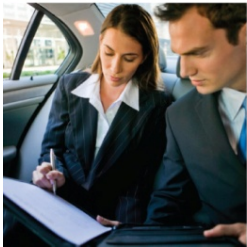




# Incorporating Public Health in Transportation Corridor Planning

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# Overview

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- **Background on a USDOT project to support health in transportation**
- **Using a process to incorporate health into transportation practice**
- **Introducing the Public Health and Transportation Corridor Planning Framework**
- **Testing the Framework in the Real World**

## Background – HinT Working Group

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The Health in Transportation (HinT) Working Group is an interagency group of U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) staff that began in early 2012 to:

- Develop a common understanding of health in transportation;
- Identify aspects of existing USDOT programs that relate to health; and
- Address stakeholder's health-related concerns and communicate these concerns within the agency.
- *Framework – Develop methodologies, tools and resources for transportation agencies that want to incorporate health (equity analysis, active transportation, access, etc.) in Transportation Corridor Planning*

# Background – Developing the Framework

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- **Why a corridor planning framework?**

- Creates a process or structure for activities that can be repeated
- Flexibility and broad application
- Scalable: up to the regional level or down to a specific project

- **How was the Framework developed?**

- Initial background research
- Structure and content categories selected
- Five practitioner focus groups for input on: successful practice, challenges, data and tools, partnerships and stakeholders, health equity

- **How will we know it works?**

- Five beta test teams in active corridor planning studies
- Users will validate, make adjustments, and provide feedback

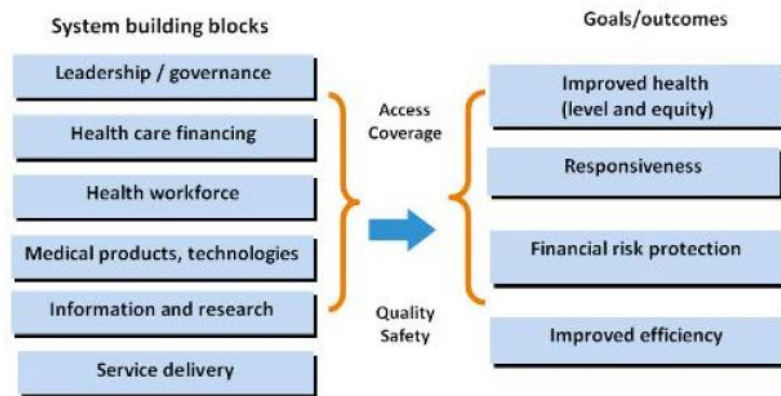
## Intended Audience

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- *The community and its needs are the focus*
- *The intended audience is transportation practitioners; recognizing public health professionals as important potential partners.*
- *The framework will support transportation practitioners currently motivated to incorporate health and illustrate to others how this is beneficial and achievable.*

# Process-Based Approach to Incorporating Health

- Does not require new regulations
- Provides “how to” information
- Can be repeated
- Builds relationships



The Steps of HIA	
1. SCREENING	<p>↓ Determine whether an HIA is needed and likely to be useful.</p>
2. SCOPING	<p>↓ In consultation with stakeholders, develop a plan for the HIA, including the identification of potential health risks and benefits.</p>
3. ASSESSMENT	<p>↓ Describe the baseline health of affected communities and assess the potential impacts of the decision.</p>
4. RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>↓ Develop practical solutions that can be implemented within the political, economic or technical limitations of the project or policy being assessed.</p>
5. REPORTING	<p>↓ Disseminate the findings to decision makers, affected communities and other stakeholders.</p>
6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION	<p>Monitor the changes in health or health risk factors and evaluate the efficacy of the measures that are implemented and the HIA process as a whole.</p> <p><i>The HIA process encourages public input at each step.</i></p>

# The Framework – What is it and how does it work?

## Public Health & Transportation Corridor Planning Framework



- **Steps common to corridor planning**
- **Information specific to integrating health**
- **Practitioners apply the information during a corridor planning study**

# Step 1 - Define Transportation and Health Issues

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- ***What happens here?***
- ***Questions to Consider at this Step***
- ***Relevant information on:***
  - *Partners and Stakeholders*
  - *Questions to Inform Decision Making*
  - *Data and Analysis Support*
  - *Examples from Practice*
  - *Resources*





## Step 2 – Identify Needs, Resources and Health Priorities

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- ***What happens here?***

- The baseline condition is established for both transportation and health

- ***Questions to consider at this step***

- What data and information is available to define the public health priorities and the potential benefit from transportation decisions?
- What are the boundaries of the study with respect to geographic area and scope?
- What is the baseline understanding to set expectations of future improvements?
- How will health stakeholders be engaged and informed?



## Step 3 – Develop Goals and Objectives that Protect and Promote Health

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- ***What happens here?***

- Potential public health impacts of transportation strategies will be considered to inform the development of goals

- ***Partners and Stakeholders***

- Public health practitioners can help engage community groups and individual champions to identify goals, priorities, and objectives that are related to health in this corridor.



## Step 4 – Establish Evaluation Criteria and Health Impacts

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- ***What happens here?***

- Evaluation criteria developed to measure the effectiveness of alternative solutions to address public health priorities

- ***Questions to Inform Decision Making***

- What data/tools are available for evaluation of individual strategies?
- Which strategies address both the transportation needs and the desired health outcomes?
- Which strategies will be evaluated using this criteria?



# Step 5 - Develop and Evaluate Alternatives and Health Features

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- ***What happens here?***

- Evaluate a set of alternatives to enable decision makers to understand the public health implications of their choices.

- ***Data and Analytical Support***

- Data from the baseline analysis
- Tools such as HEAT, PICC, and ITHIM



## Step 6 – Identify Preferred Alternatives that Optimize Health

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- ***What happens here?***

- Health partners and stakeholders show support for those alternatives that are preferred by public health

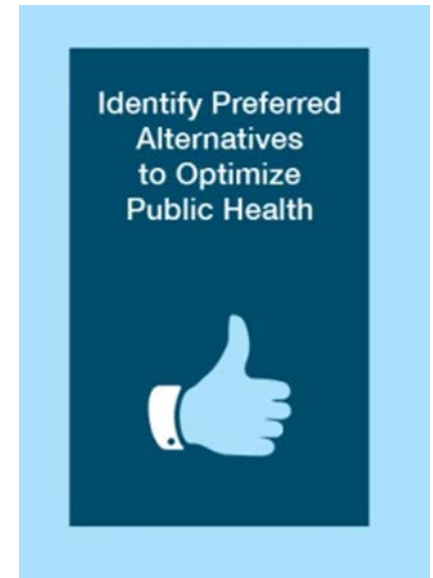
- ***Examples in Practice***

- The Minnesota Department of Transportation and Department of Health (MDH) have partnered for many years on a wide range of health topics ....

- ***Resources***

- **Transportation and Health Policy Interventions for Safer Healthier People and Communities-** this report examines how policies can impact environmental public health, enhance community design, promote active transportation and reduce motor vehicle related injuries. More information:

<http://www.prevent.org/data/files/transportationandhealthpolicycomplete.pdf>



## Selected Beta Test Sites

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- **Delaware Valley Regional Planning Council – *Haddon Avenue Corridor Study*, Camden, NJ**
- **East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Council – *College Avenue Corridor Study*, Appleton, WI**
- **Tennessee Department of Transportation – *State Route 109 Corridor Study*, Nashville, TN**
- **Central Oklahoma Transportation & Parking Authority – *EMBARC Northwest Rapid Transit Corridor*, Oklahoma City, OK**
- **Metro Regional Transit Authority – *Arlington Street Corridor*, Akron, OH**

# Akron, Ohio – Metro Regional Transit Authority

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In **Akron, OH**, Metro Regional Transit Authority is partnering with housing and neighborhood development groups to provide better pedestrian connectivity while consolidating paratransit and fixed-route service.





# Appleton, Wisconsin – East Central Wisconsin RPC

A partnership with the Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute focuses on improvements to a four-lane highway in **Appleton, WI**, with no bicycle or pedestrian support and limited access for transit.





## Nashville, Tennessee – Tennessee DOT and SR-109

Access management issues and safety needs along the SR-109 corridor near **Nashville, TN** will inform development of a process for including public health in future corridor plans.



# Oklahoma City – EMBARK's Northwest Rapid Transit Corridor

Planners will engage citizens and stakeholders to boost support for transit investment by discussing the feasibility of a connection between downtown **Oklahoma City** and the northwest suburban area using Bus Rapid Transit.

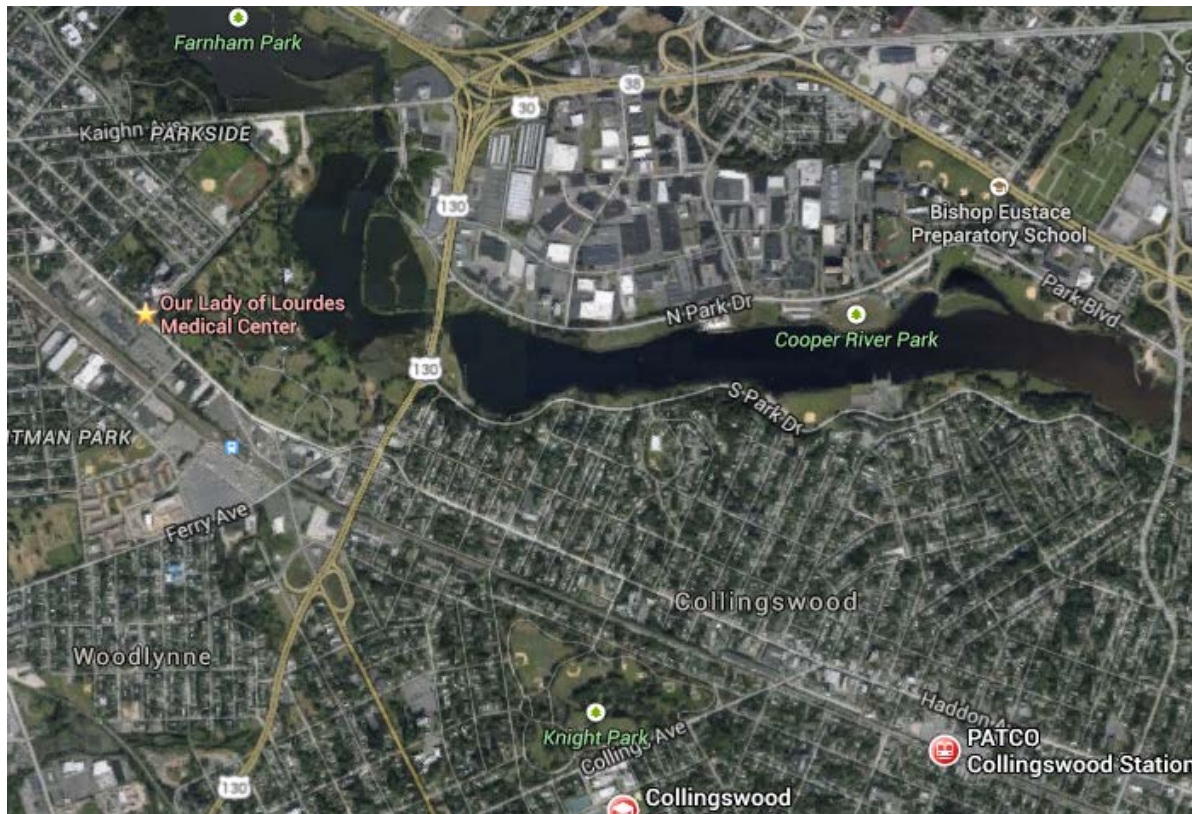




# Camden, New Jersey – Delaware Valley RPC

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Two large hospitals on either end of a corridor in **Camden, NJ**, offer new stakeholders and partners for the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission regional coordinated human services transportation plan.



## What's Next?

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- **What will we do with the information?**
  - Revisions to draft Framework from lessons learned
  - Case studies developed and included
  - Final Framework in January 2016
- **Where will we find the final products?**
  - Initially, electronic document
  - Long-term, in PlanWorks

## For more information

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**Health in Transportation Website**

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/health\\_in\\_transportation/workgroup/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/health_in_transportation/workgroup/)

