



## **At the Intersection of Health and Transit**

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# American Public Health Association



We will achieve our mission if we:

- Support a diverse public health workforce
- Foster new public health science
- Facilitate cross-sector efforts



- Strengthen our core
- Expand our base
- Advance health in all policies

- Configure components, staff and programs to maximize opportunities to achieve central challenge
- Ensure responsible stewardship



*Our environments cultivate our communities and our communities nurture our health.*

**When inequities are high and community assets are low, health outcomes are worst.**

Violence  
Substance Abuse  
Smoking  
HIV/AIDS  
Infant Mortality  
Malnutrition  
Obesity  
Depression  
Stress  
Heart Disease

Fragmented Systems  
Restricted Power  
Disinvestment  
Disconnected Members

Poverty  
Adverse Living Conditions  
Segregation  
Marketing for Tobacco and Alcohol  
Unemployment  
Environmental Toxins  
Poor Quality Schools  
Occupational Hazards  
Institutional Racism  
Discrimination

**When inequities are low and community assets are high, health outcomes are best.**

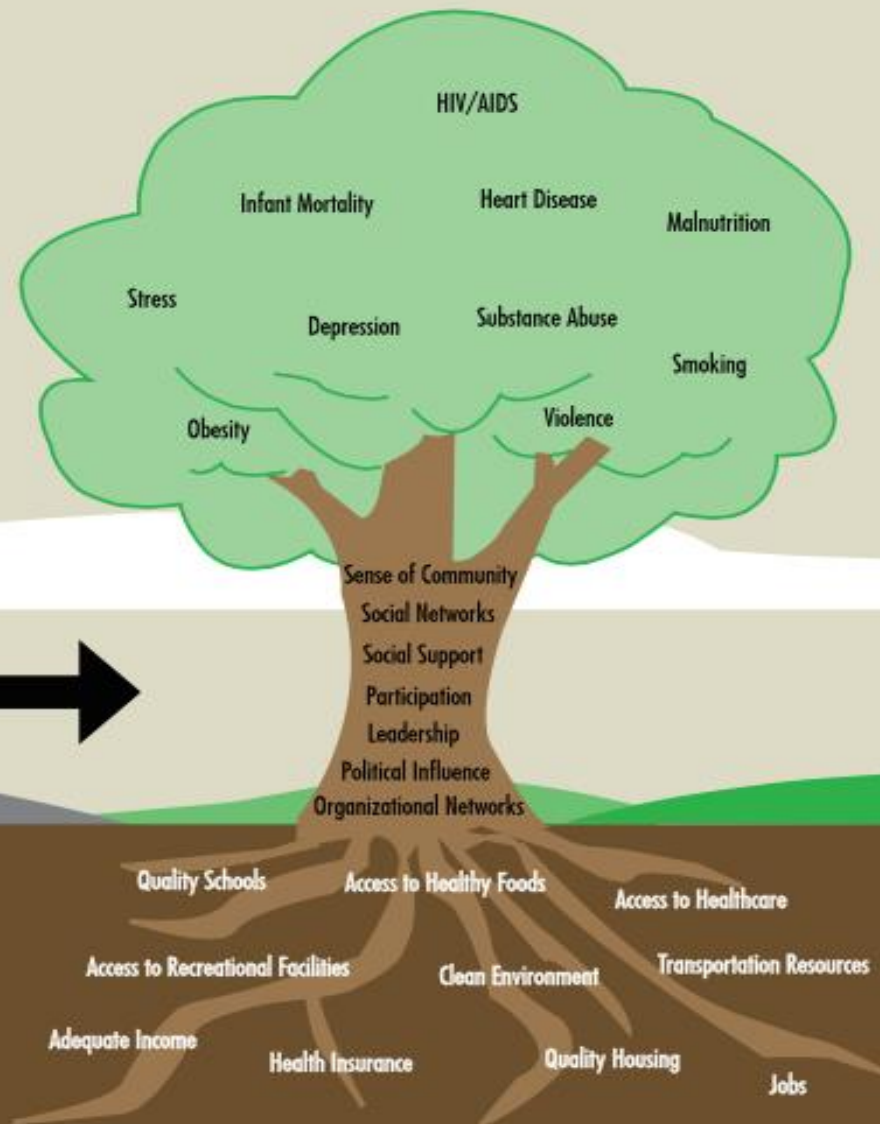


Image source:  
CDC-  
Promoting  
Health Equity:  
A Resource to  
Help  
Communities  
Address Social  
Determinants  
of Health

# Equity and Equality

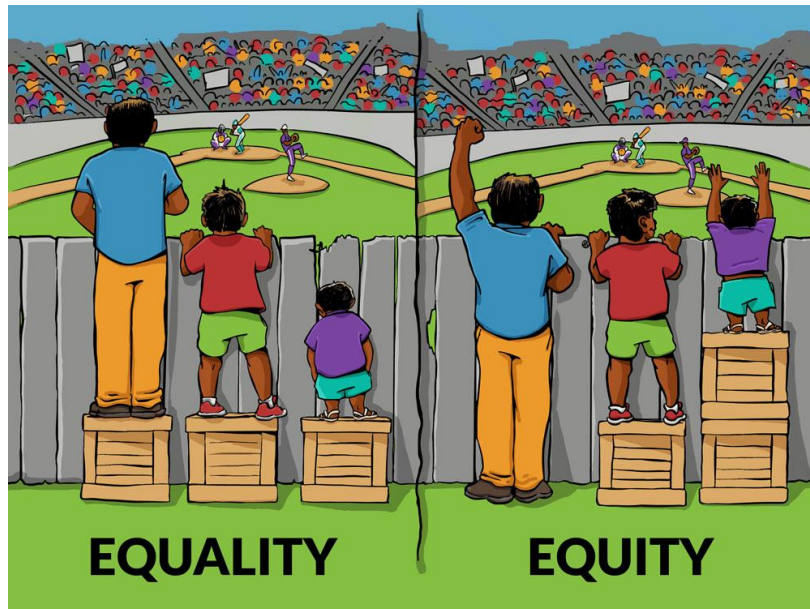


Image Source: Interaction Institute for Social Change,  
Artist: Angus Maguire. <http://culturalorganizing.org/the-problem-with-that-equity-vs-equality-graphic/>

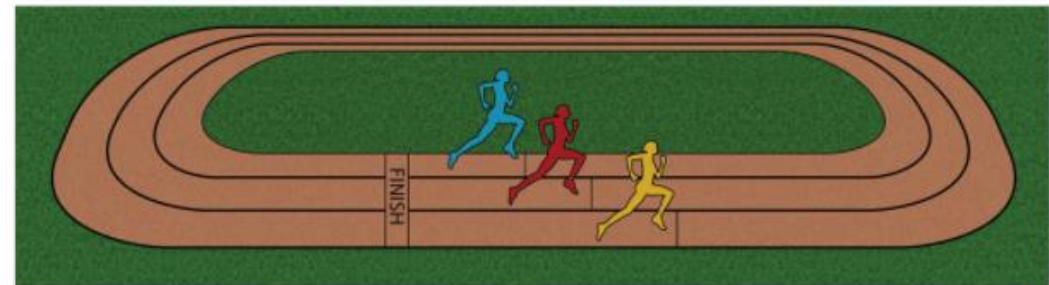
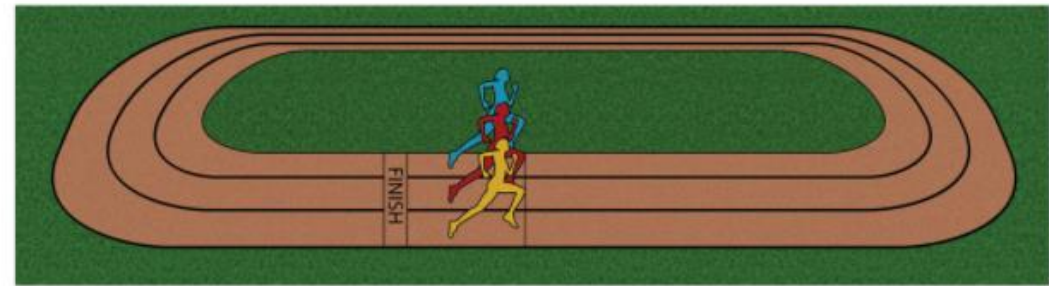


Image Source: <http://culturalorganizing.org/the-problem-with-that-equity-vs-equality-graphic/>

# How Transportation Impacts Health and Equity Costs



Image Source: The Hidden Health Costs of Transportation, [https://www.apha.org/~media/files/pdf/factsheets/hidden\\_health\\_costs\\_transportation.ashx](https://www.apha.org/~media/files/pdf/factsheets/hidden_health_costs_transportation.ashx)



# Air Quality

Traffic-related air pollution is linked with:

- Asthma and other respiratory symptoms
- Decreased lung function
- Development of cardiovascular disease and death
- Increased risk of dementia incidence



Photo obtained from: [www.pedbikeimages.org/](http://www.pedbikeimages.org/) Dan Burden

# Health Impacts of Major Roadways on Children

- Children's respiratory systems are still developing making them sensitive to air pollution
- Associated with asthma, impaired lung development, low-birthweight infants, & childhood leukemia
- Children of color and children living in low-income communities are more likely to live near high-volume traffic roadways



Resource: Photo obtained from:  
[www.pedbikeimages.org/](http://www.pedbikeimages.org/) Unknown

# Air Quality

- Atlanta, GA- 1996 Olympic Games
  - Peak traffic decreased, ozone concentration decreased, temporary decrease in pediatric asthma burden
- Los Angeles, CA- 2011 Closure of Interstate 405
  - Traffic reductions, reduction in ultrafine particles and less black carbon



Image source: Jae C Hong/ Associated Press,  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/17/us/17freeway.html>



# Safety

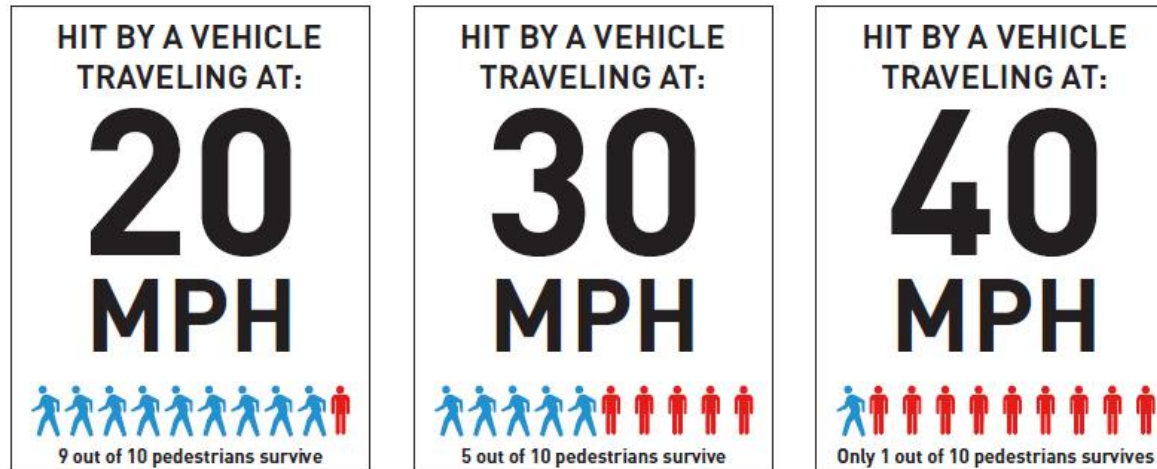


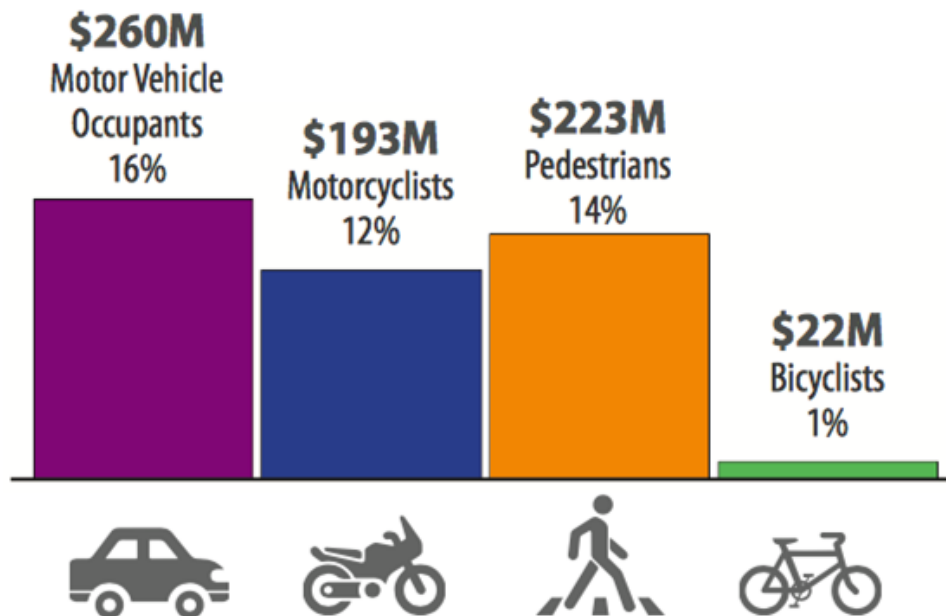
Image Source: <http://visionzeronetwork.org/resources/speed-fatality-map/>; Seattle Department of Transportation

- More than 32,000 people are killed and 2 million are injured each year from motor vehicle crashes
- Approximately 90 people die each day in the US from crashes

# PENNSYLVANIA

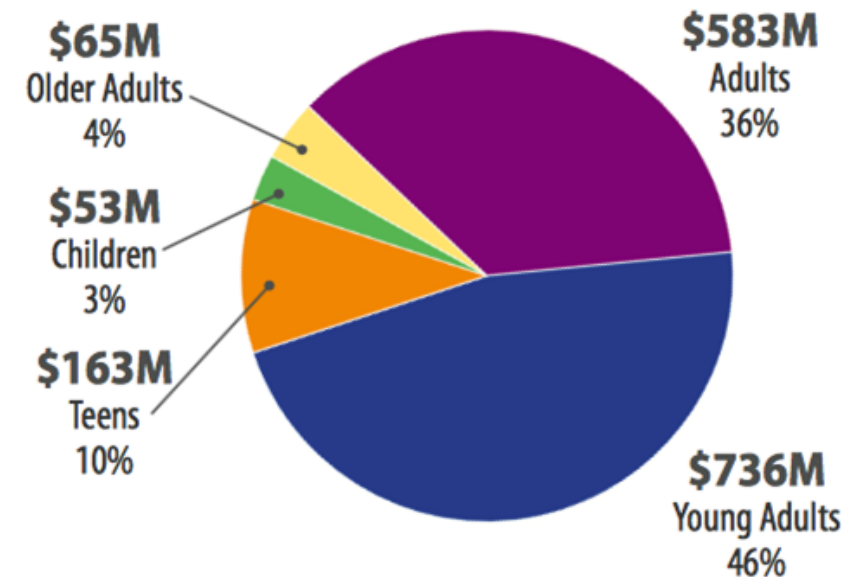
**\$17 Million** + **\$1.58 Billion** = **\$1.60 Billion**  
Medical costs      Work loss costs      Total cost of crash-related deaths  
in Pennsylvania in one year.

## BY TYPE OF ROAD USER



*In Pennsylvania, \$903 million (56%) were categorized as "other/unspecified."*

## BY AGE GROUP



*Children: 0–14, Teens: 15–19, Young Adults: 20–34, Adults: 35–64, Older Adults: 65+*

Information obtained from: <https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/pdf/statecosts/pa-2015costofcrashdeaths-a.pdf>

# Pedestrian Inequities

Annual pedestrian fatalities per 100,000 people by race/ethnicity (2005-2014)

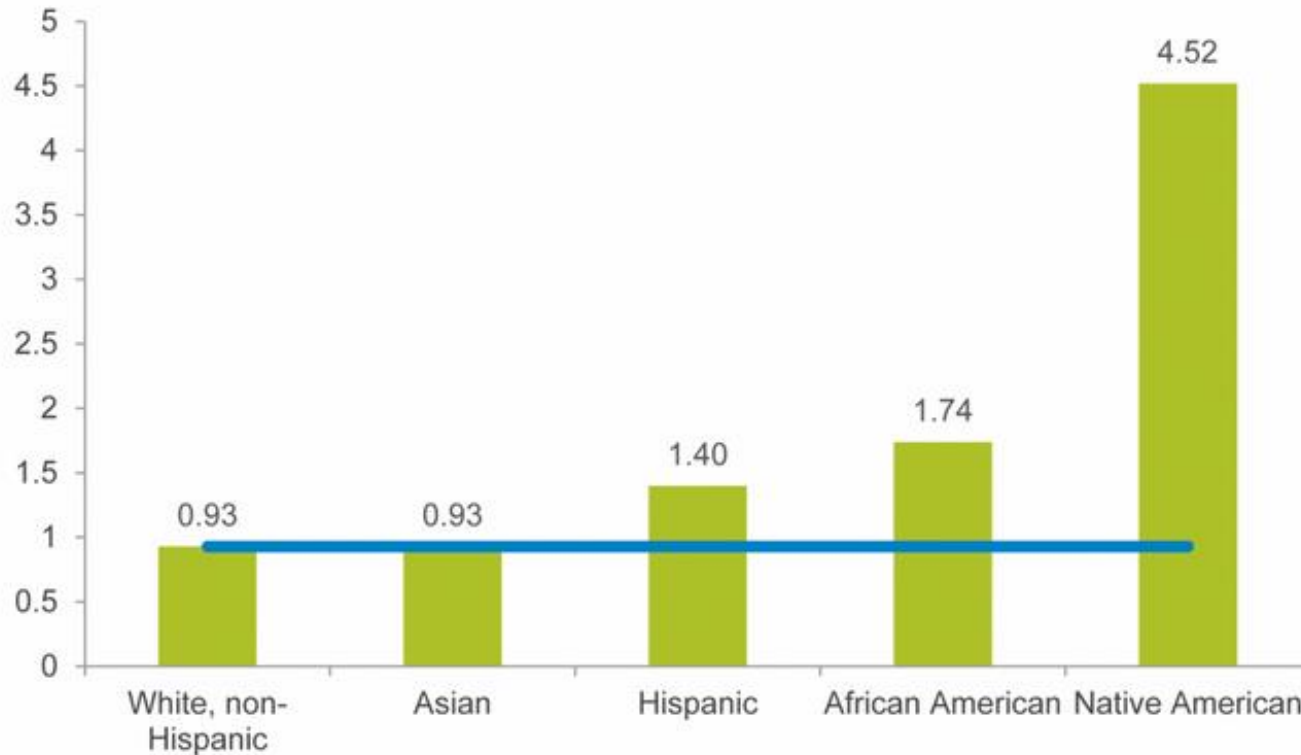


Image source: Dangerous by Design 2016, <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/dangerous-by-design/>



# Transportation, Noise and Health

- Noise impacts sleep, concentration, and increases risk of coronary heart disease and hypertension
  - Children especially vulnerable- exposure to high levels is associated with such effects as stress symptoms, language development, and reductions in learning ability

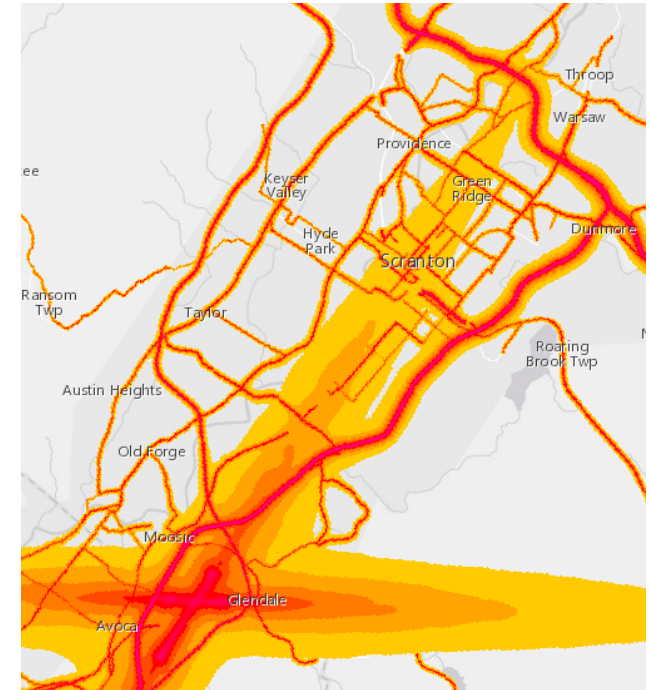


Image Source:

<https://maps.bts.dot.gov/arcgis/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a303ff5924c9474790464cc0e9d5c9fb>

# Climate Change, Transportation and Health



Image Source: Making the Connection: Changing Climate through Healthy Community Design and Transportation APHA Factsheet

## TRANSPORTATION AND DESIGN Impacts on Climate Change and Health

### AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORTATION



Driving releases harmful pollutants into the environment. People both inside and outside the vehicle are exposed.

#### CLIMATE IMPACTS:

Increases Traffic, Increases Pollution

#### HEALTH IMPACTS:

Decreases physical activity  
Increases chronic disease risk  
Worsens existing chronic disease

Many people can be transported at once via mass transit, reducing vehicles on roads. This form of transportation also encourages walking between stops and destinations.

#### CLIMATE IMPACTS:

Reduces Traffic, Reduces Pollution

#### HEALTH IMPACTS:

Increases physical activity (slightly)  
Increases safety, Decreases stress  
Increases social interaction

### MASS/PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



### ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION



Walking, biking, and rolling to the places we need to go is termed active transportation. People who have options to reach their destinations without driving can have more active lifestyles. Active lifestyles promote healthier lives.

#### CLIMATE IMPACTS:

Reduces Traffic, Reduces Pollution

#### HEALTH IMPACTS:

Increases physical activity, Decreases chronic disease risk, Decreases stress, Increases social interaction

# Public Transit & Physical Activity

- Public transit use linked to higher physical activity
  - One study demonstrated 29% of transit walkers achieve 30 minutes daily physical activity walking to and from public transit
  - In 2007, a study demonstrated a savings of \$5,500/ person over a lifetime from the extra walking due to transit use
- Reduces health risk factors such as air pollution, vehicle crashes and physical inactivity



Photo obtained from: [www.pedbikeimages.org/](http://www.pedbikeimages.org/) Dan Burden



# Run errands on foot or bike: A remedy for adult inactivity.



EXPERTS RECOMMEND  
150 minutes of physical activity per week

only 50% of U.S. adults  
meet the guideline.



## Walking or biking:

- to transit stops provides an average of 12-15 minutes of daily activity.
- to work is linked with 11% reduction in the risk of cardiovascular disease.



Most errands in the U.S. are within walking or biking distance.

27% are easy walking distance (<1 mile).

61% are easy biking distance (<5 miles).

## People who live in:

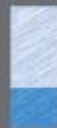
NEIGHBORHOODS WITH SIDEWALKS ARE:



50%

more likely to meet physical activity guidelines

MIXED-USE NEIGHBORHOODS –  
WITH WORK, PLAY, AND SHOPPING NEARBY ARE:



33%

more likely to meet physical activity guidelines by walking for transportation

SLOWING DOWN TRAFFIC REDUCES  
CRASHES THAT CAUSE INJURIES BY:



10% on main roads  
25% on residential streets

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. (2010). Our nation's travel. Analysis of the 2009 NHTS. In: Transportation USDOT, ed. Washington, DC: Riseel C, et al. (2012). Physical activity associated with public transport use—a review and modelling of potential benefits. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 9(7): 2454-2478. Hamer M & Chida Y. (2008a). Active commuting and cardiovascular risk: A meta-analytic review. Prev Med. 46(1): 9-15. CDC National Center for Health Statistics. FastStats. Exercise or Physical Activity. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/exercise.htm>. Sallis JF, et al. (2008). Neighborhood environments and physical activity among adults in 11 countries. Am J Public Health. 98(8):484-490. Kerr J, et al. (2015). Perceived neighborhood environmental attributes associated with walking and cycling for transport among adult residents of 17 cities in 12 countries: the IPEN study. Environ Health Perspect. DOI:10.1289/ehp.1409466. Elvik R. (2001). Area-wide urban traffic calming schemes: a meta-analysis of safety effects. Accid Anal Prev. 35(3): 327-336.

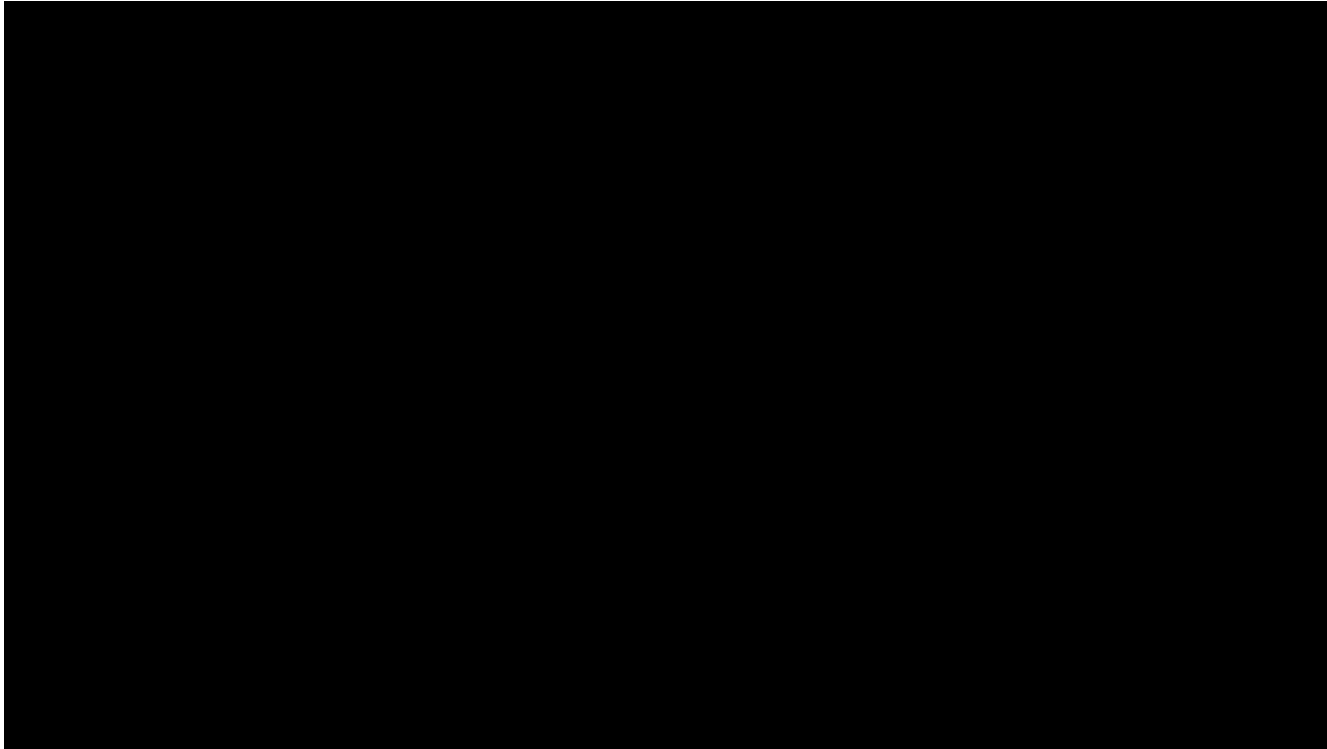
Learn more about how policies impact active travel at [activelivingresearch.org/ActiveTravelreview](http://activelivingresearch.org/ActiveTravelreview).

Image Source: Active Living Research: <http://activelivingresearch.org/ActiveTravelinfographic>

# Transportation Access

- Lack of transportation options can be a barrier to employment
  - Greatest barrier for low-income populations, populations with disabilities, and communities of color
- Lack of transportation access associated with lack of regular medical care, missed appointments, and less healthcare use
  - Due to transportation issues, approximately 3.6 million Americans miss or delay non-emergency medical care every year.

# Crosswalk Celebration- Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition



Video hosted on the Plan4Health website: <http://plan4health.us/plan4health-coalitions/baltimore-md-baltimore-greenway-trails-coalition/>



# Health Inequities

Low-income communities and communities of color are more likely to have:

- inadequate infrastructure promoting active transportation
- higher risk of injury or death due to motor vehicle crashes
- higher risk of chronic disease



Photo obtained from: [www.pedbikeimages.org/](http://www.pedbikeimages.org/) Greg Griffin

# Partnerships and Tools to Advance Health Equity



Photo obtained from [www.pedbikeimages.org/](http://www.pedbikeimages.org/) Dan Burden

# Partnering with Public Health Professionals

- Cross-sector coalitions
- Provide health data to make the case
- Address health inequities



Dr. Jonathan Patz presenting to WI Governor's Bicycle Coordinating Council Meeting, photo courtesy of Dr. Maggie Grabow

# Co-benefits of Partnerships

- Pooling of resources
- Strength in numbers
- Access to a larger network of people
- Increased flexibility
- Sustainability
- Advance win-win opportunities for all partners involved



# The Collaboration Continuum

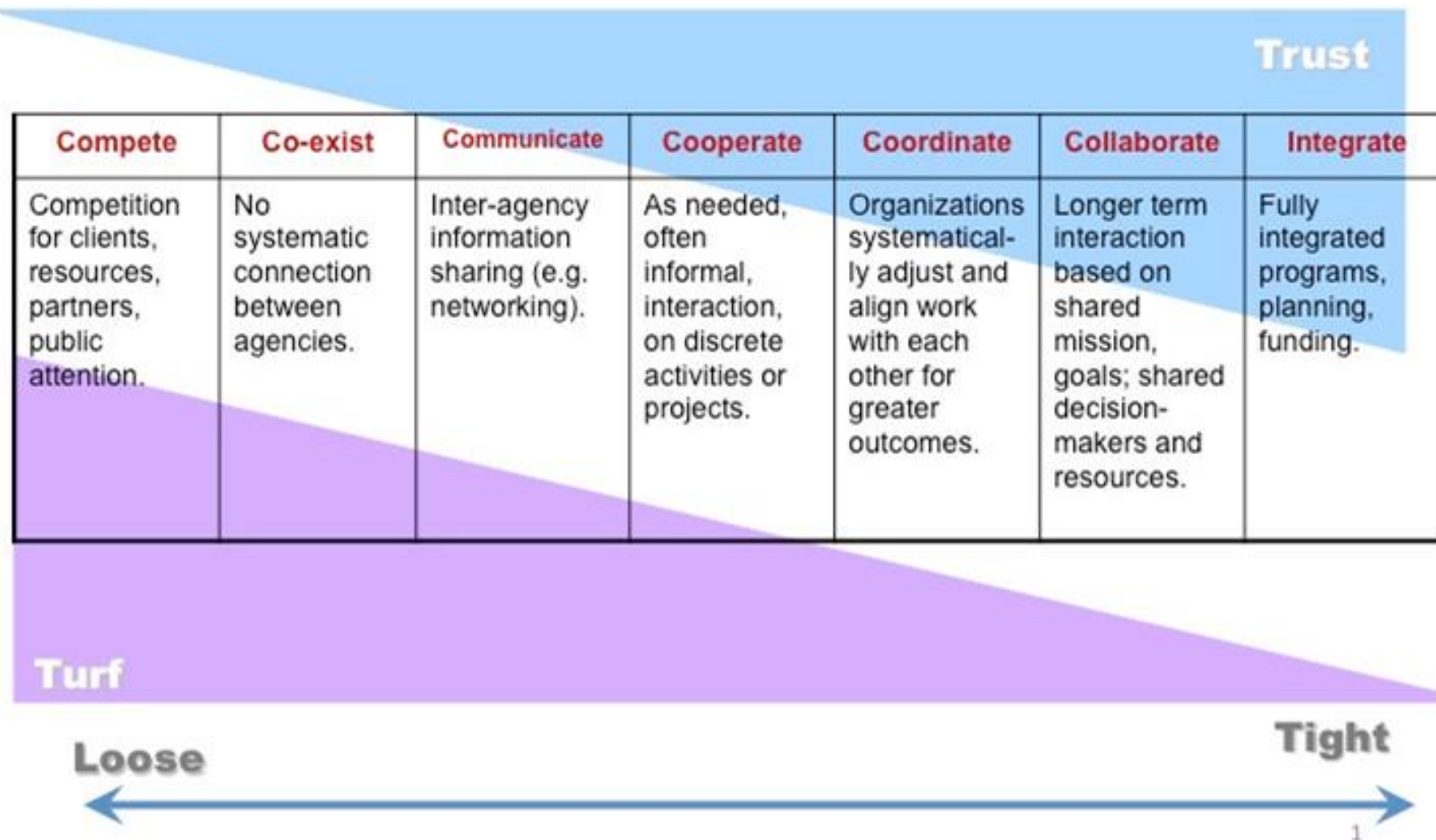


Image source: <http://www.collaborationforimpact.com/collaborative-approaches/ca-subpage-2/>

# Transportation and Health Tool

**Transportation.gov**  
U.S. Department of Transportation

▼ About DOT ▼ Our Activities ▼ Areas of Focus

**Transportation and Health Tool Home**

Indicator Data

Indicator Profiles

Strategies

Literature and Resources ▼

Scoring Methodology

Background

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## Transportation and Health Tool



*Photo credit: [www.pedbikeimages.org](http://www.pedbikeimages.org) / Laura Sandt*

### What is the Transportation and Health Tool?

The Transportation and Health Tool (THT) was developed by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide easy access to data that practitioners can use to examine the health impacts of transportation systems.

### Contact Us

**Transportation and Health Tool**  
Office of Policy  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
United States  
[tht@dot.gov](mailto:tht@dot.gov)

Business Hours:  
9:00am-5:00pm ET, M-F

### Share



<https://www.transportation.gov/transportation-health-tool>

# Goals for the Transportation and Health Tool

- Raise awareness about the links between transportation and health in both sectors
- Encourage health-supportive federal, state, and regional transportation policy and project decisions
- Support more effective and efficient collaboration between the transportation and public health sectors

# Indicators

14

Indicators



Graphic courtesy of Planning Communities



# Transportation and Health Tool Strategies



- Built environment strategies to deter crime
- Child Passenger Safety laws, child safety seat distribution programs, education & enhanced enforcement
- Clean freight
- Complete Streets
- Distracted driving
- Encourage and promote safe bicycling & walking
- Expand bicycle & pedestrian infrastructure



- Expand public transportation
- Graduated driver licensing systems
- Health impact assessment (HIA)
- Health performance metrics
- High-occupancy vehicle lanes
- Impaired driving laws
- Improve roadway safety
- Improve vehicles & fuels
- Integrate health & transportation planning



- In-vehicle monitoring & feedback
- Multimodal access to public transportation
- Promote connectivity
- Ride sharing programs
- Rural public transportation systems
- Safe Routes to School programs
- Seat belt laws
- Strengthen helmet laws
- Traffic calming to slow vehicle speeds

Photos obtained from: [www.pedbikeimages.org/](http://www.pedbikeimages.org/) Lyubov Zuyeva, Dan Burden & Greg Griffin, AICP

# Transportation & Health Tool Case Studies



APHA.ORG/TRANSPORTATION

# MetroPlan Orlando, Florida

- Use the THT to:
  - Develop a comprehensive guide that ensure transportation investments promotes health
  - Include health in its Long Range Transportation Plan
  - Integrate indicators in the Corrine Drive Complete Streets study

**Health metrics to shape  
transportation investment**

**METROPLAN ORLANDO, FLORIDA**



# Delaware Department of Transportation

**Table 2: Implemented and Needed Strategies for Each Geographic Scenario**

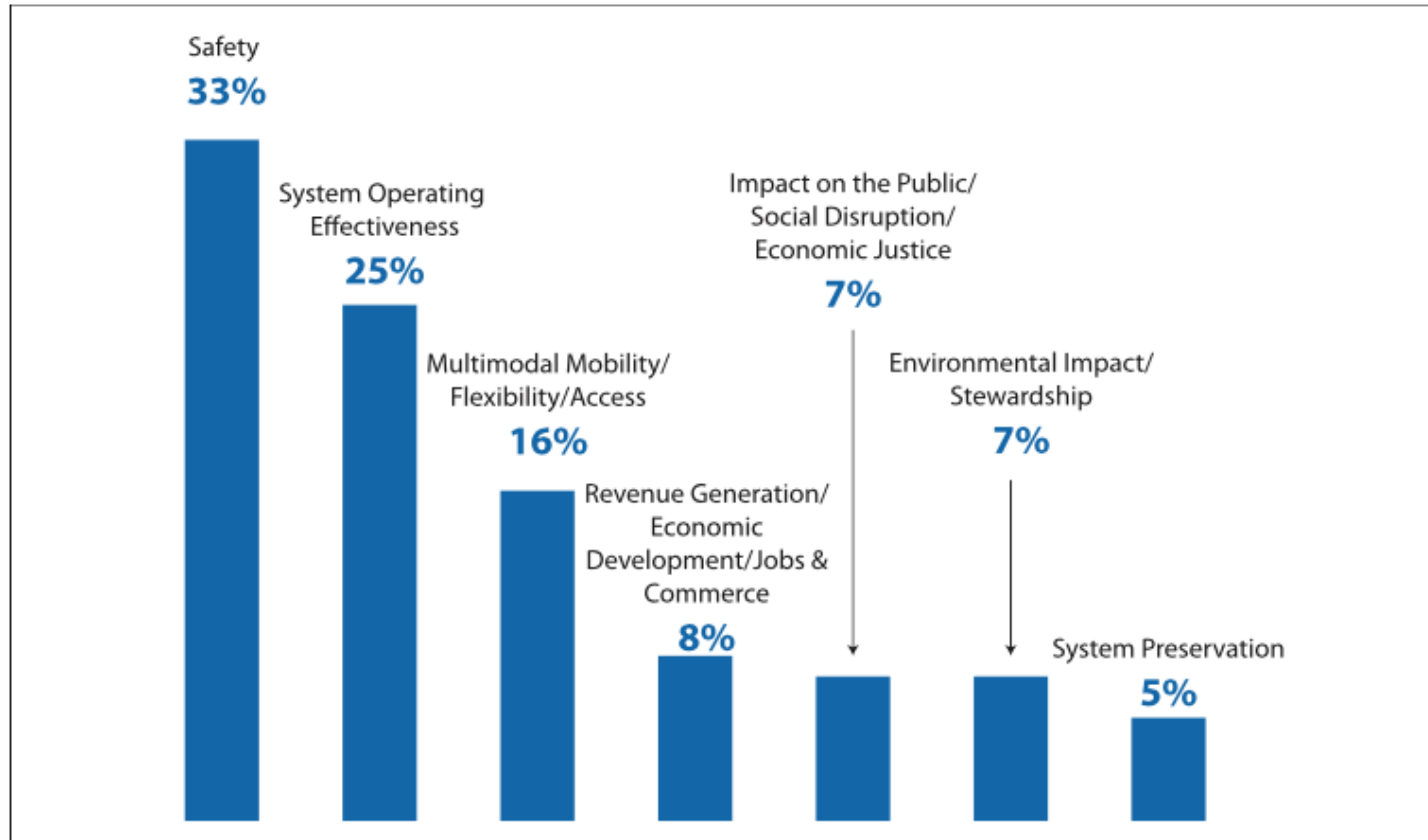
THT Strategy*	Dover County	Kent County	Georgetown	MOT
Built environment strategies to deter crime				<input type="checkbox"/>
Child passenger safety laws				
Clean freight (reduce diesel emissions)				<input type="checkbox"/>
Complete Streets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Distracted driving				
Encourage safe bicycling and walking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Expand bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Expand public transportation			<input type="checkbox"/>	
Graduated driver licensing systems				
Health impact assessment (HIA)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health performance metrics		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
High-occupancy vehicle lanes				<input type="checkbox"/>
Impaired driving laws				
Improve roadway safety	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Improve vehicles and fuels				
Integrate health and transportation planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In-vehicle monitoring and feedback				
Multimodal access to public transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Promote connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ride sharing programs		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rural public transportation systems		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Safe Routes to School programs		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Seat belt laws				
Strengthen helmet laws				
Traffic calming to slow vehicle speeds			<input type="checkbox"/>	

☒ Implemented Strategies    ☐ Needed Strategies



# Delaware Department of Transportation

**Figure 1: DelDOT's Seven Prioritization Criteria and Their Weights**





# Metropolitan Planning Organization case studies

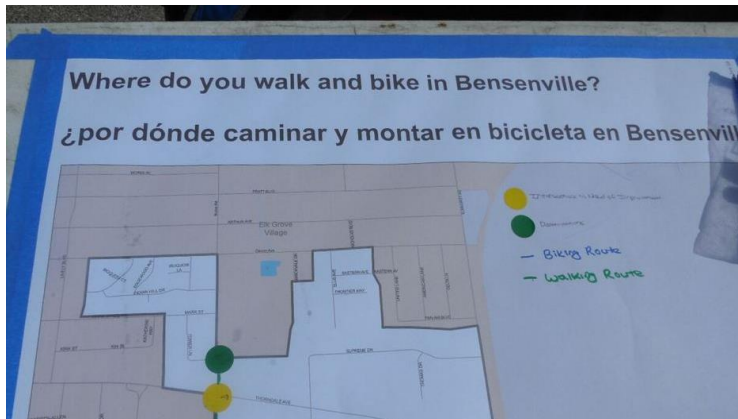
# Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

- Designed a scoring and selection process to prioritize the projects to ensure public health outcomes
- 77% of projects selected for funding in the MPO's 2040 Middle Tennessee Connected plan include a bicycling or walking element



# Promising Practices

- Plan4Health
- Vision Zero
- Complete Streets
- Safe Routes to School



## UNIQUE PARTNERSHIPS:

## Advancing healthy, active living in Austin, Texas

Environmental health professionals are working across sectors to ensure healthy communities for all. In understanding the decisions made upstream impact communities downstream, partnerships become key to lessening or improving the negative health impacts of our natural and built environments. Through these partnerships, environmental health professionals are able to integrate health and equity considerations in the planning and decision-making process to achieve healthier environments for all.



Within the health and planning sectors, there is a growing movement to collaborate to advance healthy community design and health equity and to integrate health considerations into planning and policy decisions. In Austin, Texas, officials recognized the benefits of cross-sector collaboration and the need to grow and sustain existing partnerships among transportation, health and human services, and planning and zoning agencies, eventually gaining additional support through the Plan4Health project. Plan4Health, a partnership between the American Public Health Association and the American Planning Association, is a program that encourages local APA chapters, APHA affiliates, and health and non-traditional health partners to form local coalitions to improve population health and reduce chronic disease risks through healthy planning.

Happily, Austin received funds to create the Austin Plan4Health Pilot Program and advance its work to increase physical activity and improve access to nutritious foods. The Austin Plan4Health coalition not only included the city's Planning and Zoning and Health and Human Services Departments, but also local partners such as the Office of Sustainability, Transportation Department, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Texas APA chapter and Texas Public Health Association. Once the coalition was formed, partners created a shared vision for increasing physical activity and improving access to nutritious, local foods using best practices in district food planning and travel training programs.

The Austin Plan4Health coalition is focusing its efforts in North-Central Austin, which serves more than 21,000 residents, 68 percent of which identify as Hispanic or Latino. North-Central Austin community residents typically face less access to fresh, healthy and affordable foods, fewer transportation options and greater economic barriers than many other communities in Austin. Additionally, North-Central Austin is characterized by significant health disparities and a high burden of chronic diseases. Through a community health assessment conducted in 2012 as part of the city's 30-year comprehensive plan known as 'Imagine Austin,' the coalition recognized the need to





# GROUP BREAKOUT

1. How will you use the information you learned today in your work with the Northeast Pennsylvania Equitable Transportation Planning Council?
2. Who else needs to be at the table to advance health equity?

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