

Research Project Title

RES2021-08: Evaluating Transit Equity and Accessibility to Affordable Housing in Tennessee

Purpose of the Project

The purpose of this research project is to critically assess the interrelated issues of transit access to opportunities, affordable housing locations, and displaced populations in the major metropolitan regions of Tennessee.

Scope and Significance

The scope of work is divided into seven parts, which are briefly described below.

1. A detailed literature review of prior studies pertaining to transit accessibility, displaced populations, and affordable housing will be conducted. Additionally, case studies of comparable southern cities will be compiled.
2. The most recent data on (1) the locations of affordable housing; (2) transit service, including route location and schedule information; and (3) relevant demographic data will be collected for the four major metropolitan areas of Tennessee (Knoxville, Nashville, Chattanooga, Memphis).
3. An analysis of access to opportunities by transit from affordable housing locations in the four large metro regions will be conducted using a cutting-edge software tool developed by a company called Conveyal.
4. Specific measures will be developed to identify geographic areas with displaced populations; for example, changes in income and ethnicity by census tract will be analyzed over time.
5. The results of Part 3 on transit accessibility of affordable housing and Part 4 on the locations of displaced populations will be compared.
6. Stakeholders will be contacted to gather local knowledge on transit accessibility and/or housing issues in each metro region. They will also be asked to provide feedback on Parts 3-5.
7. Recommendations and a final report will be written.

Expected Outcomes

An expected outcome of this project is a list of recommendations of potential transit service changes for each of the major metropolitan areas of Tennessee.

Time Period

September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021

Contact Information

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