The Health and Transportation Nexus

CTS Planning and the Economy Research Council Meeting
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MnDOT Sustainability & Public Health Division

- Support Transportation that Improves Public Health
- Reduce Transportation Carbon Pollution
- Improve Resilience of the Transportation System
- Lead by Example through Sustainability Efforts

- Embed public health and equity into MnDOT decision making
- Reduce emissions from all transportation modes
- Identify and factor climate risks into decision making
- Reduce MnDOT emissions and empower staff
Differing perspectives on creating health

I'm looking for help in creating a healthy Minnesota

Transportation: Why ask me? We build roads.

Public Health: Please, can we be part of the team?

Medical Care: Look no further. It is our job.

Traditional silos getting in the way?

Source: MDH Commissioner Ehlinger, 2013 Transportation Research Conference
Health and Transportation at MnDOT

• 2015 MnDOT & MN Department of Health Interagency agreement
• 2016 Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to inform 2017 Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan
• 2018 Transportation Equity Initiative
• 2019 Office of Sustainability and Public Health
• 2022 Active Transportation Program Update
• 2022 Complete Streets Policy and Guidance Update
• 2023 Hwy 252/I-94 Equity and Health Assessment
• ...

What’s the internal and external narrative we should cultivate?

What guideposts should inform our efforts?
Healthy communities make healthy people

Source: 2016 Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan Health Impact Assessment
Health and Transportation Nexus – Key Questions

• What pathways between transportation and public health are important to promote in collaborative transportation and health planning?

• How can we conceptualize a framework to navigate these pathways and inform MnDOT’s approach moving forward?

• What can we learn from peer organizations that are prioritizing transportation and public health?
Health and Transportation Nexus - Research Tasks

Literature Review
July 2021-Sept. 2021

Semi-structured Interviews
Oct. 2021-Nov. 2021

Public Report
Nov. 2021-Spring 2022
Stay tuned!

• Final report available in early 2022
• MnDOT Research & Innovation website
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www.dot.state.mn.us/research/projects.html