

Hwy 252/I-94 Equity & Health Assessment (EHA) Equity and Health Neighborhood Advisors -- Meeting #6

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 | 5:00pm to 7:00pm

North Regional Library - 1315 Lowry Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55411

Zoom Meeting ID: 988 1617 4686 | Passcode: 313085

Attendees

EHNA Members:

1. John Wexler, Brooklyn Park
2. Tara McCarthy, Brooklyn Center
3. Nahid Khan, Brooklyn Center
4. Tammy McLemore, Brooklyn Park
5. Jim Wynne, Brooklyn Center
6. Simeon Momanyi, Brooklyn Center
7. Jiccarra Hollman, Minneapolis
8. Darryl Sannes, Brooklyn Center
9. Akia Vang, Minneapolis
10. Michael Svard, Brooklyn Park

Staff and Consultants:

1. Allison Bell, Bellwether Consulting
2. C Terrence Anderson, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs
3. Dale Gade, SRF Consulting
4. Nissa Tupper, MnDOT
5. Aaron Tag, MnDOT
6. Marie Cote, SRF Consulting
7. Brian McLafferty, SRF Consulting
8. Britt Berner, SRF Consulting
9. Fartun Ahmed, NewPublica
10. Kaade Wallace, Fairhope Consulting

Notes

1. Introductions

- Welcomed new members

2. C. Terrence Anderson presented project schedule

- Engagement will begin in Mid-April and last through May
- A number of reports will be produced based on this feedback following engagement
- EHNA discussion of engagement.
 - How did you decide on the engagement locations?
 - Wanted to focus on places that have allowed them to previously come in and door knock. Also based on diversity and proximity to the project area.
 - Could we also post the flyers with the QR code in apartment buildings that do not let them in so residents can answer the survey online?
 - Yes, BP and BC staff will be passing out the flyers and questionnaires for other buildings.

3. Britt presented the draft engagement materials and EHNA members participated in the survey and board activities

- The goals of engagement are:
 - Identify most critical and urgent equity and health priorities
 - Focus on those affected by transportation
- The methods of engagement are:
 - Questionnaire. Online and paper. Translated and available on tablets.
 - Door knocks
 - Pop-ups
 - Community meetings
- Britt shared tentative engagement events. Scheduled throughout the three cities.
- Fartun and Kaade led in-person engagement
- Britt led engagement for those that were online.

4. Britt led a debrief on the engagement for both in-person and online

- EHNA discussion of engagement.
 - Strange to have a button to push “OK” to go to the next section.
 - Make sure the language is relatable and easily understood. It’s a little wordy and off-putting.

- Give direction to “rank these 1-6”. What if they are all important? Don’t force people to do that.
- People don’t know what the 252/94 corridor is. Need a visual or map.
- Can we do the survey for people with visual impairment?
- Have an actual translator present.
- The people conducting the pop-ups need to know the history of the project so they can speak well with people on it.
- I tried to answer for others, not just myself. (I’m a homeowner but most of the residents are renters.)
- Seeing the term “corridor” and it makes it look like a natural phenomenon. The concept of a corridor is disturbing. What is it you are communicating? Why? It sounds like something to pass through. My community isn’t a place to pass through. The map promotes that idea. It’s naturalizing the phenomenon of highways. It biases the outcome.

5. Brian walked through the baseline conditions report.

- Brian summarized key findings.
 - Describes 30+ equity and health baseline conditions along Hwy 252 and I-94.
 - Identifies six focus areas based on input from the EHA Working Group and the EHNA. These focus areas will be validated/adjusted through community engagement.
 - Executive Summary currently under review. Final report to be submitted to MnDOT in the next 1-2 weeks.
 - People living in North Minneapolis report more negative health outcomes than people living in Hennepin County.
 - There are significant income disparities by race and ethnicity along Hwy 252 and I-94.
 - People living along Hwy 252 and I-94 are at elevated risk for disease, hospitalization, and death due to poor air quality.
 - Hwy 252 and I-94 have a high concentration of households without a personal vehicle.
 - Among people living along Hwy 252 and I-94, white workers are more likely to drive alone to work and have shorter commutes than Black and Hispanic/Latino workers.
 - People living along Hwy 252 and I-94 face challenges accessing healthy food options and greenspace by modes other than a personal vehicle.
 - Hwy 252 and I-94 present a barrier to people walking, biking, and rolling to destinations.
 - There are significant differences in the built environment of areas with majority white and majority non-white populations.

- There are more vehicle crashes on Hwy 252 than on similar highways across the region.
- Listing the focus areas from the engagement.
- EHNA discussion of engagement.
 - Report reiterates a lot of what we already know.
 - Also include zoning – commercial, residential, etc.
 - Impacts of the highway on the neighborhood.

6. C Terrence Anderson wrapped up the meeting

- Reports are forthcoming after engagement
- Next EHNA is in June