

## Highway 252/I-94 Equity and Health Neighborhood Advisors: Meeting #2

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 5:00-7:00 pm

**Location:** North Regional Library / Zoom

### Action Items:

- Discuss equity and health in their relationship with decision-making
- Introduce health indicators

### 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
9. Sharon Peterson
10. Sherri Orr
11. Alvin Killion

#### 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. New members were introduced to the group.

## **EHNA Purpose and accomplishments**

C Terrance lead a discussion on the EHNA purpose and accomplishments of the group as well as a recruitment update.

### **Discussion: What have you been thinking about since the last meeting?**

Participants shared what they have been thinking about since the last meeting. The length between meetings came up as a struggle for some as they have forgotten what the content was last meeting. There were some questions regarding how this timeline for the EHA aligns with the SDD timeline. Some questions regarding noise walls and that process. Jerome explained that process is years away and will be a community effort. Nahid suggested a list of all the stakeholders for the project. There is still a standing question regarding EasyPass from the first meeting that has not been answered yet. It should be helpful to send out questions ahead of the meeting so participants can think about them ahead of the meeting.

### **Discussion: How do you think equity and health should be factored into the Highway 252/I-94 EIS?**

Participants noted that engagement is a must. Safety is covered in other aspects, so it doesn't need to be covered as part of the EIS. Noise and air quality are key elements. Active recreation – are we sacrificing trails to accommodate highway traffic levels? Transit should also be considered. The Mississippi River Corridor is nearby and should be considered. How can we make sure that our decisions last for the future? Concerns about connecting to the northern suburbs with this project. At destinations, intersections, bus stations, buses, and bike paths, there should be signs directing to the project website. QR codes should be available on all materials. Paper copies of all materials should be readily available. Post cards should be provided at community events. Suggestion to use phrases like “I am not your Indian” and “Not Rondo Again” to catch attention. People need to know that MnDOT and decision-makers are listening.

### **Discussion: How to measure transportation's impact on equity and health?**

Physical health is especially important. Can we create subcategories under overarching ones? For instance, property values, trails, equity during construction, smog, transit costs, etc.

### **Discussion: What equity and health baselines are most important to you? What questions are you hoping to answer over the next few months?**

GHG emissions and transportation emissions the project may add. How do we define baseline? Pre- on the corridor existing today. What is the impact of increased traffic and speed on local roads?

Are there any implications for fatalities for pedestrians and bikers? The affect of high traffic volumes on air quality, noise, and safety. How will transit be considered? How will this process affect the Mississippi River? How is the future of transportation being considered? If lanes are added, are pedestrian overpasses going to be considered? How will closing access affect neighborhood traffic? What are the effects on air quality? What are the effects on property values? Construction inequity needs to be considered.

## **Next Meeting**

Next meeting will cover EHA focus areas and begin discussion of targeted populations or marginalized communities.

## **Action Items**

- SRF to create draft focus groups for review at Meeting #3
- Continue to involve the public and create materials with accessible information