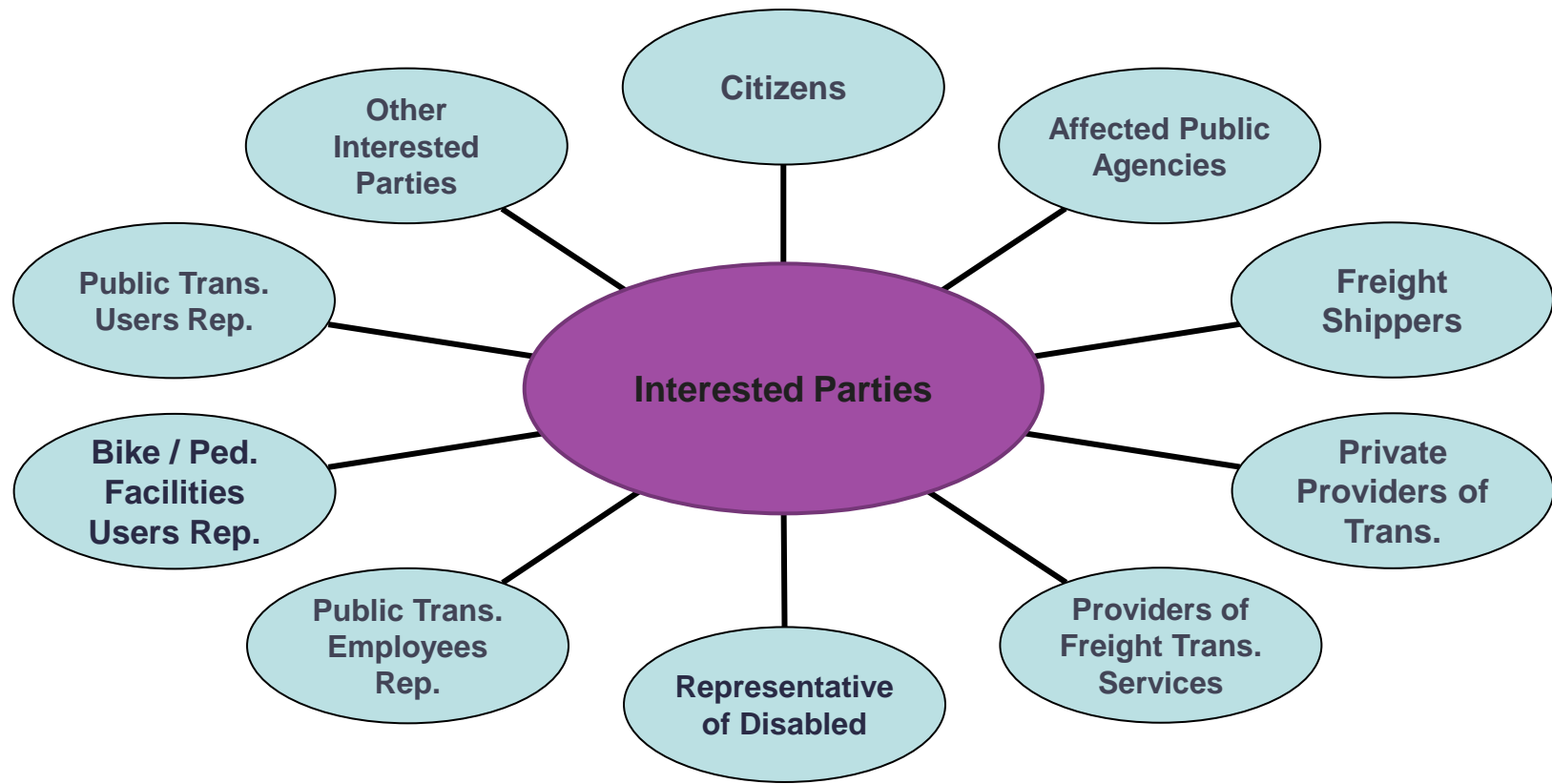


# Planning Regulations That Relate to CIA

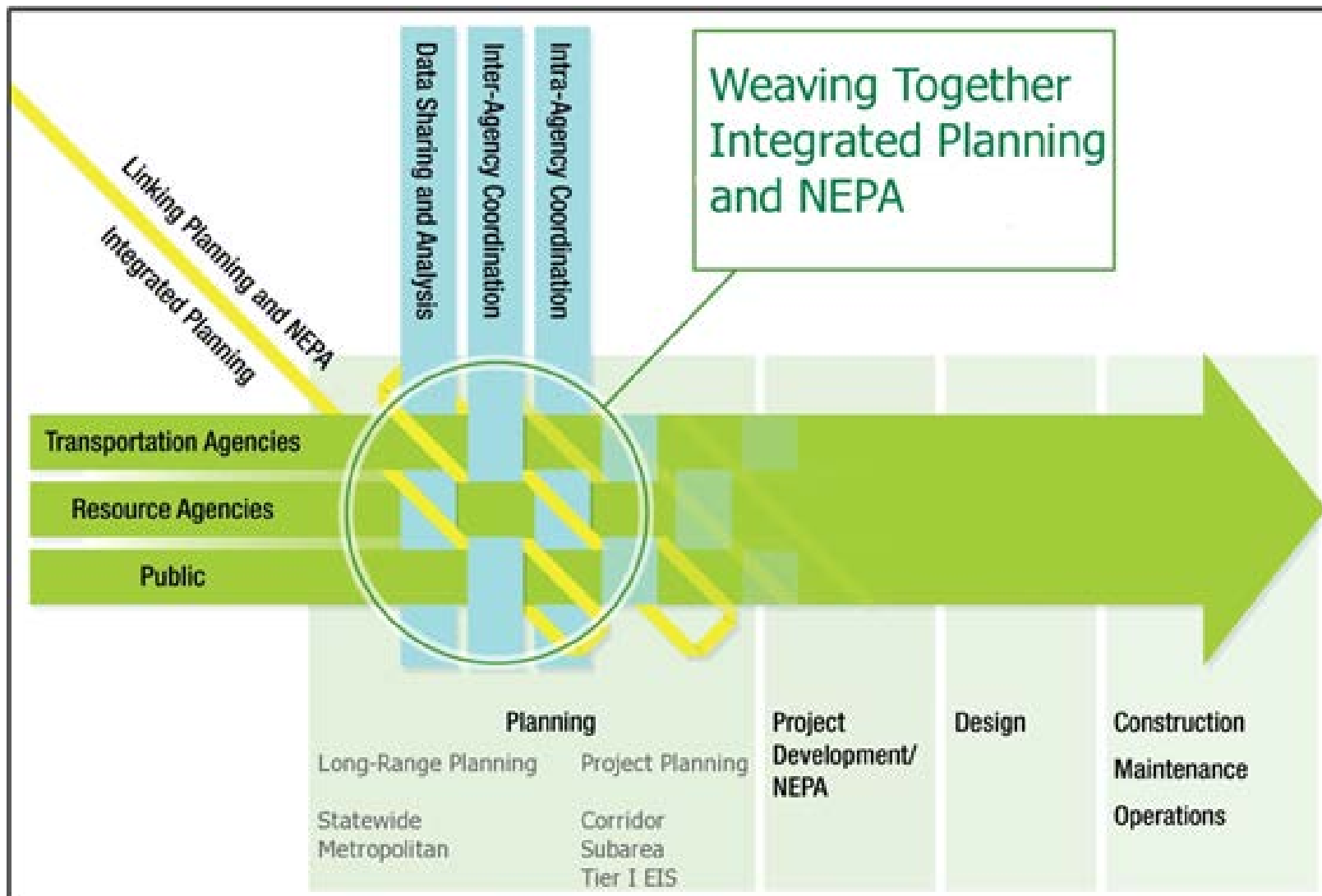


- Statewide planning (**23 CFR 450.210**)
- Statewide Long-range transportation plan (**23 CFR 450.214**)
- Statewide transportation improvement program (**23 CFR 450.216**)
- Metropolitan Planning (**23 CFR 450.316**)
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (**23 CFR 450.322**)
- Transportation Improvement Plan (**23 CFR 450.324**)

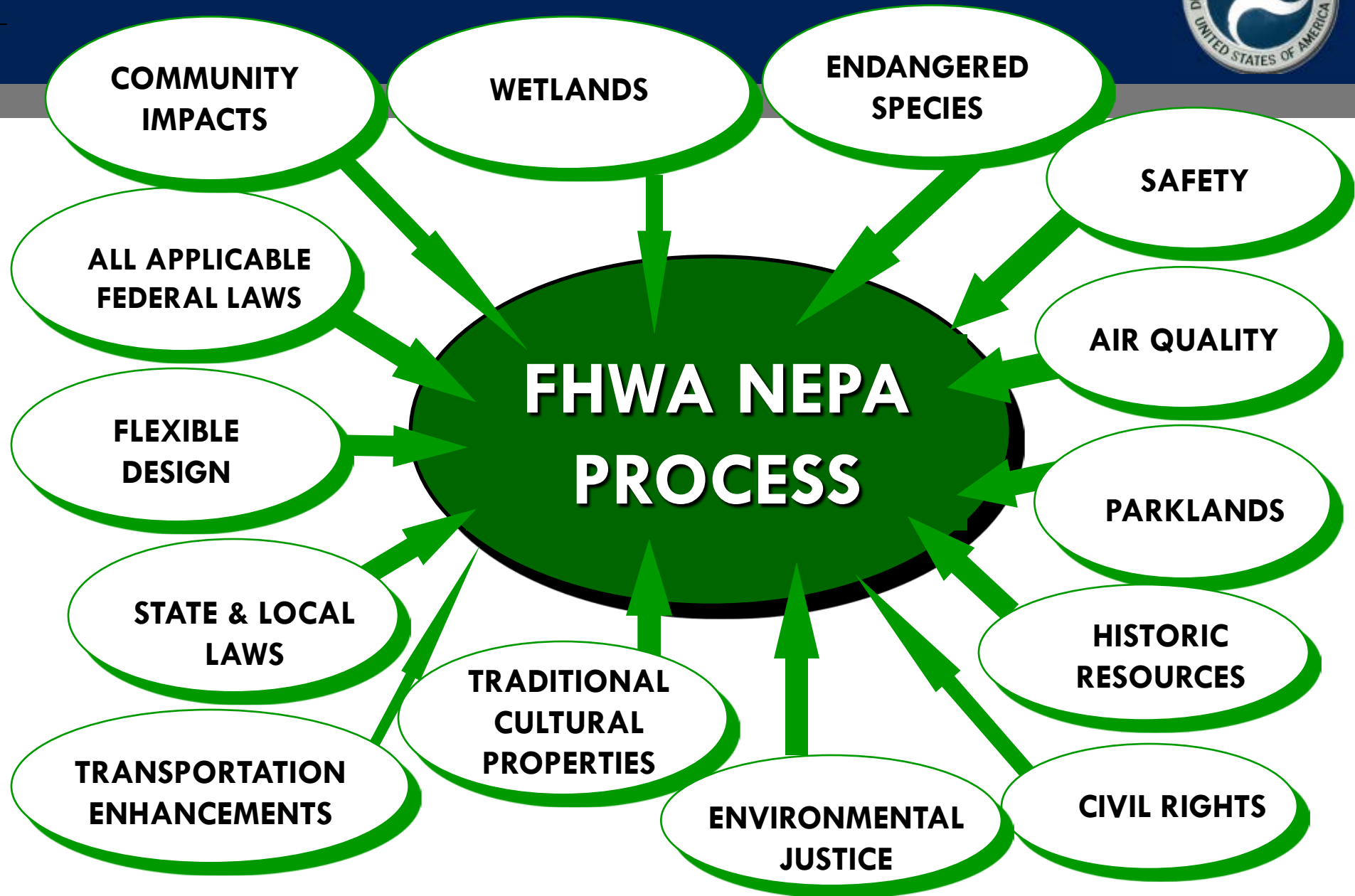
# Planning Regulations That Relate to CIA (continued)



# CIA: Fostering a Seamless Transition



# CIA in the NEPA Process



# CIA in the NEPA Process



- Purpose and Need
- Alternatives Development
- Affected Environment
- Consultation and Coordination
- Decision Document

# NEPA Requirements That Relate to CIA



- FHWA Technical Advisory 6640.8A:  
Social and economic impacts
- 23 CFR 771.111: Public Involvement  
requirements

# Summary



CIA is:

- A tool to inform planning, NEPA, and all aspects of transportation practice.
- A tool to comply with Title VI, EJ, and other analyses for nondiscrimination
- Dependent on public involvement



# Summary



Key roles of a CIA include:

- Understand community values
- Ensure a balanced consideration of all environmental characteristics
- Make informal communication continuous
- Recognize implications of changes in the community
- Identify and recommend mitigation and enhancement opportunities





# THE CIA PROCESS

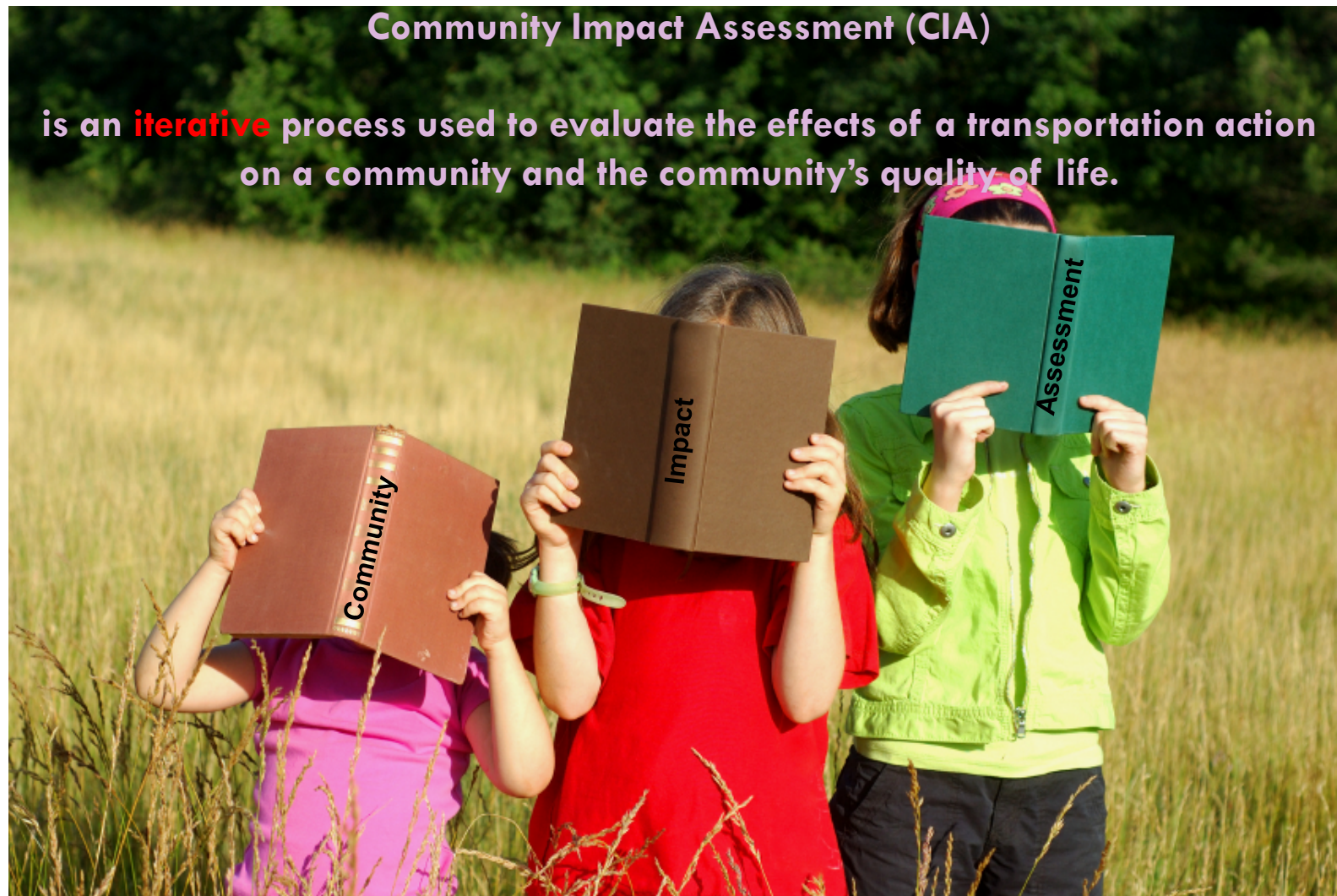
ANN STEEDLY

# What is Community Impact Assessment (CIA)?



## Community Impact Assessment (CIA)

is an **iterative** process used to evaluate the effects of a transportation action on a community and the community's quality of life.



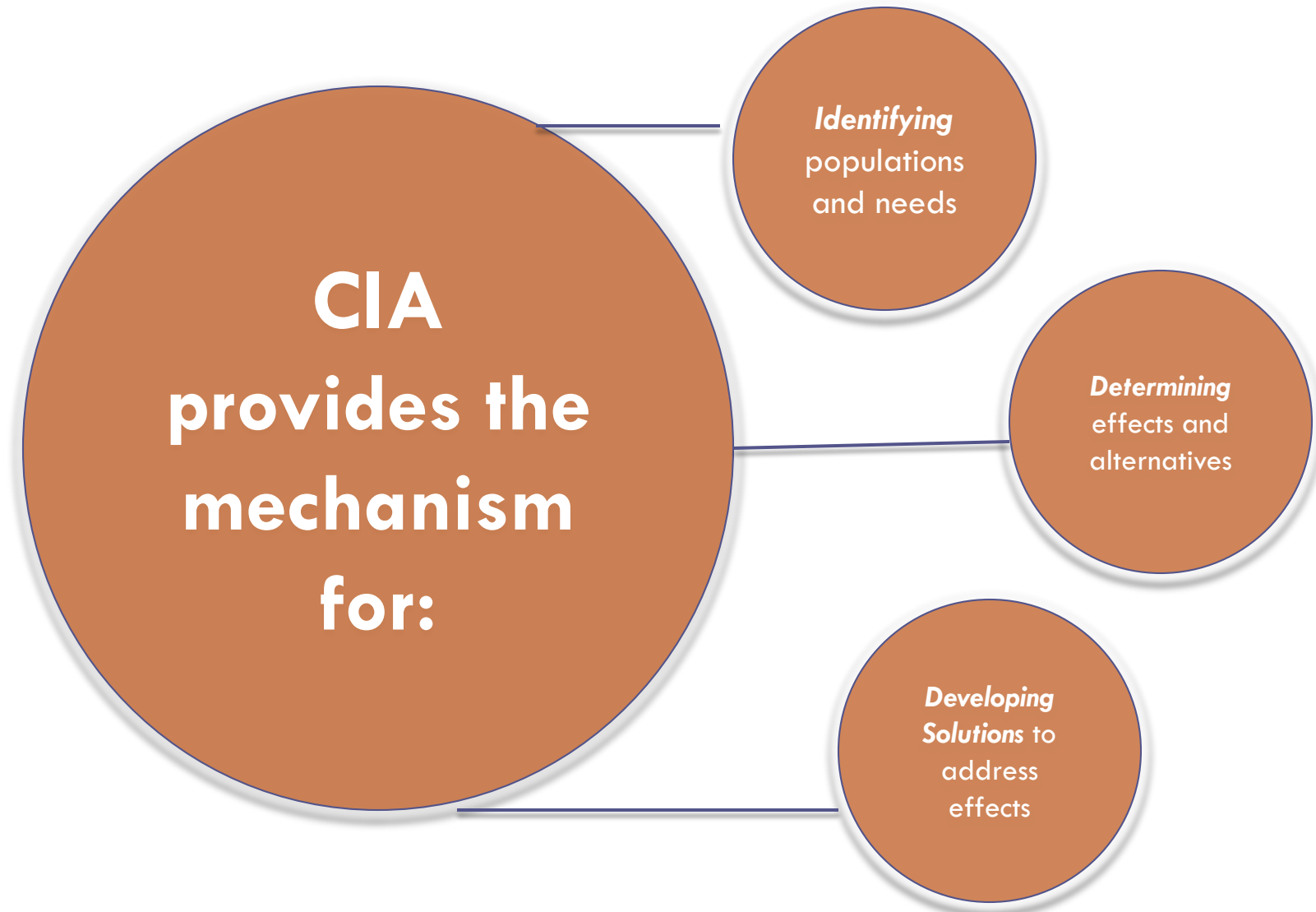
# Key Quality-of-Life Issue Areas



- Socio-Cultural
  - Economic
  - Land Use
- Displacement
- Mobility/Access
- Sensory/Aesthetics
  - Safety



# CIA Relationship to Environmental Justice and Nondiscrimination



# The CIA Process



## Study Area

### *EJ Considerations:*

- ◆ Low-income and minority neighborhoods
- ◆ Historic community patterns

## Community Characteristics Inventory

### *EJ Considerations:*

- ◆ Minority and low-income populations
- ◆ Vital resources and services

## Community Effects

### *EJ Considerations:*

- ◆ Adverse effects
- ◆ Distribution
- ◆ Proportionality
- ◆ Sensitivity to Effects

## Identifying Solutions

### *EJ Considerations:*

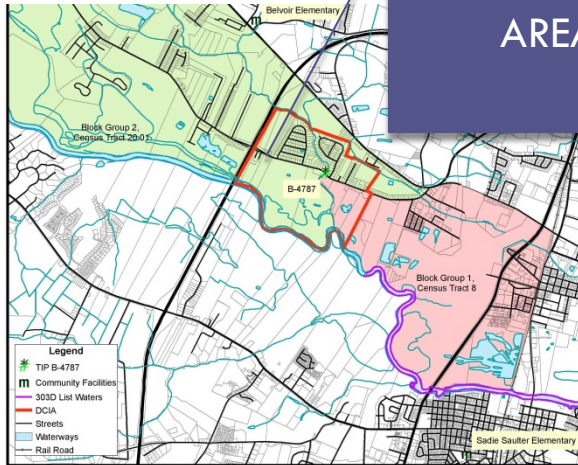
- ◆ Required v. optional
- ◆ Mitigation of adverse effects
- ◆ Enhancements

Data  
Community Outreach and Participation  
Documentation

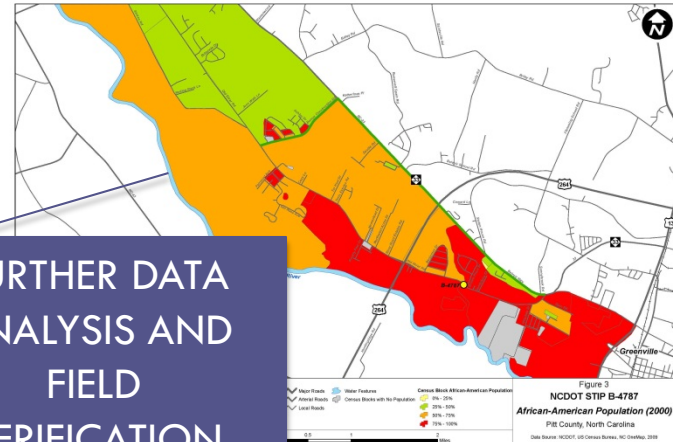
# Study Area



INITIAL STUDY AREA



FURTHER DATA ANALYSIS AND FIELD VERIFICATION



REVISION AND EXPANSION OF PROJECT STUDY AREA



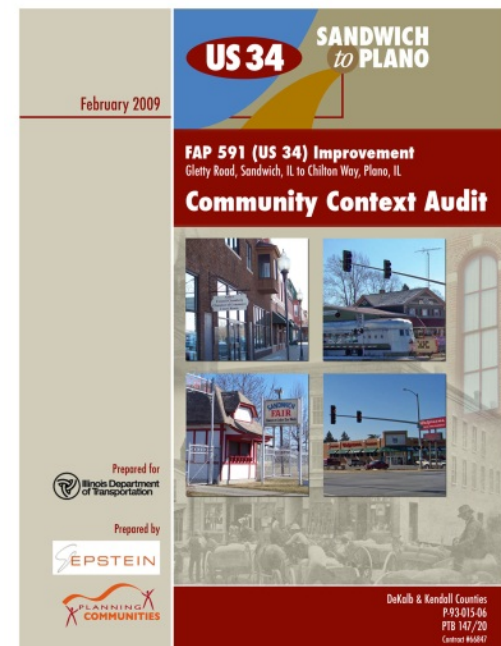
# Defining and Revising the Study Area

- ❑ Census boundaries
  - ❑ Neighborhood boundaries
  - ❑ Service area boundaries of community facilities
  - ❑ Membership of community institutions
  - ❑ Conversations with local planners and stakeholders
- EJ population boundaries
  - Neighborhood cohesion
  - Historic settlement and development patterns
  - EJ community facilities and services

# Community Characteristics Inventory (CCI)



- Describes community--including history, culture, values, important places, demographic, and economic conditions
- Is used to adjust study-area and community boundaries
- Reveals potential community issues
- Incorporates community needs and goals
- Identifies important characteristics based on community input





# Community Characteristics Data Sets



- Demographic data (Census, ACS)
- Population trends/forecasts
- Economic data (income, employment, development)
- Health data
- Transportation data (commutes, modal options, safety)
- Community facilities and services (social service centers, gathering places, schools, parks, churches, etc.)
- Community input (interviews, questionnaires, surveys)

# Identifying EJ Populations in the CCI



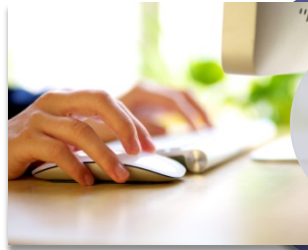
## □ Minority

- 10 percentage points higher than county average, or
- > 50 percent of the total geographic unit, or
- Site visit observations or local official/stakeholder input

## □ Low-Income: *No set thresholds*

- Criteria include percent below poverty level, “very poor,” and “near poor”
- Site visit observations or local official/stakeholder input

# How to Collect Data and Input



Data analysis  
Map-based analysis

Field visits  
Observed conditions  
Neighborhood activity/dynamics



Community leader interviews  
Oral histories  
Surveys



# Community Effects



# Resources for Determining Community Effects

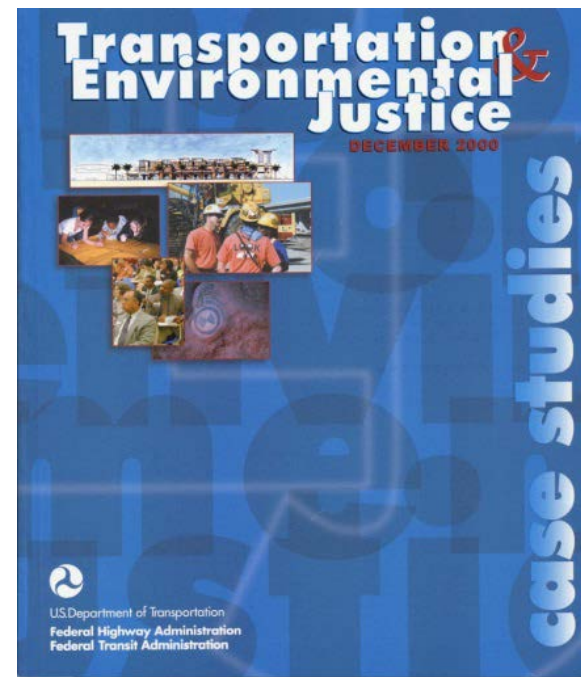


## □ Data and analyses:

- Traffic noise prediction models
- Air quality modeling
- Viewshed analysis
- Crash data (EJ populations compared to whole)
- Market and access effects studies
- Travel cost savings calculations
- Business/housing replacement studies
- Business, neighborhood, and community surveys

## □ Reports and methodologies:

- NCHRP Report 532: Effective Methods for Environmental Justice Assessment
- NCHRP Report 456: Guidebook for Assessing the Social and Economic Effects of Transportation Projects
- NCRHP Report 25-25: Recurring Community Impacts



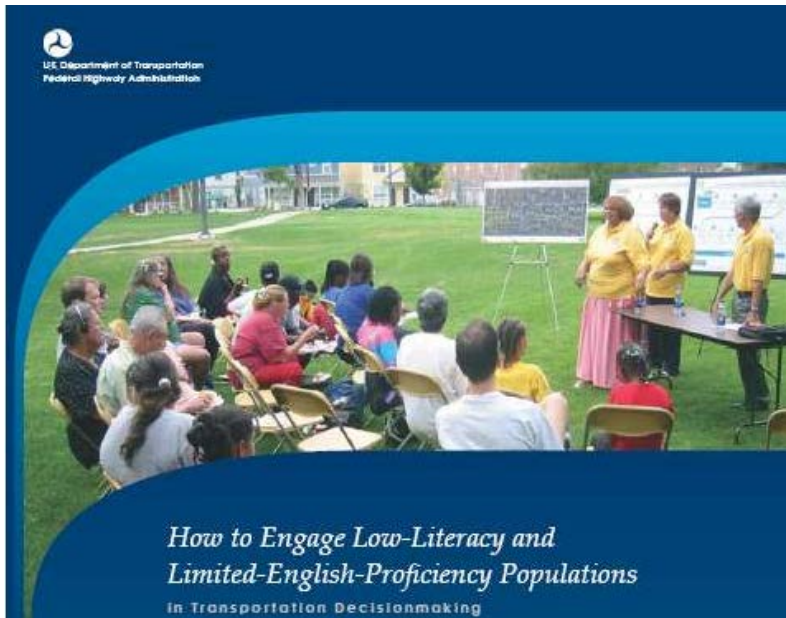
# Analyzing EJ Impacts

- Identify positive or negative effects
- Determine the distribution of effects
- Assess community perception of impacts
- Evaluate recurring community impacts





# Identifying Solutions



Engage EJ populations in the identification of solutions, impacts, and mitigation and enhancement opportunities.

- ❑ Begins early in the process and occurs throughout all aspects of project
- ❑ Community considerations incorporated into project goals, alternatives, mitigation, and enhancement
- ❑ Solutions reflect community input and ideas
- ❑ Outcomes integrate with context sensitive solutions

# CIA Documentation



## DOCUMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Encompass EJ communities and boundaries

Identify EJ populations, concentrations

Determine adverse and disproportional effects

Mitigation for EJ impacts, Input from EJ communities





# **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND DATA COLLECTION FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

**ANNE MORRIS**

# CIA's Link to Public Involvement



## CIA is dependent on public involvement:

- Identifies potentially affected populations
- Determines community issues and attitudes
- Supports data collection and impact findings
- Part of the assessment process for Planning, NEPA, Title VI, and EJ compliance



# Strategies for Public Involvement



- Use existing networks
- Consider alternatives to formal public meetings
- Use media
- Consider cultural factors

# Census/ American Community Survey



- Race and Ethnicity
- Poverty status
- Households with incomes of less than \$10,000
- Language spoken at home
- Foreign born
- Age
- Education attainment
- Travel time to work
- Time leaving home to go to work
- Mode of transportation
- Zero vehicle households
- Housing units in structure

Source: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

# Poverty and Race/Ethnicity



## □ National Center for Education Statistics

- Number of students by race and ethnicity
- Number of students eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals
- Library locations and private schools

## □ GreatSchools, Inc.

- Number of students by race and ethnicity
- Number of students eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meal program
- Comparison to state levels

# Literacy and Language Spoken




- [The State of Literacy in America: Estimates at the Local, State, and National Levels \(1998\)](#)
- [National Assessment of Adult Literacy, State & County Estimates of Low Literacy \(2003\)](#)
- **Modern Language Association**
  - [Language map](#)
  - [Data center](#)

**MLA Language Map Data Center** [Return to map](#)

**Use one of the forms below to find out the number, ages, and percentage of speakers of each language in a particular geographic region. All forms provide data from Census 2000. In addition, the top two forms include data from the 2005 American Community Survey.**

**US, State, Region, or Division**  
Make a selection to see a table and chart of languages spoken.

**Language by State**  
Select a language to see the states in which it is spoken.

Entire US | State | Region | Division 

Select year: 2005 [Show Results](#)

Select language: Most Spoken Languages [Show Results](#)

Select year: 2005 [Show Results](#)

Or show list of all languages: [All Languages](#)

**County**  
First select a state, then choose from a list of counties.

Select state: -- Select -- [Show Results](#)

Select county: Select state first [Show Results](#)

**County Subdivision**  
Enter the name of a district, an incorporated place, a township, or another administrative division.

[Show Results](#)

**City or Town**  
Enter a city or town name.

[Show Results](#)

**Zip Code**  
Enter a 5-digit zip code.

[Show Results](#)

# Housing



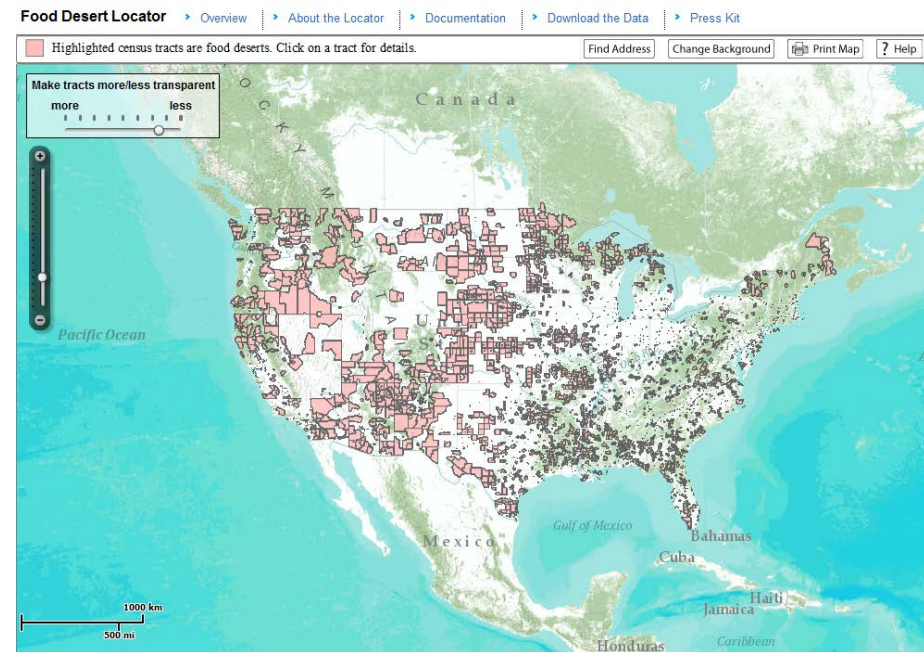
- [US HUD Low-Rent Apartment Locations by State and City](#)
- [US HUD Public Housing Agency Contact Information](#)
- [Mobile Home Park Store](#)
- [MobileHome.net](#)



# US Department of Agriculture



- SNAP Retailer Locations by state, city, county, and zip code
- Food Desert Locations by census tract
- Food Environmental Atlas by county








# Festivals and Events



Los Angeles metro area, CA - Local Live Music, Food & Wine Festivals this week

Navigation: All Events | This Week | This Weekend | This Month | Pick Dates

popular event	popular event	popular event
		
<b>Cirque du Soleil: Iris</b> Nov 13 - Dolby Theatre (formerly the Kodak Theatre) <a href="#">Find tickets</a>	<b>Long Beach Outdoor Antique &amp; Collectible Market</b> Nov 18 - Long Beach City College	<b>KAS Comedy For A Cause Cancer Benefit</b> Nov 16 - Streets Of Long Beach

- [ePODUNK](#)  
festivals by state,  
city and month
- [Festivalnet](#)
- [Festivals.com](#)
- [Eventful](#)

# Chambers of Commerce



- Chambers of Commerce
- Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
- **Asian Chambers of Commerce**  
Search in local area
- **African American Chambers of Commerce**  
Search in local area

# Colleges and Universities



campus  
explorer®

Search by:

College Search

Planning for College

Paying for College

**Search Over 8,500 Schools!**

Location

Area of Study

- Select One -

OR

School Name

SEARCH

**Search By Degree**

Certificate Programs

Associates Degree

Bachelors Degree

Masters Degree

Online Degree

**College Search By**

Major

Location

Alphabet

**College Search By**

Community College

Career Colleges

4-Yr. Colleges & Universities

Graduate School

Online Schools & Distance

Learning

Career/Vocational Training

- ❑ [Campus Explorer](#)
- ❑ [Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#) by state
- ❑ [American Indian Higher Education Consortium](#)
- ❑ [American Association of Community Colleges](#)

# Racial and Ethnic Groups

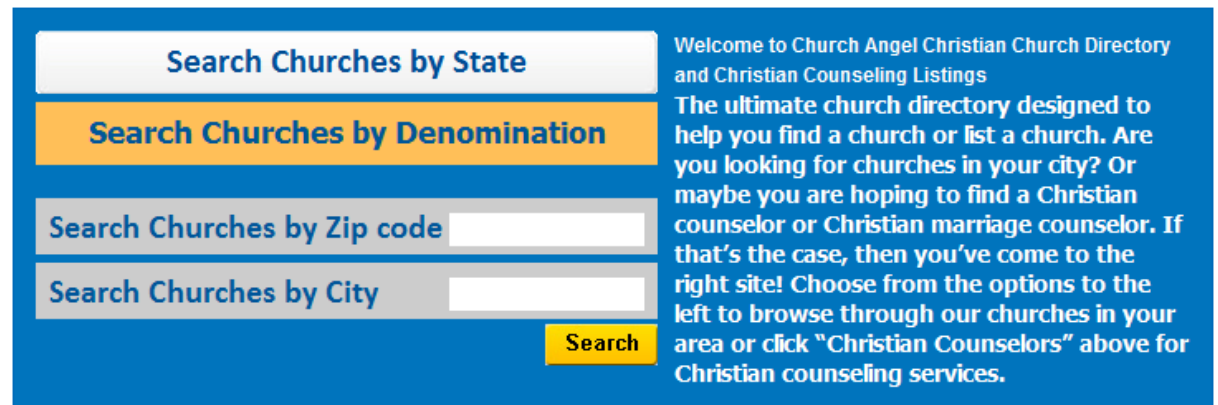


- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) by state and city
  - National Urban League by state and city
  - 100 Black Men by state and city
  - National Council of La Raza by state and city
- 
- 500 Nations by Federally recognized tribes
  - 500 Nations by state recognized tribes
  - **Non-Federally recognized tribes**
    - <http://www.csulb.edu/~gcampus/libarts/am-indian/tribes/>
    - <http://www.kstrom.net/isk/maps/tribesnonrec.html>



# Faith-Based Organizations

- ❑ [Black Church Page](#)
- ❑ [Believe.com](#)
- ❑ [Church Angel](#)
- ❑ [Salatomatic](#) (mosques and Islamic schools)
- ❑ [Jewish Temples and Synagogues](#)
- ❑ [Buddhanet](#) (Buddhist Temples)
- ❑ [Baha'i Centers](#)
- ❑ **Hindu Temples**

A screenshot of the Church Angel website search interface. The interface is set against a blue background. On the left, there are four search options: "Search Churches by State" (white button), "Search Churches by Denomination" (orange button), "Search Churches by Zip code" (white button with a text input field), and "Search Churches by City" (white button with a text input field). A yellow "Search" button is located at the bottom right of the search area. On the right side, there is a white text box with a blue border containing the following text: "Welcome to Church Angel Christian Church Directory and Christian Counseling Listings. The ultimate church directory designed to help you find a church or list a church. Are you looking for churches in your city? Or maybe you are hoping to find a Christian counselor or Christian marriage counselor. If that's the case, then you've come to the right site! Choose from the options to the left to browse through our churches in your area or click 'Christian Counselors' above for Christian counseling services."

# Stores



- Wal-Mart by state and city
- Salvation Army by state and city
- Goodwill by state and city
- Dollar Tree
- Dollar General
- Big Lots
- Aldi
- **Local Church/City Food Banks**



# Media Outlets

- [Shgresources radio](#)
- [StreamingRadioGuide.com](#)
- [Shgresources television](#)
- [Shgresources newspapers](#)



- [ABYZ News Links](#)
- [Gebbie Press](#)
- **Reading Services for the Blind**

Search for “Reading Service for the Blind” by local area

# Favorites



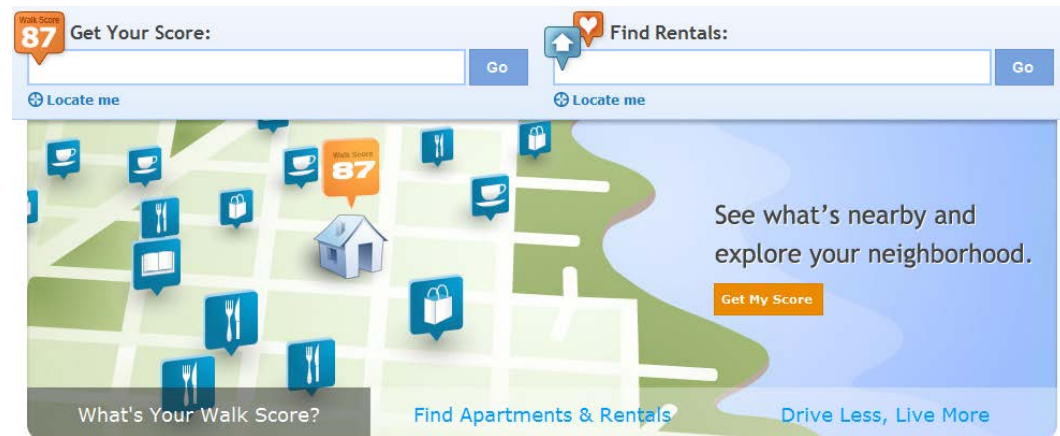
- MelissaDATA

Non-profits, campaign contributions, postal carrier routes

- Polk City Directories

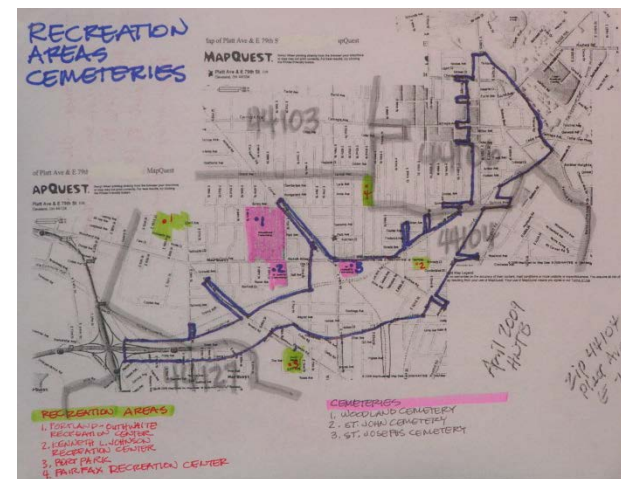
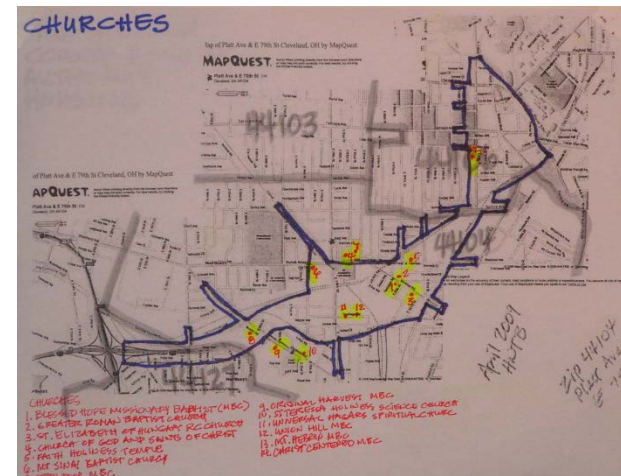
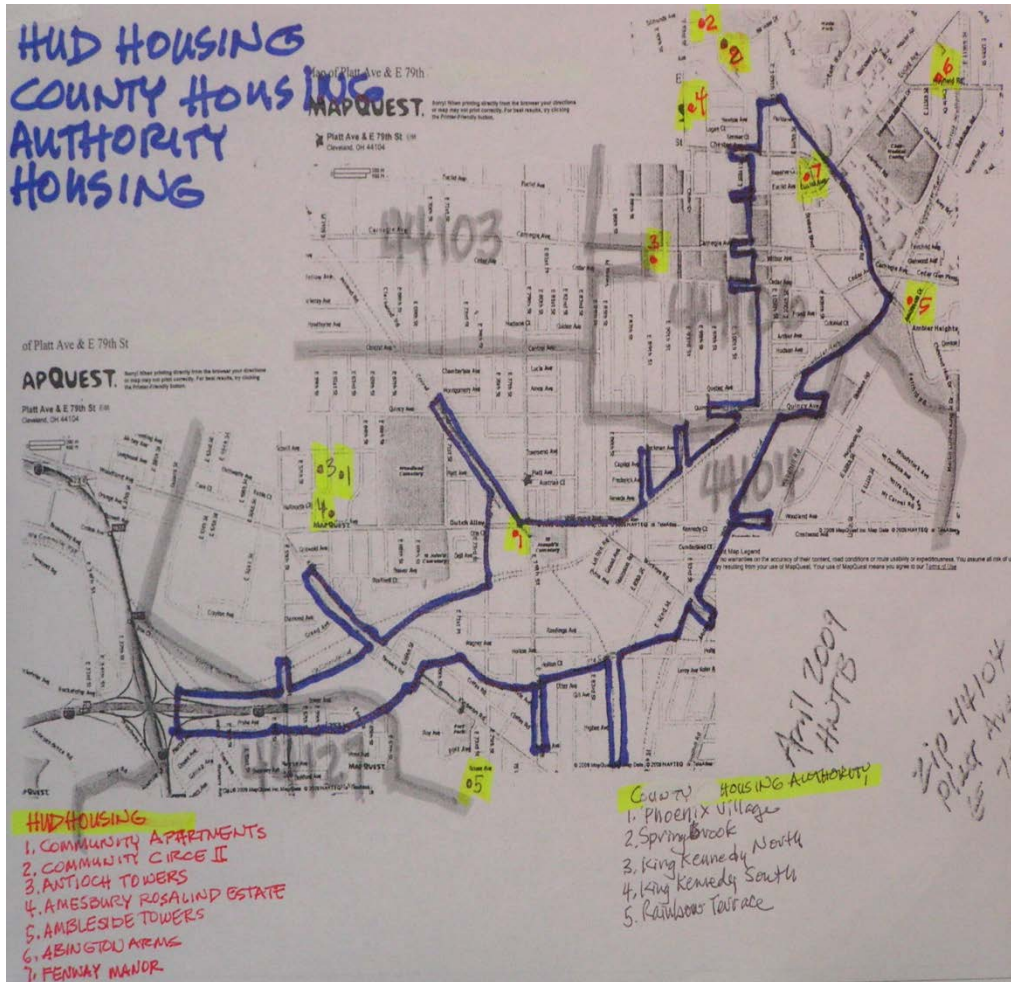
- Walk Score

- RealEstateabc





# Mapping the Input



# Field Verification





# Look for the Seen and Unseen

- Determine how communities define themselves (physical boundaries, social ties, race, etc.)
- Look for familial groups
- Ask whether the community uses septic or sewer, well or municipal water supply
- Locate the nearest medical facilities, EMT, volunteer fire, job centers, library, daycare
- Ask how students get to school
- Ask people for the best way to contact them

# Look at All Sides of the Community



# Summary: Public Involvement and Data Collection



- CIA is dependent on public involvement
- The most effective strategy will depend upon the particular community at hand
- Use multiple methods to triangulate, cross-reference, and verify information

# Summary: Community Impact Assessments



## CIA

- ▣ Is an *iterative* process
- ▣ Is an important tool to ensure compliance with nondiscrimination requirements
- ▣ Can be used to identify and recommend mitigation and enhancement opportunities
- ▣ Includes specific process steps

# Summary



- This presentation is available for download in the “file share pod”
  
- For more information and additional resources, visit:
  - <http://www.ciatrans.net/>
  - [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/environmental\\_justice/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/environmental_justice/)

# Speaker Contact Information



Sharlene Reed  
FHWA Office of Human Environment  
[sharlene.reed@dot.gov](mailto:sharlene.reed@dot.gov)

Brenda C. Kragh  
FHWA Office of Human Environment  
[Brenda.Kragh@dot.gov](mailto:Brenda.Kragh@dot.gov)

Katiann Wong-Murillo  
FHWA Resource Center  
[Katiann.Wong-Murillo@dot.gov](mailto:Katiann.Wong-Murillo@dot.gov)

Ann Steedly  
Planning Communities, LLC  
[asteedly@planningcommunities.com](mailto:asteedly@planningcommunities.com)

Anne Morris  
Anne Morris and Associates, LLC  
[anne@anne-morris.com](mailto:anne@anne-morris.com)