Equity Distribution Compliance Methodology

Background

Since 2014, the Metropolitan Council has measured regional equity by identifying Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACPs) as census tracts where 40% of more of the residents have family or individual incomes that area less than 185% of the federal poverty threshold. To identify areas where people of color experience the most exposure to concentrated poverty, the Council further differentiated Areas of Concentrated Poverty where 50% or more of the residents are people of color as ACP50s. The 2020 Scooter Program, which goes through December of 2021, is based off the 2019 Met Council ACP50 census tracts within the City of Minneapolis.

2021 Changes to the Methodology

In the time since the scooter program equity requirements were set, significant changes to ACPs in the city have occurred including: changes to census tracts included in the North and South ACP boundaries, the elimination of census tract 1018 in Northeast as an ACP, the completion of a federal 2020 Census, and the Met Council's intention to phase out the ACP50 program and replace the ACP Program with a new, more inclusive Equity Considerations dataset. Because the Met Council's ACP update eliminated the Northeast Minneapolis ACP, the distribution requirements were reduced from 5% of the scooter fleet in the 2020 season, to a minimum of 25 scooters in 2021. Additionally, the NE ACP census tract is primarily residential, with the exception of the Central Avenue corridor, and lacks sufficient bike parking to handle the scooter demand without a negative impact on bike parking availability. Based on feedback from businesses along Central Avenue, the Minneapolis Advisory Committee On People With Disabilities, and Bicycle Advisory Committee, Public Works has decided to further reduce the fleet deployment requirements for the NE ACP for the remainder of the 2021 season. The City will instead focus on vendor compliance in the North and South ACPs.
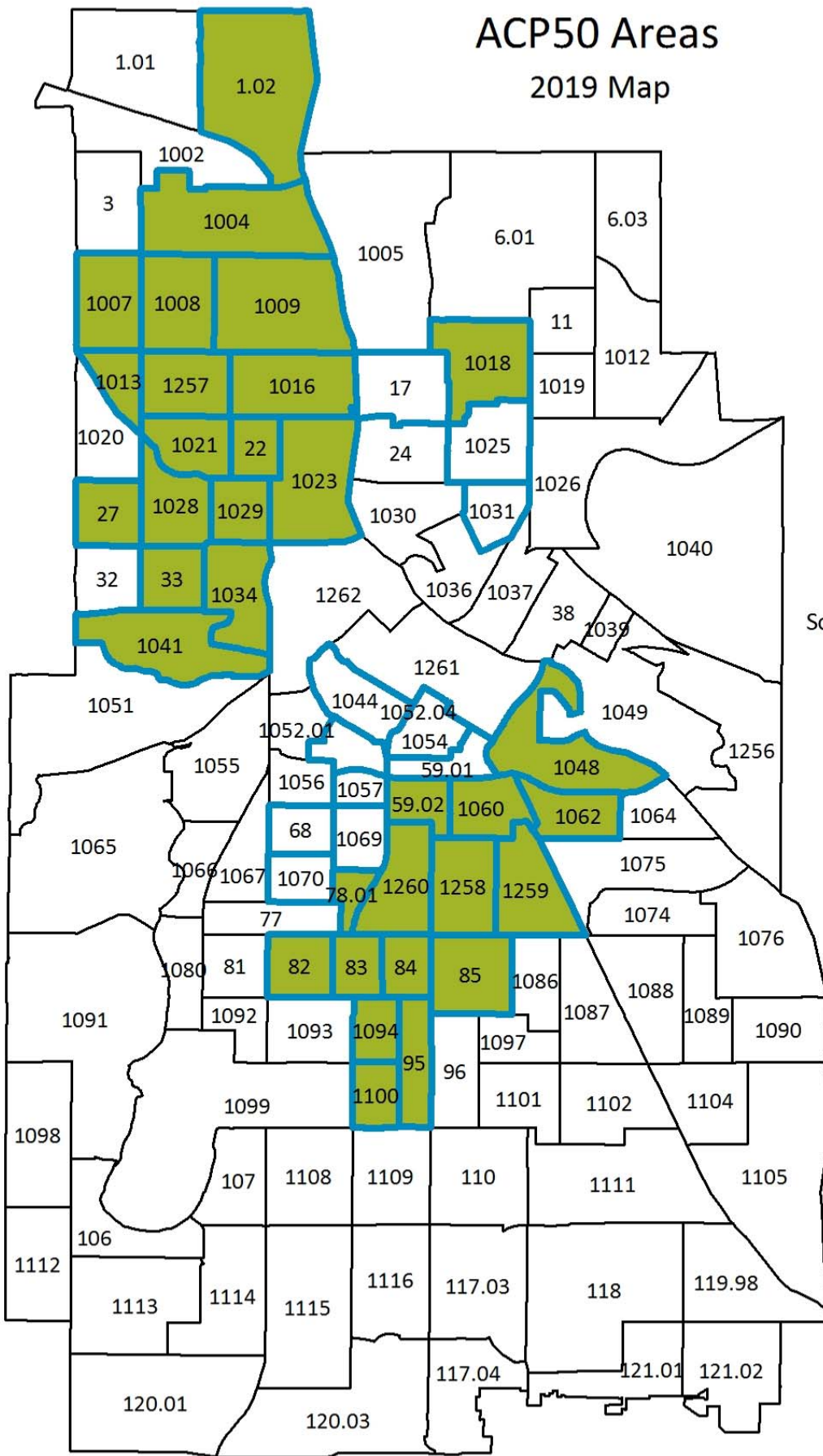
Future Evaluation of the Methodology

It is the City's intention to continue to evaluate the effectiveness of our equity distribution requirements and design our next scooter program accordingly. The City will continue to gather community feedback and evaluate the data sets and metrics currently used to measure equity in the region as well as the results of the 2020 Census. As part of a larger conversation across City departments, Public Works will determine which data sets will be used to establish scooter equity requirements in the future.

ACP50 Areas
2019 Map

Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Legend

☐ ACP

■ ACP50

Source: Metropolitan Council analysis
of U.S. Census Bureau data

The Metropolitan Council defines Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACPs) as census tracts where 40% or more of the residents have family or individual incomes that are less than 185% of the federal poverty threshold. Data are also controlled to remove tracts with high proportions of college students who are not in poverty. To identify areas where people of color experience the most exposure to concentrated poverty, the Council further differentiates Areas of Concentrated Poverty where 50% or more of the residents are people of color (ACP50s, shown here).