Addressing Environmental Justice in Public and Multi-Sector Decision-Making

Charles Lee Office of Environmental Justice US Environmental Protection Agency

Context

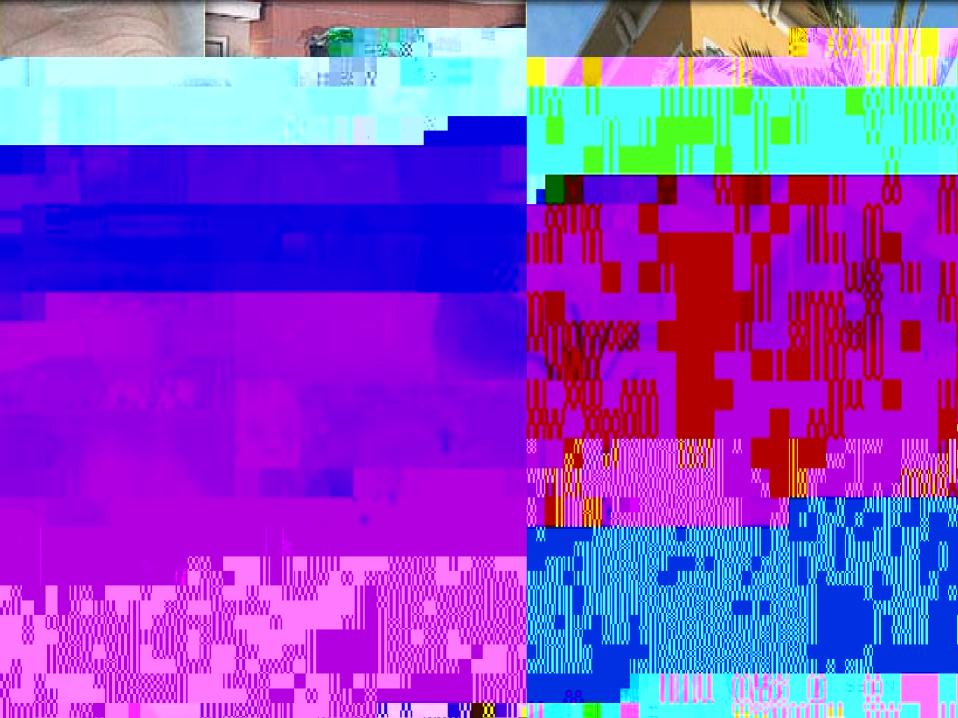
- Disadvantaged Group
- Disproportionate/Adverse Impacts
- Lack of Services
- Capacity Deficiencies
- Cultural Differences
- **Controversy**

EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving

- Community Organization and Leadership/Builds on community assets
- Develop Vision and Plan
- Responsive Government and/or Business
- Benefits of Collaborations:
 - Provision of technical support
 - Leverage resources
- Ability to resolve differences
- Ability to manage partnership

Fruitvale Transit Village Oakland, California

- * \$100 million mixed-use development
- Brainchild of The Unity Council
- Bay Area Rapid Transit District planned to build multi-layered parking facility
- Concerns about increased traffic and pollution & failure to meet community needs
- The Unity Council galvanized opposition;
 Proposed a broad-based community
 planning process



Unity Council Mission

The mission of The Unity Council is to help build the assets of families and low-income communities through comprehensive programs of sustainable physical, economic, and social development.

Fruitvale Transit Village Oakland, California

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BART withdrew proposal and agreed to work
 with Unity Council on plan for area

Partners

- The Unity Council
- National Transit Access Center/UC Berkeley
- Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART)
- City of Oakland
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- Federal Transit Administration
- US Department of Housing & Urban Development
- **US Environmental Protection Agency**

Project Chronology - I

I.

L

- 1991 BART announces plans/Fruitvale community protests
- February 1992: Unity Council receives \$185,000
- April 1993: Unity Council awarded \$470,000 FTA planning grant
- May 1993: National Transit Access Center/UC Berkeley holds community design symposium
 - July 1994: Unity Council, BART, & City of Oakland sign MOA to form Fruitvale Policy Committee
 - Spring/Summer 1995: Unity Council holds community site planning meetings

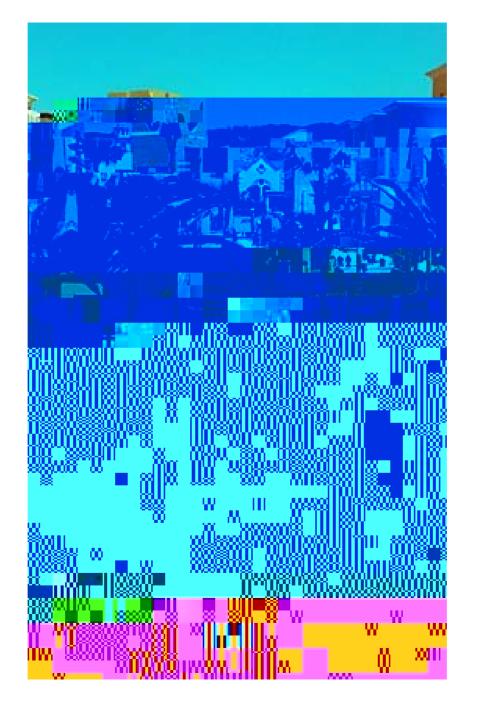
Project Chronology - II

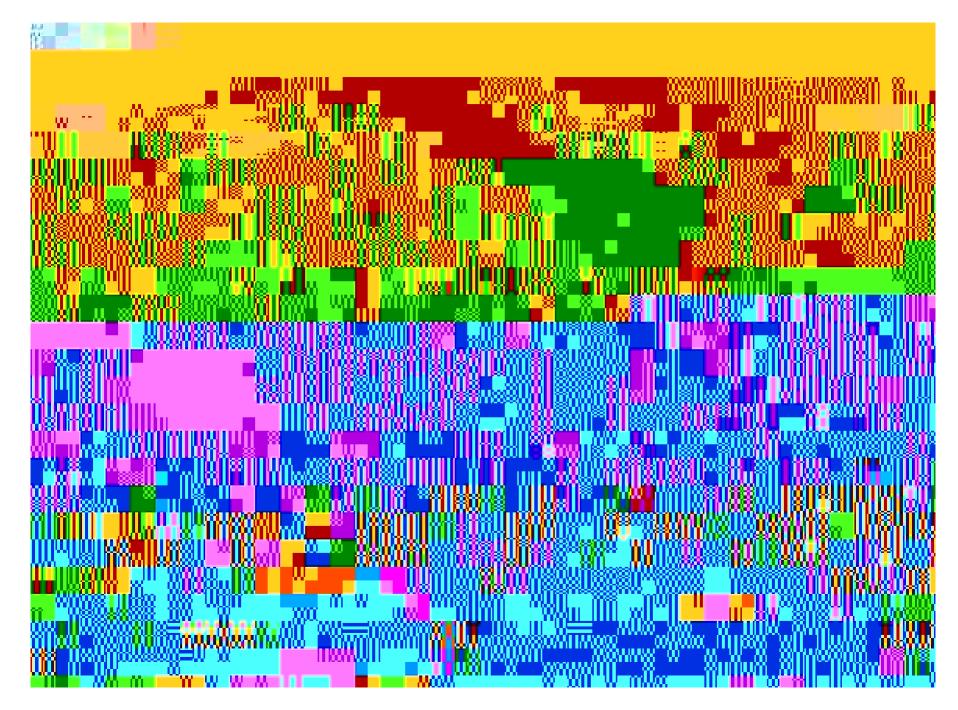
- 1996: City of Oakland passes zoning ordinance capping parking space construction
- 1997: Unity Council creates Fruitvale Development
 9sBhronology -

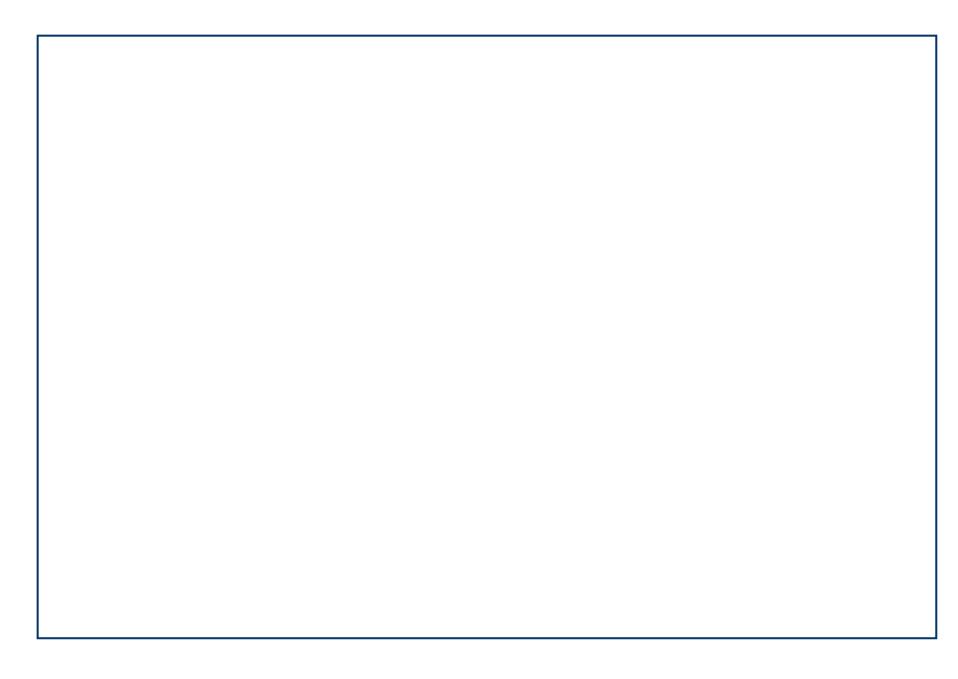
Components of Fruitvale Transit Village

- 45,000 sq ft Retail/Restaurant Use
- **54,000 sq ft** Nonprofit Health-Care Clinic
- 55,000 sq ft Child Care Facility
- ⁴ 15,000 sq ft Executive Offices
- 68 Units of HUD Housing
- 220 Units of Mixed-Income Housing
- ⁴ 2 Parking Garages for 1,500 Cars









Lessons Learned

- Sustainable development must address social equity issues
- Stable community-based organizations are key to provide leadership and vision
- Partnerships, particularly responsive government and business, are critical to success
- Ability to work through differences by negotiating win-win solutions and achieve mutual gains