

Research Needs Statement

Please complete all sections in blue

Title:	Evaluating Transit Equity and Accessibility to Affordable Housing in Tennessee
Key Words:	Transit, Equity, Housing, Accessibility
Research Problem Statement:	Transit and housing affordability and accessibility are affect numerous residents, especially disadvantaged populations, as the state’s urban areas continue to experience growth. Therefore, there is a need to evaluate strategies and identify projects that increase accessibility to transit and affordable housing.
Research Objective:	This research would provide data on the locations of displaced or low-income populations and their proximity to transit facilities and affordable housing developments.
Related Research/Continuation of Past or Current Project:	Because of the region’s relatively recent growth, this topic is fairly new locally. However, the issues of transportation equity and accessibility of affordable housing in urban enviroments is not new.
Expected Deliverables:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maps illustrating transit facilities, affordable housing developments, average/median house price, and location density of displaced populations. 2. Trasnportation equity toolbox, detailing social equity factors such as median income level, median housing price, proximity of residents to workplaces, transit services in residential and workforce areas. 3. A cost-benefit analysis of tranportaiton investments and their impacts on low-income communities 4. List of recommendations based on research and projects that have proven successful in other comparable communities in the south.
Estimate of Problem Funding & Research Period:	\$120,000 - \$150,000 over 1 calendar year.
Urgency and Potential Benefits:	<p>Current growth trends are likely to increase, making solutions to these issues more important. TDOT benefits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More strategic investments based on need and projects that serve a greater number of more needy populations 2. More selective projects would yield greater ROI, due to increased revenue streams of individuals relocating to Tennessee – driving greater economic activity.

Implementation Planning:	<p>20% - Maps completed by first quarter</p> <p>20% - cost benefit analysis to be developed by 2nd quarter and updated over the year</p> <p>20% - list of top recommendations based on other successful programs completed by first quarter</p> <p>40% - Report on findings, recommendations (with case studies and lit review), ROI outline, and plan to phase in recommendations over 10 years.</p>
Person(s) Developing the Problem Statement:	Ian Preston, Planning Specialist, ian.preston@tn.gov
Submission Date:	2/22/2019
Problem Number	To be assigned by Research Office