

# BRIEFING ON PROPOSED “COMMUNITIES OF CONCERN” IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

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## Title VI and Environmental Justice Analysis of the Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP)

Wendy Klancher, TPB Principal Transportation Planner  
Technical Committee Item 4  
December 2, 2016



# Federal Requirements

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## Title VI: Civil Rights Act of 1964

Prohibit discrimination based on **race, color, or national origin** under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance

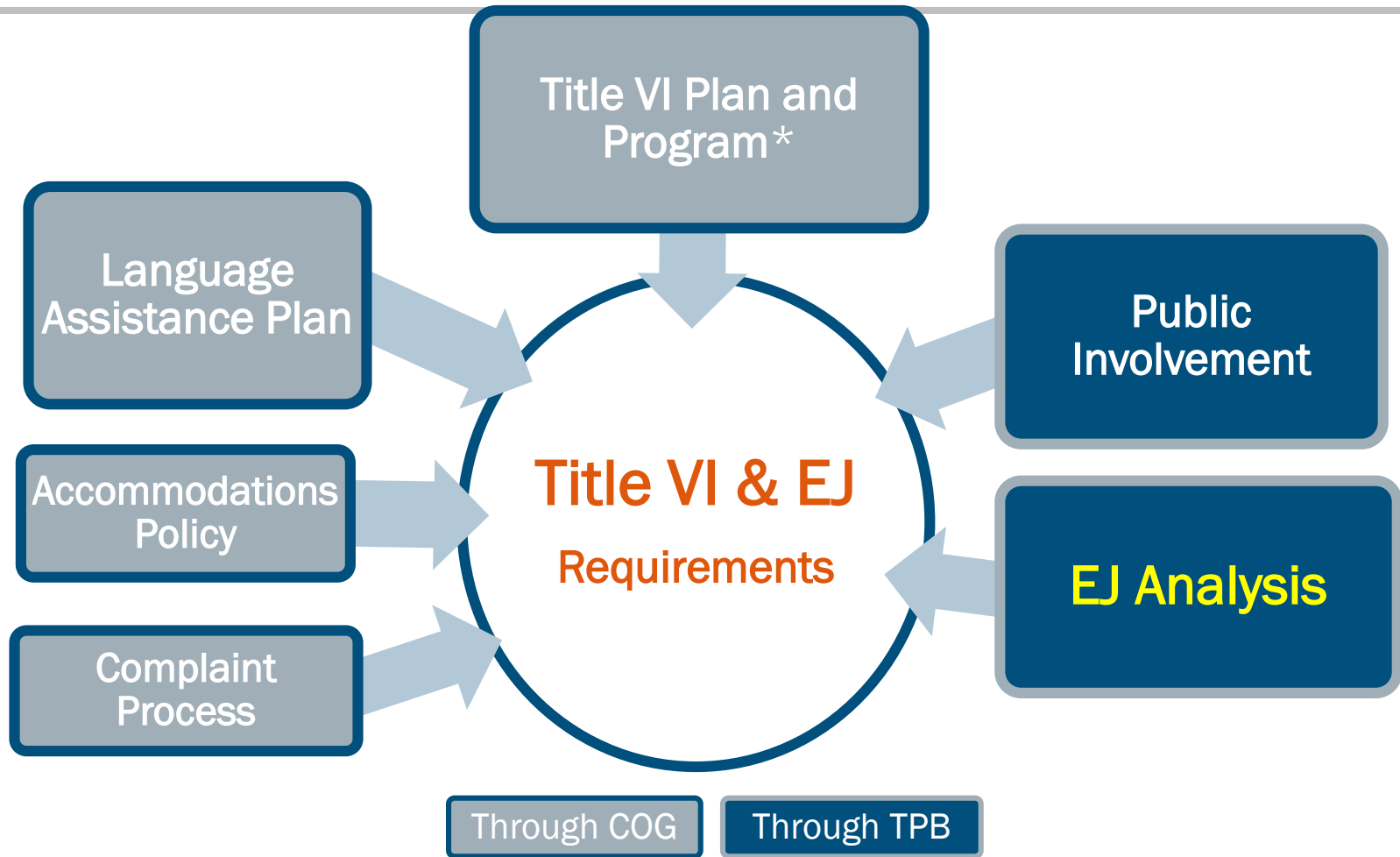


## Environmental Justice

**Executive Order 12898 (1994):** Recipients of Federal funds must identify and avoid disproportionately high and adverse effects on **minority and low-income populations**



# TPB Compliance with Title VI and EJ



\*Includes Equal Employment Opportunity and Disadvantage Business Enterprise Policies



# What is the EJ Analysis?

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- Examine the CLRP for any **disproportionately high and adverse impacts** on low-income and minority populations

The findings are used to:

- Ensure compliance
- Inform the regional planning process about transportation needs of low-income and minority populations
- Potentially assist in local community planning initiatives



# Current and Proposed Approach to EJ Analysis

## Current Approach

- Typical and compliant
- Impacts analyzed at regional scale
- Identified areas with changes in accessibility
- Compared low-income and minority populations impacted by changes to the general population

## Proposed Approach

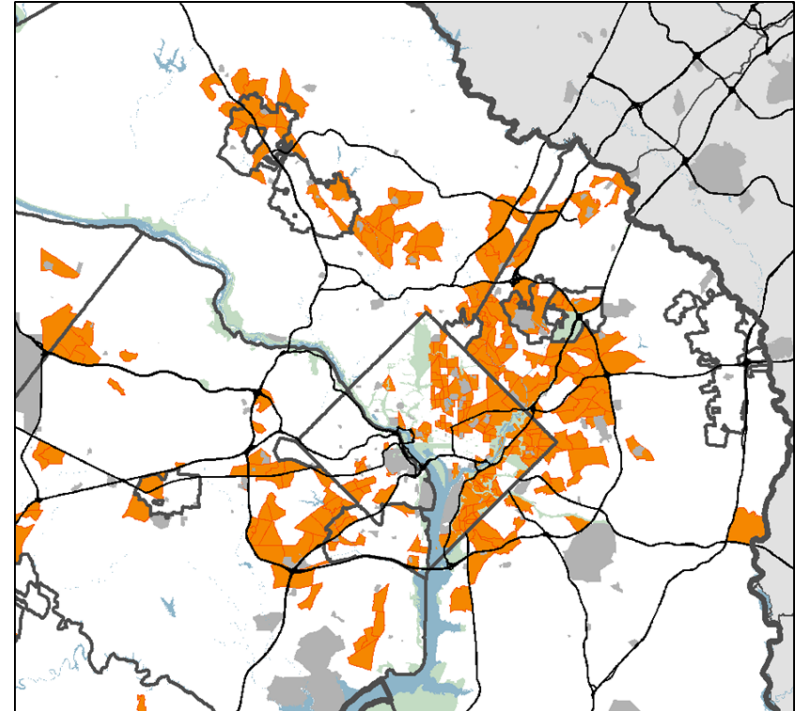
- Impacts analyzed on a smaller geographic scale
- Identify areas with higher than average concentration of low-income and minority populations (“Communities of Concern”)
- Determine change in accessibility and compare changes between Communities of Concern and the rest of the region



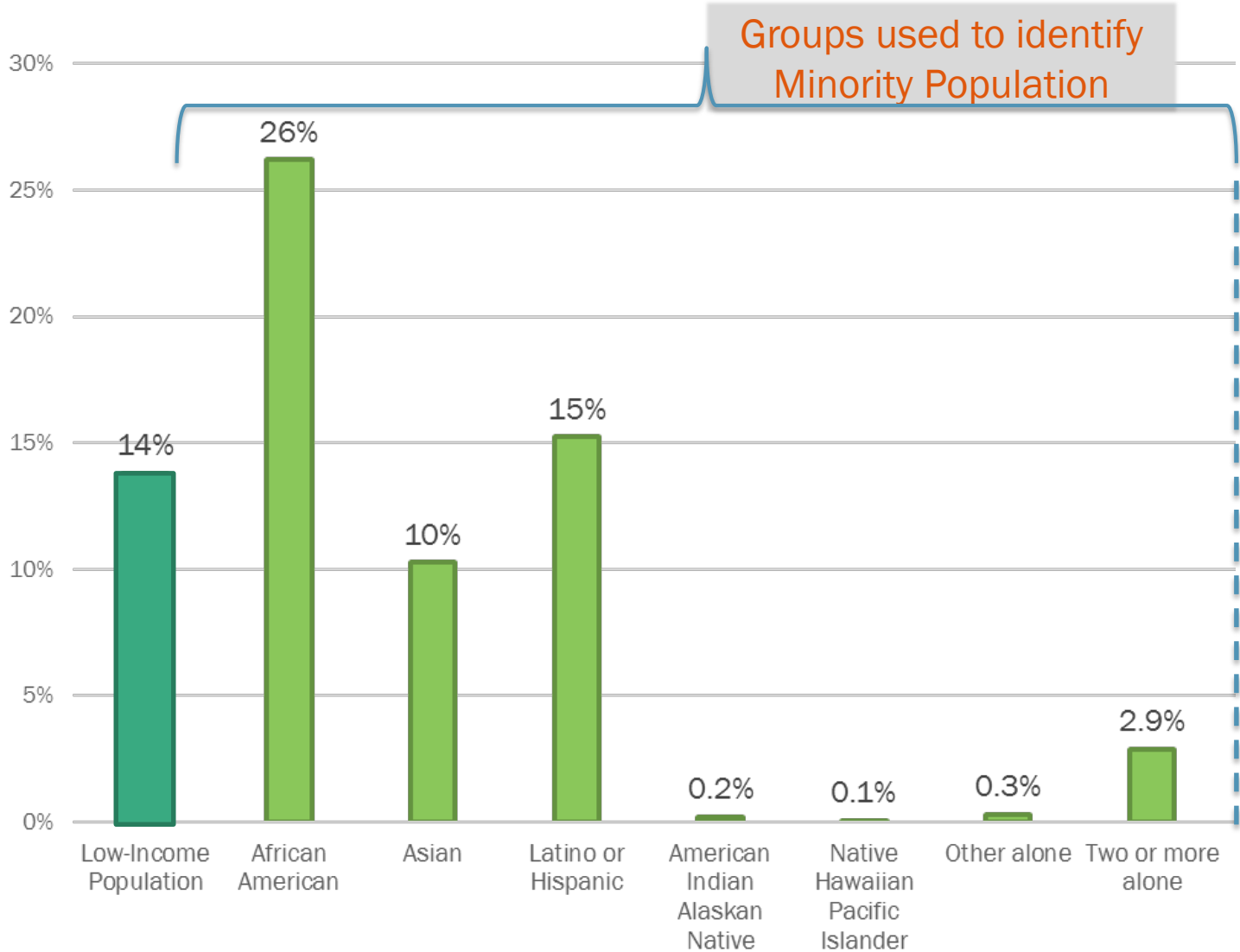
# What are the “Communities of Concern?”

Small geographic areas with a higher than average concentration of low-income and/or minority populations

- Identified by TPB Staff
- In consultation with the local jurisdictions’ Planning Directors
- Used latest US Census data at the tract-level



# Demographic Profile of the Region




# “Communities of Concern” Methodology

- Used U.S. Census 2010-2014 American Community Survey data:
  - **Identified the largest racial and ethnic groups that constitutes the minority population:** (African-American, Asian, Hispanic/Latino)
  - **Defined thresholds to determine low-income population**
  - Calculated regional averages for low-income and minority population groups:
- Examined each U.S. Census tract in the region:
  - Calculated tract-level averages of low-income and minority populations
  - Determined if low-income and minority populations were higher than **1.5** times the regional average and calculated a Ratio of Concentration
  - **Assigned an index score to each of the 4 population groups in a tract;**
    - Score for low-income population was doubled
  - Summed the index scores for a total score
- **High- scoring tracts designated as Communities of Concern**





# Index Scoring System

RATIO OF CONCENTRATION (ROC) (times the regional average)	INDEX SCORE				TOTAL INDEX SCORE
	Low-Income*	African American	Asian	Hispanic Or Latino	
Less than 1.5	0	0	0	0	Index scores for each population group are totaled (ranging from 0-15)  
Between 1.5 and 3.0	3.0 to 6.0	1.5 to 3.0	1.5 to 3.0	1.5 to 3.0	
Greater than 3.0	6.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	

**Community of Concern (Total Index > 3.00)**  
 **Not a Community of Concern (Total Index ≤ 3.00)**

\*Low-Income Index scores are weighted



# Scoring Example: Census Tract 8038.01

(in Prince George's County, MD)

	Tract Percent	Ratio of Concentration	Index Score
Low Income	22.86%	1.7	3.4
African American	49.78%	1.9	1.9
Asian	1.85%	0.2	0.0
Hispanic or Latino	40.95%	2.7	2.7

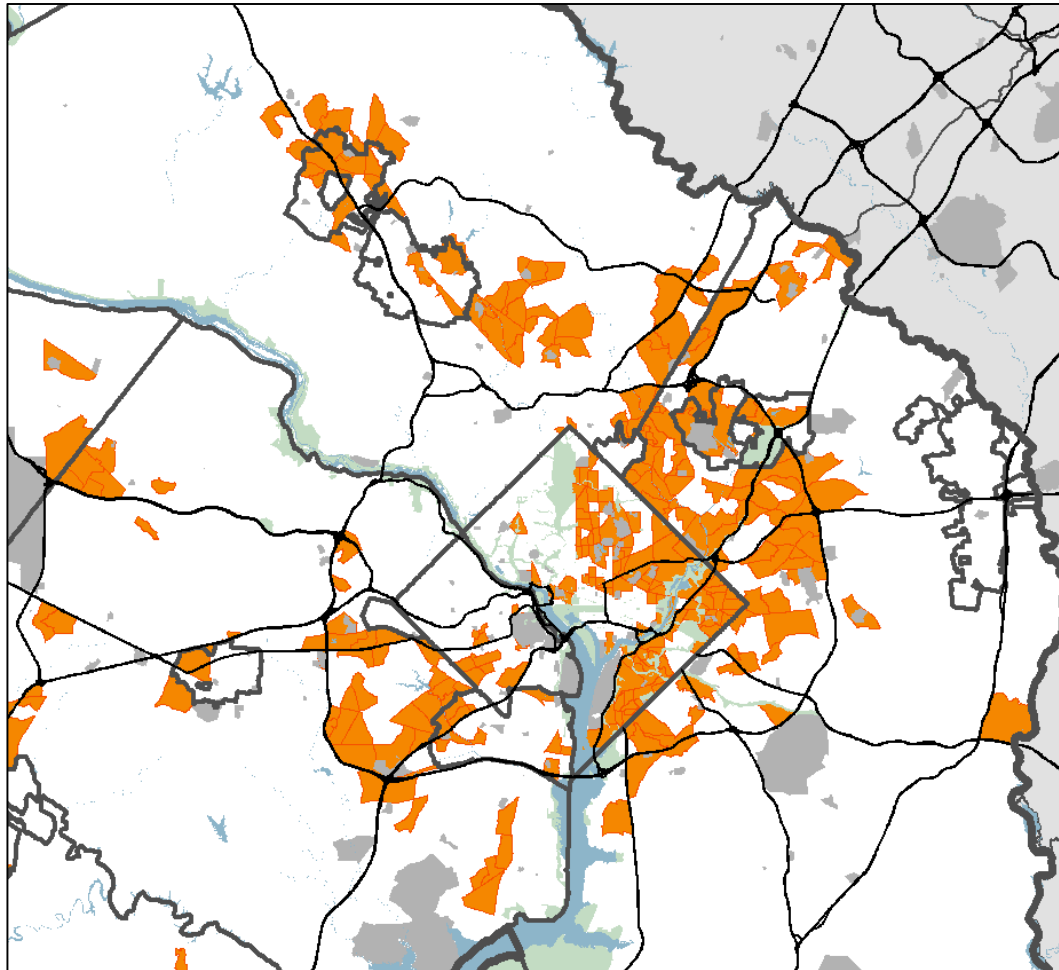
**Total Index Score**  
8.0

**Community of Concern** (Total Index > 3.00)

Not a Community of Concern (Total Index ≤ 3.00)



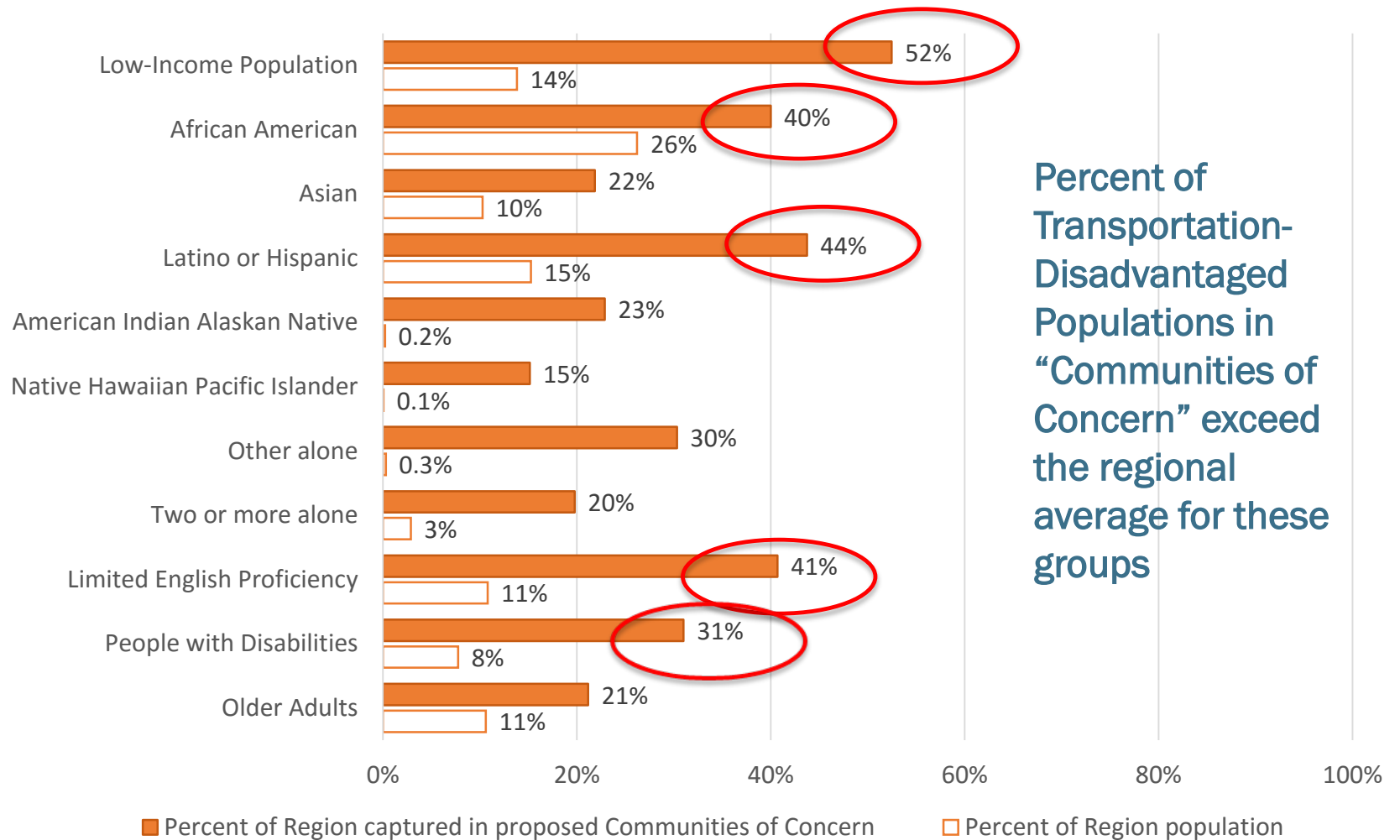
# Proposed Communities of Concern



Interactive map: <https://gis.mwcog.org/webmaps/tpb/clrp/ej/>



# The “Communities of Concern” represent multiple Transportation-Disadvantaged Populations



Percent of Transportation-Disadvantaged Populations in “Communities of Concern” exceed the regional average for these groups



# Next Steps

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TPB asked to adopt the regional map displaying the “Communities of Concern”

- **January 2017**

TPB staff conducts EJ analysis of the 2016 CLRP using the Communities of Concern

- **Feb - April 2017**

Tech Committee and TPB Briefed on findings of EJ Analysis

- **May – June 2017**

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