

Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative

On March 4, 2021, TCS met with staff from the City's Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative (RESJI) in order to obtain input and technical assistance regarding application of the RESJI Tools. RESJI best practices were discussed at length and links to the RESJI tools were provided for TCS members to review and utilize as the new program is developed and refined. Neighborhood Resource Teams (NRTs) are currently being used by staff in Traffic Engineering to help connect with the voices from portions of our community not always heard directly at the City's Boards, Committees and Commissions (BCCS); and NRTs were emphasized as an excellent resource for the new program. In order to be fair during the identification of safety issues, the prioritization of projects, and the decision making process in the new program, the City needs to bring more voices to the table. In addition, the City should strive to hear from residents not traditionally heard, using all methods available for those connections. As noted in the RESJI Process Guide, "this is not a prescriptive or linear process;" so the TCS incorporated conversations regarding racial equity and social justice as each element and aspect of the SSM program was reviewed, discussed, and developed. In addition, after finalizing its draft priority recommendations, TCS devoted another meeting on July 1, 2021 to discussions regarding racial equity and social justice in order to make sure this important perspective was appropriately considered and addressed in the TCS Priority Recommendations.