

## Transportation and Climate Initiative Program

### *Update on Public Engagement Planning*

#### Introduction

The Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) is a regional collaboration of 13 Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast states and the District of Columbia that seeks to improve transportation, develop the clean energy economy, and reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector. The Transportation and Climate Initiative Program (TCI-P) is a multijurisdictional program to cap and reduce climate pollution from on-road transportation and invest in equitable and clean transportation options. A priority for TCI-P public engagement is to ensure that residents of communities overburdened by air pollution and underserved by the transportation system are able to provide meaningful input to decision-making processes.

The first major milestone of TCI-P was reached on December 21, 2020, when the governors of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island and the Mayor of the District of Columbia signed a Memorandum of Understanding ([MOU](#)) agreeing to work to implement TCI-P in their jurisdictions. In an accompanying joint [statement](#), the MOU signatories and eight other TCI states signaled their continuing commitment to collaborate on the development of TCI-P while pursuing state-specific initiatives to further reduce emissions through equitable clean transportation solutions. (See Appendix.) Other states are welcome to join the MOU signatories to become a TCI-P participating jurisdiction and begin implementing TCI-P at any time.

#### TCI Commitments to Equity in Public Engagement

A transparent, inclusive, and equitable process is critical to the success of TCI-P. A commitment to robust public engagement and equitable processes is a specific focus of the MOU:

*Equitable Processes. Each TCI-P participating jurisdiction will ensure that overburdened and underserved communities are able to provide meaningful input into decision making processes. Each Signatory Jurisdiction will establish and support an Equity Advisory Body (or bodies) composed of diverse stakeholder groups, with a majority of members being representatives of overburdened and underserved communities or populations, or designate an existing body that meets this description, to advise on decision making and equitable outcomes for TCI-P. The roles of an Equity Advisory Body include:*

*(1) Developing criteria for defining overburdened and underserved communities, building on existing criteria and definitions, where applicable;*

*(2) Providing recommendations for equitable investments of program proceeds and complementary policies that would achieve the requisite benefits for overburdened and underserved communities; and*

*(3) Developing metrics for evaluating how investments of program proceeds demonstrably provide direct and meaningful benefits for overburdened and underserved communities.*

## Opportunities for Public Engagement

For TCI-P to be successful in achieving its program goals, jurisdictions will work together and individually to expand opportunities for robust public engagement. This will include, for example:

- Informing the public about program development and implementation on an ongoing basis;
- Listening deeply to public input and incorporating recommendations into decision making processes;
- Collaborating and co-creating elements of the program and related processes with the public; and
- Building and strengthening relationships between government agencies, communities and individuals who chose to be involved with the process.

## How TCI Will Enable Meaningful Public Engagement in TCI-P

The critical next phase of the development of TCI-P is to begin implementing the program in MOU signatory jurisdictions. Equity, environmental, climate, and transportation justice considerations must be at the center of this process. Accordingly, the TCI-P participating jurisdictions, in consultation with [Metropolitan Group](#), a social change agency, and the [Georgetown Climate Center](#), which helps to facilitate TCI, intend to undertake the following efforts:

1. Facilitate critical equity conversations with environmental, climate and transportation justice groups and other stakeholders regarding how to ensure that their considerations are at the center of the implementation phase of TCI-P.
2. Work with communities to co-create and develop a TCI-P model framework for public engagement.
3. Provide technical assistance to equity and environmental justice stakeholders to support their meaningful and informed engagement in the design and implementation of TCI equity proposals, decarbonization strategies and investments. For example, this will include support for enhanced public engagement and communications to ensure equity and environmental justice principles are embedded into TCI-P documents and materials, public engagement processes, targeted investment strategies and proposed projects.
4. Facilitate the collaborative engagement of equity and environmental justice stakeholders in designing, implementing, and participating in TCI-P Equity Advisory Bodies.
5. Create plain language communication materials that seeks to make the Transportation and Climate Initiative Program more understandable and accessible to a broader cross section of stakeholders. Translated materials will also be made available.

## Upcoming Program Milestones

Developing and implementing TCI-P is a multi-year process that will involve many stages and opportunities for public input.<sup>1</sup> The following milestones, or stages of TCI-P development and implementation, will present opportunities for further input and collaboration:

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<sup>1</sup> For a full timeline of TCI's collaborative work over the years, including regional listening sessions, webinars, and workshops, view the [Timeline of the Transportation & Climate Initiative](#).

**Draft Model Framework for Public Engagement** – To ensure meaningful, equitable and inclusive community participation in connection with the implementation of TCI-P, the TCI jurisdictions are proposing to work with Metropolitan Group to engage with communities to develop a model framework for ongoing public engagement.

TCI invites public input on this proposal, including suggestions concerning existing models the jurisdictions should consider. Please submit input through the [TCI public input portal](#).

**Equity Advisory Bodies** – MOU signatories will soon begin the process of establishing or designating Equity Advisory Bodies and look forward to co-creating and directly supporting these groups through active engagement with local community leaders and organizations. These groups will help to inform program development, in the near-term, and play an important role with respect to monitoring and reviewing how the program performs over time.

**Model Rule** – TCI-P is a multijurisdictional program composed of individual programs adopted and implemented under the regulations of each TCI-P participating jurisdiction. The TCI-P “Model Rule” serves as a common framework that each participating jurisdiction will use to develop its own regulations.

The TCI jurisdictions released a [draft model rule](#) for public input on March 1, 2021. Input received on or before May 7, 2021 will be most useful. (Previously, input had been requested by April 1.) Please submit input through the [TCI public input portal](#).

The TCI jurisdictions will publish a TCI-P Model Rule after considering and incorporating public input on the draft model rule.

**Potential Legislation** – Each TCI-P participating jurisdiction may take legislative steps as necessary to authorize and implement TCI-P.

**Jurisdiction-Specific Regulations** – Once the TCI-P Model Rule is complete, each TCI-P participating jurisdiction will follow the rulemaking steps required by the jurisdiction’s law as necessary to implement the program. Each TCI-P participating jurisdiction will issue a draft regulation and provide an opportunity for public review and comment before it issues a final jurisdiction-specific regulation.

**Planning for Investments** – Through a variety of processes, public input is invited regarding how program proceeds are invested. In particular, Equity Advisory Bodies will provide recommendations regarding investments and TCI-P participating jurisdictions are committed to investing no less than 35 percent of the proceeds from the auction of allowances to ensure that overburdened and underserved communities benefit equitably from clean transportation projects and programs.

**Monitoring and Evaluating Effectiveness** – Equity Advisory Bodies will help to identify and develop metrics and methods for evaluating the impact of TCI-P within each participating jurisdiction, including by establishing air quality monitoring in communities overburdened by air pollution. As TCI-P is implemented, annual reviews and reports by participating jurisdictions will present ongoing opportunities for communities and Equity Advisory Bodies to assess the effectiveness of complementary policies and investments and recommend areas for improvement.

**Program Reviews** – To ensure that TCI-P is achieving program goals, participating jurisdictions will collaboratively conduct regular comprehensive program reviews, which will involve public engagement

and may result in revisions to the Model Rule and the corresponding regulations of participating jurisdictions.

*The [TCI public input portal](#) remains open for public input regarding all aspects of the Transportation and Climate Initiative Program and related processes.*

*Please contact TCI or send any questions through [the contact form](#) and we will respond as soon as possible.*

*If you would like to receive updates regarding new developments in the TCI-P process, you can sign up to [stay connected here](#).*

## Appendix: TCI Jurisdiction Commitments to Equity in Public Engagement

On December 21, 2020, in connection with the signing of the TCI-P MOU by Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia, 12 TCI jurisdictions released a joint statement on the *Next Steps for the Transportation and Climate Initiative* and committed to continued collaboration and individual actions to equitably reduce air pollution, create healthier communities, and invest in cleaner transportation:

***All jurisdictions will conduct continued public outreach within our respective jurisdictions to ensure that emissions reductions, as well as the economic and public health benefits from future clean transportation investments, achieve equitable outcomes and directly benefit overburdened and underserved communities. All TCI jurisdictions will prioritize addressing the needs of overburdened and underserved communities and take steps to ensure that all communities are able to provide meaningful input to decision-making processes.***

See below for contact information for state agency officials from each of the TCI jurisdictions, along with links to web pages describing councils, committees, advisory bodies, or other processes where individuals and organizations can engage around topics including climate, transportation, equity, environmental justice, and the Transportation and Climate Initiative Program. This information may be revised as TCI jurisdictions initiate new processes.

### Connecticut

[Connecticut Transportation and Climate Initiative Program homepage](#)

*Jurisdiction Points of Contact:*

[TCI@ct.gov](mailto:TCI@ct.gov)

### Delaware

[Delaware Climate Action Plan](#)

*Jurisdiction Points of Contact:*

Susan Love, Administrator, Climate and Sustainability Section, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, [Susan.Love@delaware.gov](mailto:Susan.Love@delaware.gov)

Valerie Gray, Administrator, Air Quality Planning Section, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, [Valerie.Gray@delaware.gov](mailto:Valerie.Gray@delaware.gov)

### District of Columbia

[District of Columbia Transportation and Climate Initiative Program homepage](#)

*Jurisdiction Point of Contact:*

Jenn Hatch, Climate Analyst, Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE), [jenn.hatch@dc.gov](mailto:jenn.hatch@dc.gov)

### Maryland

[Maryland Commission on Climate Change](#)

[Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities](#)

*Jurisdiction Points of Contact:*

Devon Dodson, Senior Advisor, Maryland Department of the Environment,  
[devon.dodson1@maryland.gov](mailto:devon.dodson1@maryland.gov)

Chris Hoagland, Climate Change Program Manager, Maryland Department of the Environment,  
[chris.hoagland@maryland.gov](mailto:chris.hoagland@maryland.gov)

Virginia Burke, Transportation Air Quality Program Manager, Maryland Department of Transportation,  
[vburke@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:vburke@mdot.maryland.gov)

Dorothy Morrison, Director, Office of Environment, Maryland Department of Transportation  
[dmorrison@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:dmorrison@mdot.maryland.gov)

## Massachusetts

[Massachusetts Transportation & Climate Initiative \(TCI\) homepage](#)

[Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2030](#)

*Jurisdiction Points of Contact:*

Please email [tcidot.state.ma.us](mailto:tcidot.state.ma.us) to receive announcements about upcoming TCI-related meetings or with any questions regarding TCI.

## New Jersey

*Jurisdiction Points of Contact:*

Olivia Glenn, Deputy Commissioner, Environmental Justice & Equity, Department of Environmental Protection, [olivia.glenn@dep.nj.gov](mailto:olivia.glenn@dep.nj.gov)

Riché Outlaw, Environmental Justice Coordinator, Department of Environmental Protection,  
[Riche.Outlaw@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Riche.Outlaw@dep.nj.gov)

Peg Hanna, Assistant Director of Air Monitoring and Mobile Sources, Department of Environmental Protection, [peg.hanna@dep.nj.gov](mailto:peg.hanna@dep.nj.gov)

## New York

[New York State Climate Action Council](#)

[Climate Action Council Transportation Advisory Panel](#)

*Jurisdiction Points of Contact:*

Pamala Hadad-Hurst, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, [climateandtransportation@dec.ny.gov](mailto:climateandtransportation@dec.ny.gov)

Jason Pandich, Climate Policy Analyst 1, Office of Climate Change, Department of Environmental Conservation, [climateandtransportation@dec.ny.gov](mailto:climateandtransportation@dec.ny.gov)

## North Carolina

[NC Climate Change Interagency Council](#)

[NCDEQ Secretary's Environmental Justice and Equity Board](#)

*Jurisdiction Points of Contact:*

Jennifer Mundt, Senior Policy Advisor, NC Department of Environmental Quality,  
[jennifer.mundt@ncdenr.gov](mailto:jennifer.mundt@ncdenr.gov)

Johanna Reese, Deputy Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, NC Department of Transportation,  
[jhreesee@ncdot.gov](mailto:jhreesee@ncdot.gov)

## Pennsylvania

[Sustainable Transportation in Pennsylvania](#)

[Pennsylvania's Office of Environmental Justice](#)

*Jurisdiction Points of Contact:*

Sarah Pinter, Executive Policy Specialist, Department of Environmental Protection, [spinter@pa.gov](mailto:spinter@pa.gov)

Allison Acevedo, Director of Environmental Justice, Department of Environmental Protection,  
[alacevedo@pa.gov](mailto:alacevedo@pa.gov)

Emily Watts, Executive Policy Specialist, Department of Transportation, [ewatts@pa.gov](mailto:ewatts@pa.gov)

## Rhode Island

[Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management: Climate Change and Rhode Island](#)

*Jurisdiction Point of Contact:*

Terry Gray, Deputy Director for Environmental Protection, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, [terry.gray@dem.ri.gov](mailto:terry.gray@dem.ri.gov)

## Vermont

[Vermont Agency of Natural Resources TCI Information](#)

[The Vermont Climate Council](#)

[Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan](#)

*Jurisdiction Points of Contact:*

Peter Walke, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, [peter.walke@vermont.gov](mailto:peter.walke@vermont.gov)

(Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan) Ed McNamara, Director, Department of Public Service Planning,  
[ed.mcnamara@vermont.gov](mailto:ed.mcnamara@vermont.gov)

## Virginia

[Virginia Council on Environmental Justice](#)

*Jurisdiction Point of Contact:*

Chris Bast, Chief Deputy Director at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality,  
[chris.bast@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:chris.bast@deq.virginia.gov)