

Highway 252/I-94 Equity and Health Neighborhood Advisors: Meeting #1

Date and Time: Tuesday, August 24, 2021, 5:00-7:00 pm

Location: North Regional Library / Zoom

Action Items:

- Meet EHNA members
- Introduce project

Attendees

EHNA Members Present

1. Darryl Sannes
2. Tara McCarthy
3. John Wexler
4. Jim Wynne
5. Shay Woods
6. Nahid Khan
7. Michael Svard
8. Akia Vang

Project staff

1. C. Terrence Anderson, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs.
2. Nissa Tupper, Minnesota Department of Transportation.
3. Jerome Adams, Minnesota Department of Transportation.
4. Dale Gade, SRF Consulting Group.
5. Alicia Valenti, SRF Consulting Group.

Meeting Notes

Introductions and Announcements

C. Terrence Anderson led introductions. Each member of the EHNA state their name and why they joined the group.

Discussion: What does equity mean to you?

Posed a question to the group of what does Equity mean to you? Below are the responses given by the individual attendees.

- It's when people get what they need to live their lives meaningfully; this requires finding out what matters to people to provide what they need.
- Everyone is given an equal opportunity to provide input, and those who are affected have more influence.
- Ensuring everyone has the same opportunity to thrive; accounting for differences in ability and resources to achieve equal outcomes.
- Recognizing barriers to participation and success and removing them so that everyone can participate fully.
- Equality for all and hearing everyone's voice.
- Equitable solutions work for everyone.
- An equitable approach avoids operating from a dominant perspective, explores unique engagement methods, and recognizes the unique needs of different populations.
- Prioritizing the people and neighborhoods most affected, doing no harm, and preventing harm.
- Some attendees noted that equity is more of a process than an outcome.

Discussion: In what ways does transportation affect health?

- Trails for walking and biking.
- Safe places to bike and walk.
- Impacts to waterways and the environment.
- Interactions with wildlife (especially deer).
- Transit accessibility.
- Safety at bus stops (shelter, winter maintenance).
- Connectivity to home and work.
- Access to educational institutions (North Hennepin Community College, Hennepin Technical College, and GED courses).
- Access to commerce.
- Access to healthcare and healthy food.
- Congestion and delay, especially crossing busy roads, contributes to running red lights.

- Safety.
- Traffic crashes and psychological impacts on residents.
- Access for emergency services.
- Eminent domain.
- Property values.
- Quality of life.
- Noise.
- Asthma rates (traffic contributes to this through air pollution).
- Child safety.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will establish group norms and continue the discussion on equity versus equality. Some improvements to make on this meeting would be to have a microphone to pass around, labels for food, table tents with names, providing a presentation laptop for online participation, a dedicated notetaker, and visual note taking.

Action Items

- Identify how to engage EHNA members who were missing, provide them with a welcome/introduction and get their feedback.