



# Highway 252/I-94 Equity & Health Neighborhood Advisors

Meeting 2  
September 28, 2021

1. Get started
2. Equity, health, and project 252/94 decision-making
3. Equity and Health Assessment
4. Next steps

- Name
- City
- Why you became an Equity and Health Neighborhood Advisor

# Activity

What does Equity mean to you?

# EHNA Purpose

- Assess equity and health conditions in the communities impacted by the project.
- Oversee equity and health engagement activities.
- Guide targeted outreach to underserved and overburdened populations.
- Provide input to MnDOT leadership and elected officials on Highway 252/I-94 project elements and alternatives.

# Where we've been

- Held first meeting.
- Reviewed Highway 252/I-94 project information; discussed project goals and the EIS process.
- Initiated group discussions about the meaning of equity and health and the relationship of equity and health to transportation decision-making.

## Activity

What sticks out to you from our last discussion?

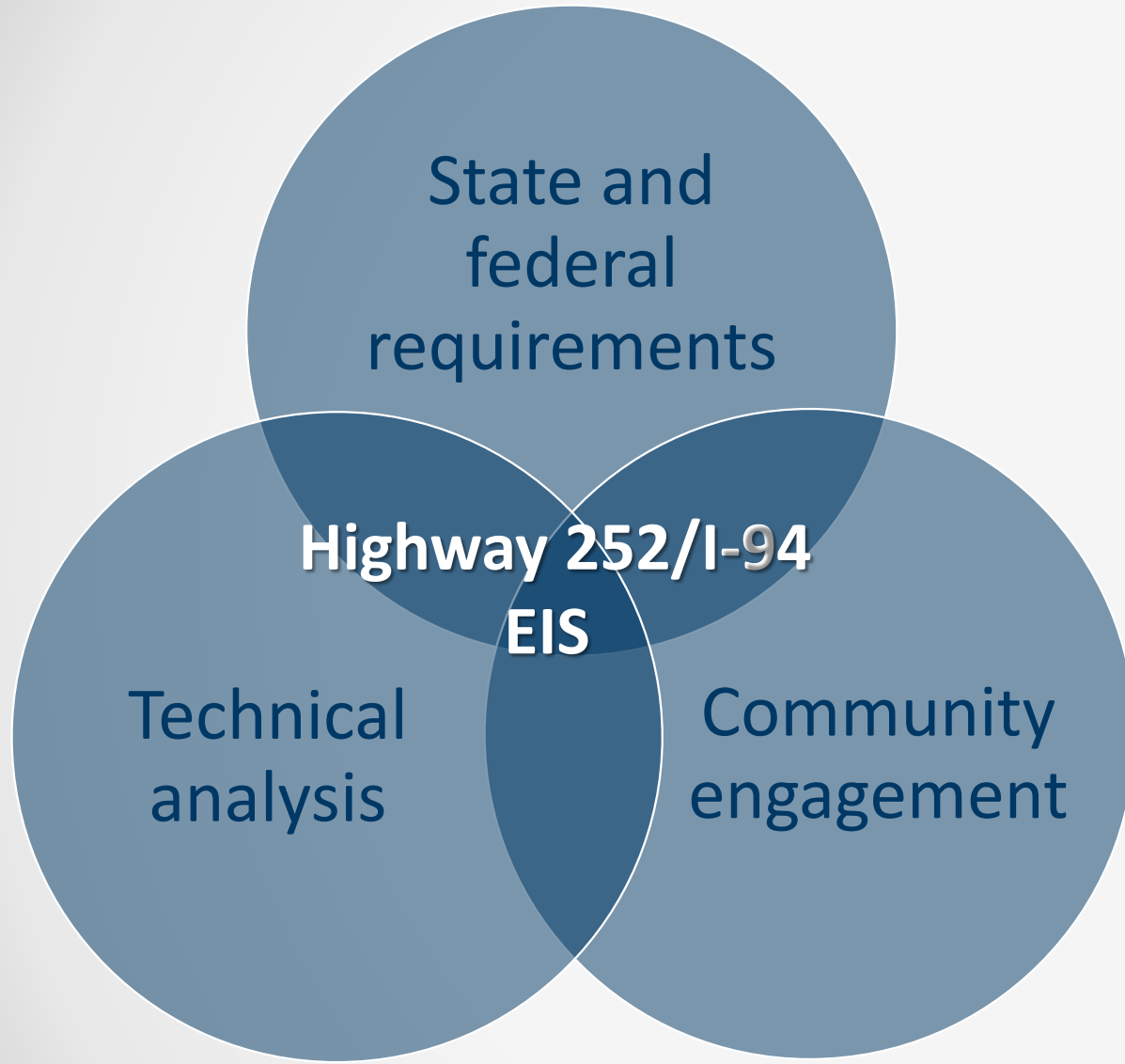
# Today's objectives

- Understand how equity and health influence Highway 252/I-94 decision-making.
- Establish equity and health focus areas to guide the Highway 252/I-94 EHA.
- Identify equity and health research questions to guide work between meetings.

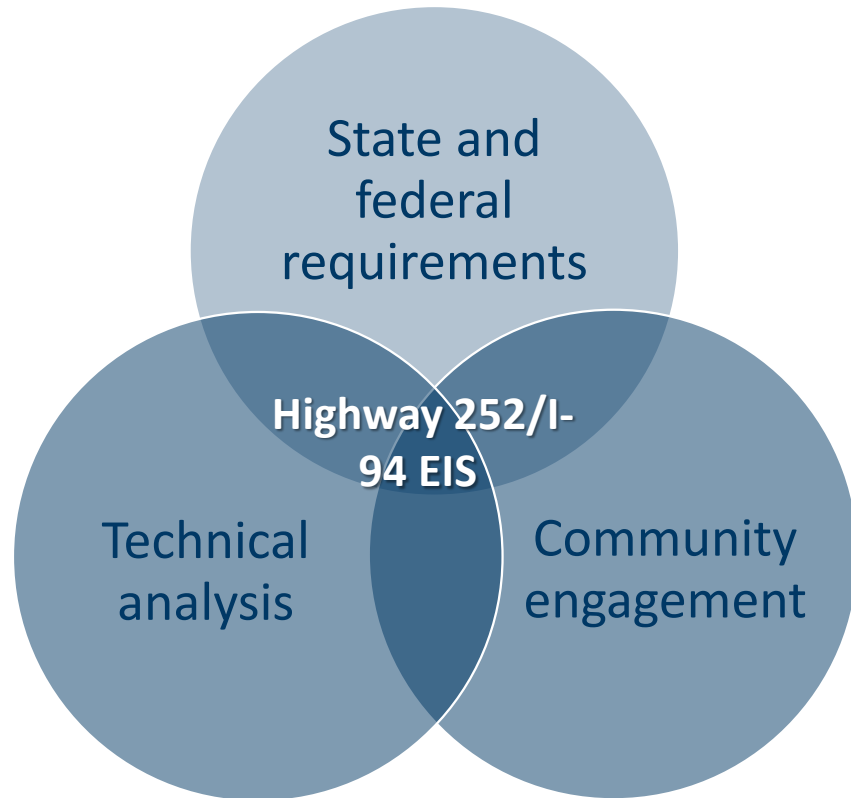


# Equity, Health, and 252/I-94 Decision-Making

# Transportation decision-making



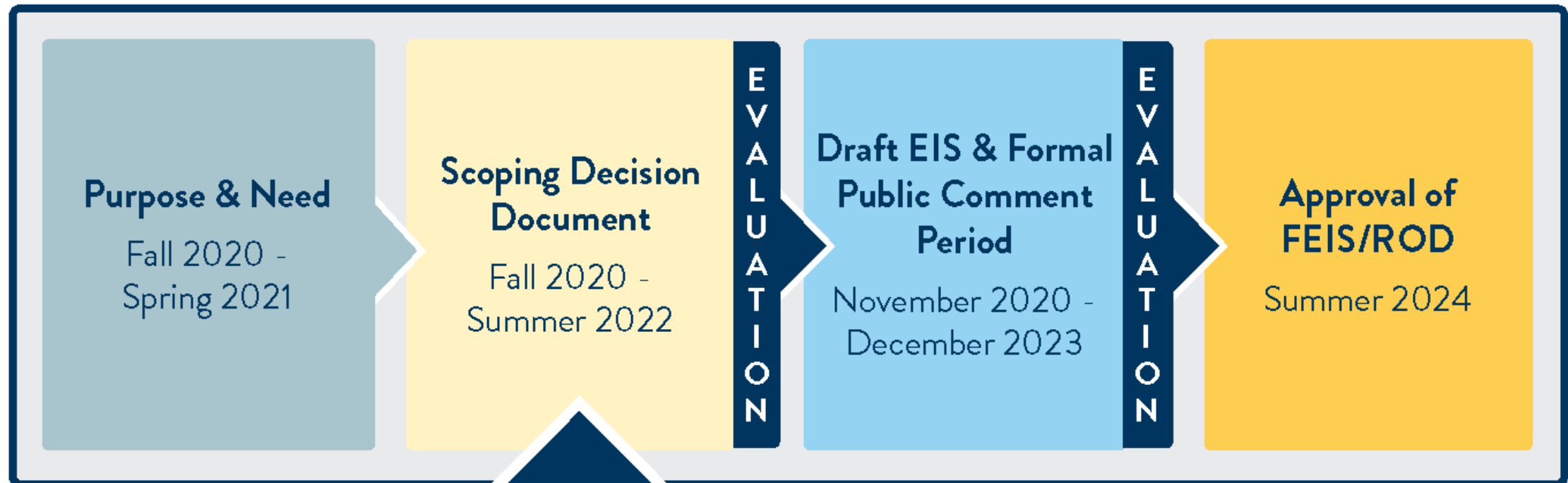
# Equity and health requirements



- The EHA is an input to the Highway 252/I-94 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), a multi-year environmental review led by MnDOT.
- The Highway 252/I-94 EIS follows a prescriptive process put forward in the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

# Phases of the EIS process

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PHASES



Schedule subject to change

WE ARE HERE

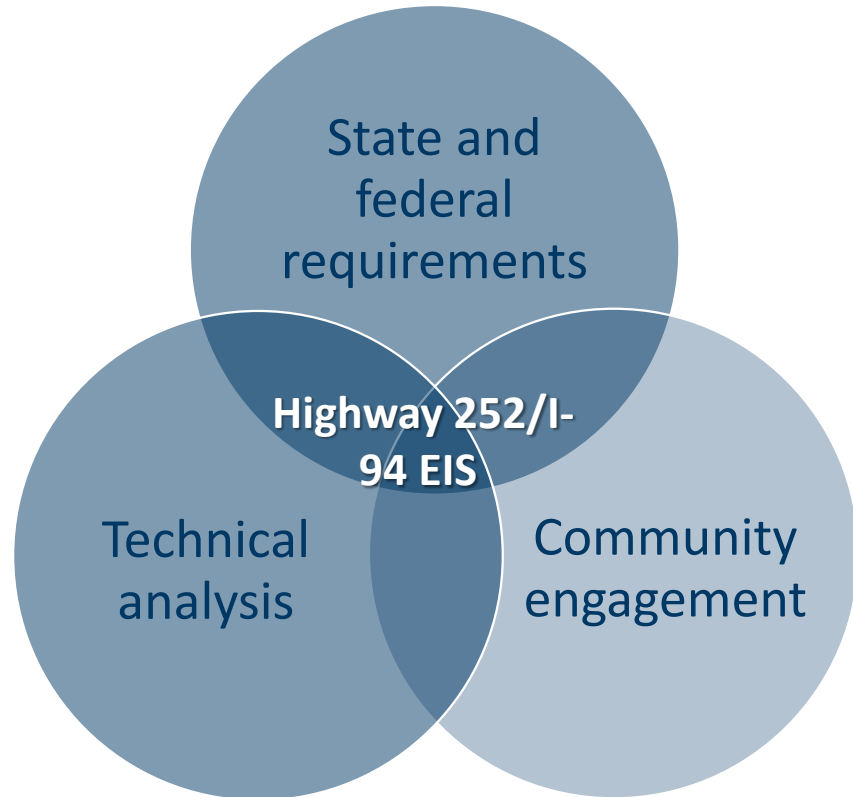
# Environmental Justice Requirements

- Established by Executive Order 12898 of 1994.
  - Basis for environmental justice strategies in all federal agencies.
  - Each agency required to identify and address “disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations,” and to include environmental justice analysis in the NEPA process.

# Environmental Justice Requirements

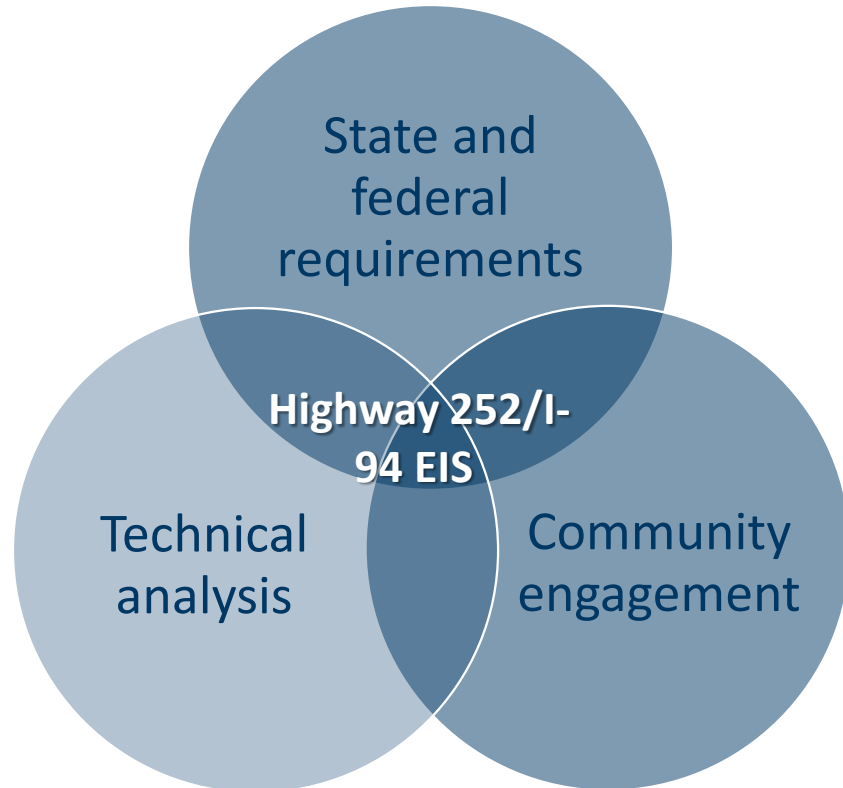
- USDOT Order 5610.2(a).
  - Outlines USDOT strategy for integrating environmental justice into transportation decision-making.
  - Specifies that “Planning and programming activities for policies, programs, and activities that have the potential to have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on human health or the environment shall include explicit consideration of the effects on minority populations and low-income populations.”
  - Clarifies process for identifying disproportionately high and adverse effects as well as required mitigation.

# Equity and health engagement



- Community engagement is a critical component of the EIS process.
- Community input shapes project purpose and need, evaluation criteria, and project alternatives.
- The EHA enhances traditional public outreach with intentional engagement of underserved and overburden populations on issues of equity and health.

# Equity and health analysis



- MnDOT is conducting technical analysis of project alternatives to assess how well different concepts address the project's purpose and need.
- The EHA is an opportunity to elevate equity and health impacts as part of this analysis.



## Activity

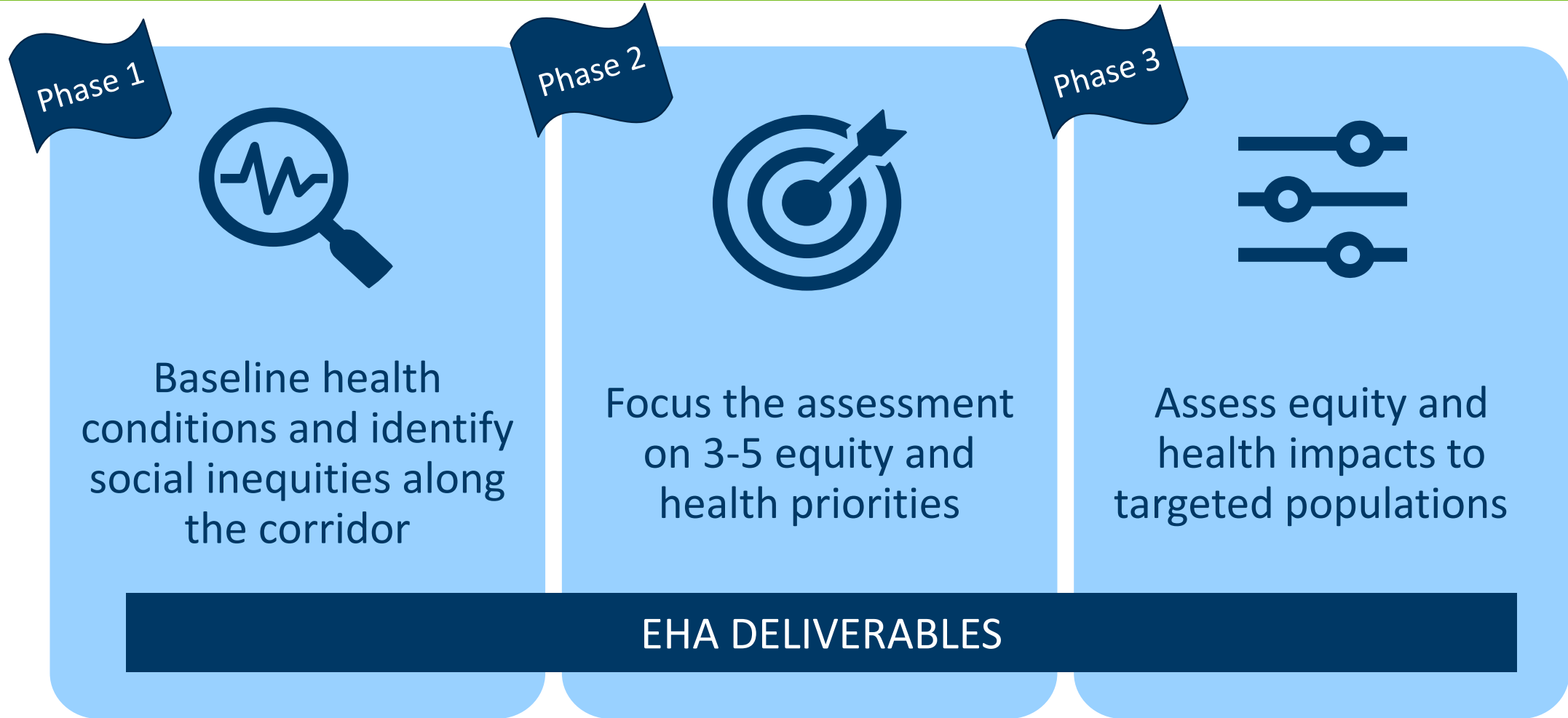
How do you think equity and health should factor into the Highway 252/I-94 EIS?

**BREAK (10 Min)**

# Equity and Health Assessment

- Understand and acknowledge the equity and health benefits and burdens of transportation systems and decisions.
- Identify and prioritize opportunities to create a more just transportation system.
- Build trust and relationships necessary to effect positive and lasting change.

# EHA phases



# Highway 252/I-94 EHA Deliverables



EHA report



Hwy 252/I-94  
project memos

## Equity and Health Conditions

1. Equity and health  
baseline

2. Equity and health  
priorities

## Equity and Health Impact and Recommendations

3. Equity and health  
review of project  
alternatives

4. Equity and health  
review of preferred  
alternative

# Highway 252/I-94 EHA Deliverables



EHA report



Hwy 252/I-94  
project memos

## Equity and Health Conditions

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baseline

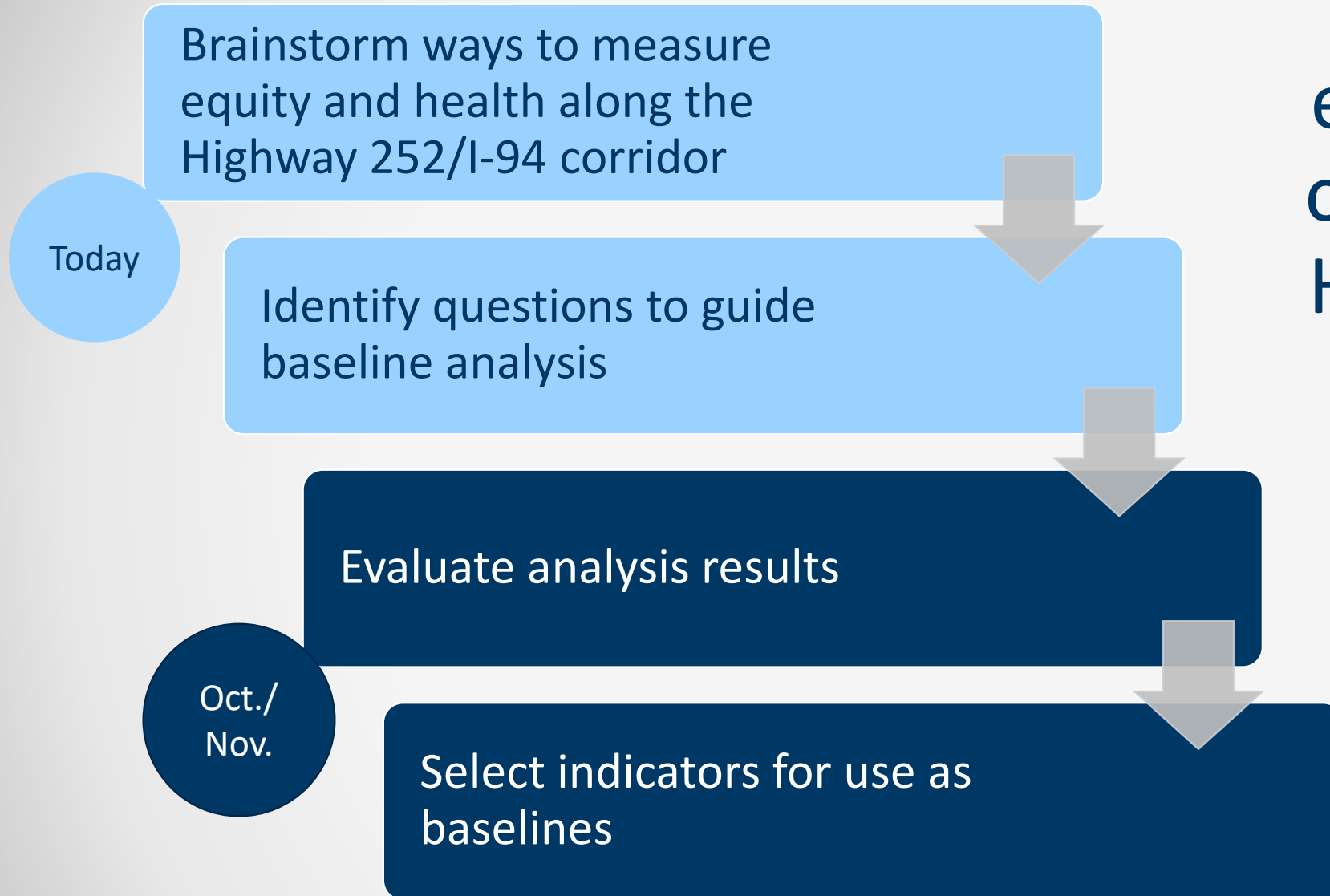
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# How to baseline equity and health conditions for the Highway 252/I-94 EHA





# Ways to measure transportation's impact on equity and health

- Physical health.
- Environmental health.
- Transportation options.
- Access to destinations/opportunity.
- Neighborhood livability.

# MnDOT's roles in advancing equity and health



## Leader

For issues related to the highway itself, MnDOT is the leader and partners with local agencies and communities. This is the agency's primary and traditional mission. Examples include repairing pavement or addressing congestion issues on the freeway.



## Partner

For issues or situations that cross over agency disciplines or missions, MnDOT is a partner with communities and other agencies. Even though MnDOT might not be leading a conversation or an investment, the agency may be involved in important ways. Examples include bridges that cross a freeway or local roads that connect to a MnDOT road.



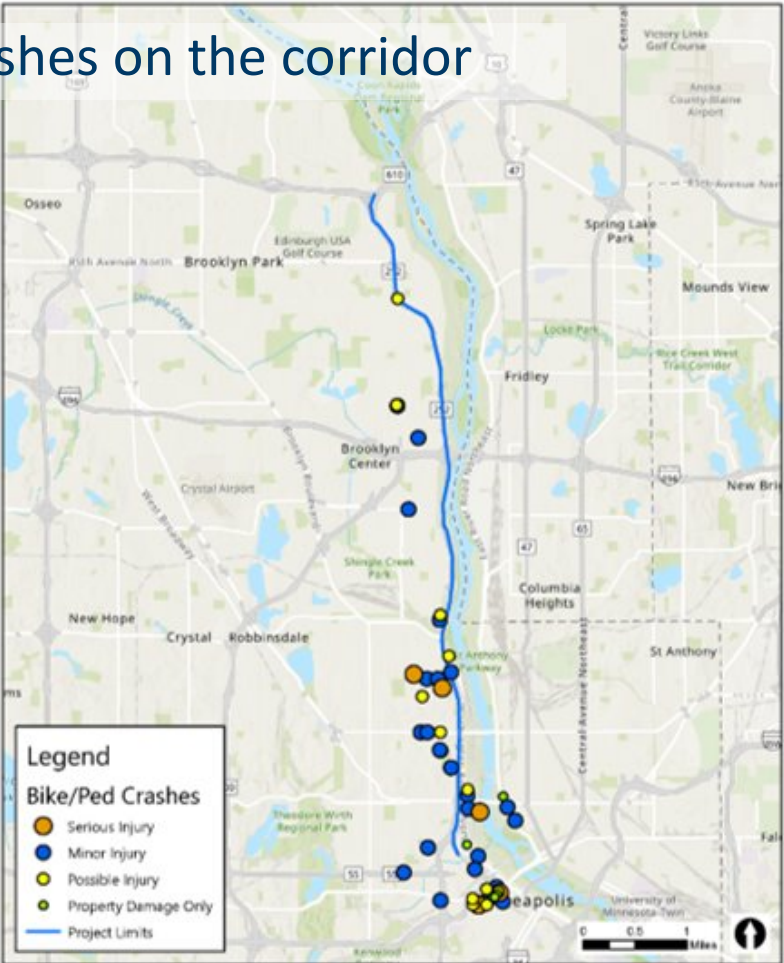
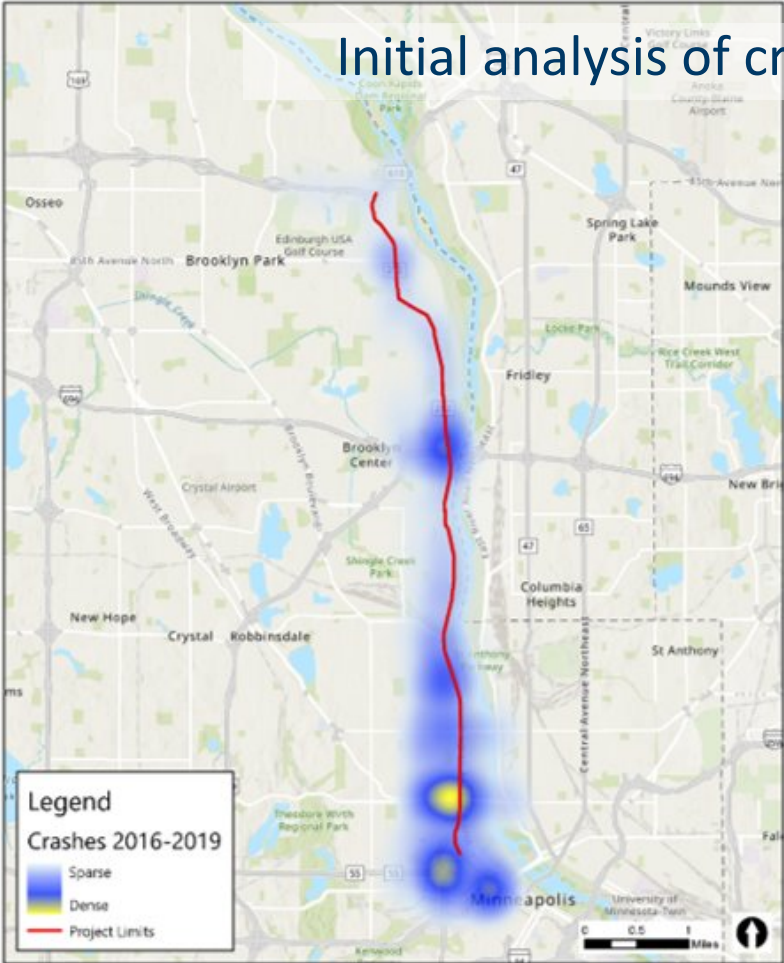
## Facilitator

While MnDOT's primary mission is focused on transportation, the department also has the capacity to assist with other issues that may arise — from local transportation issues, to housing and public health, to economic opportunity. While these are not issues MnDOT controls, the agency has an interest in the broader health of its communities. MnDOT staff often know who to contact at other state and local agencies for assistance.

# Questions for EHNA members to think about

- What's missing from this initial list of equity and health indicators?
- What do you want to hear more about next time we meet?

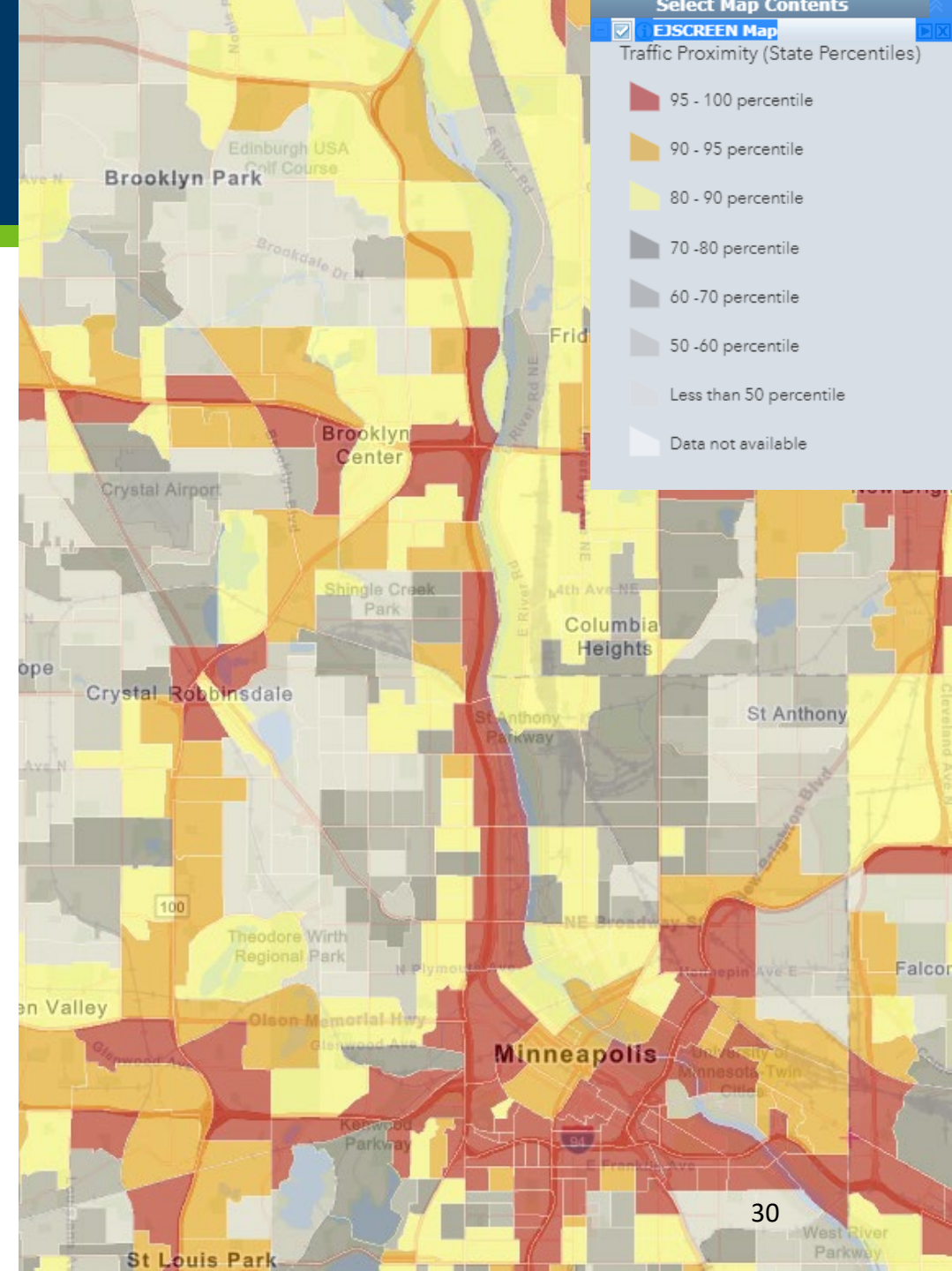
- Traffic fatalities and serious injuries, broken down by mode and demographic categories.



- Perceptions of safety when driving, biking, walking, and taking transit.
- Violent incidents on buses/at bus stops.
- Prevalence of chronic disease (diabetes, obesity, heart disease, asthma, etc.)
- Access to green space/opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- Access to healthy food options.

# Environmental health

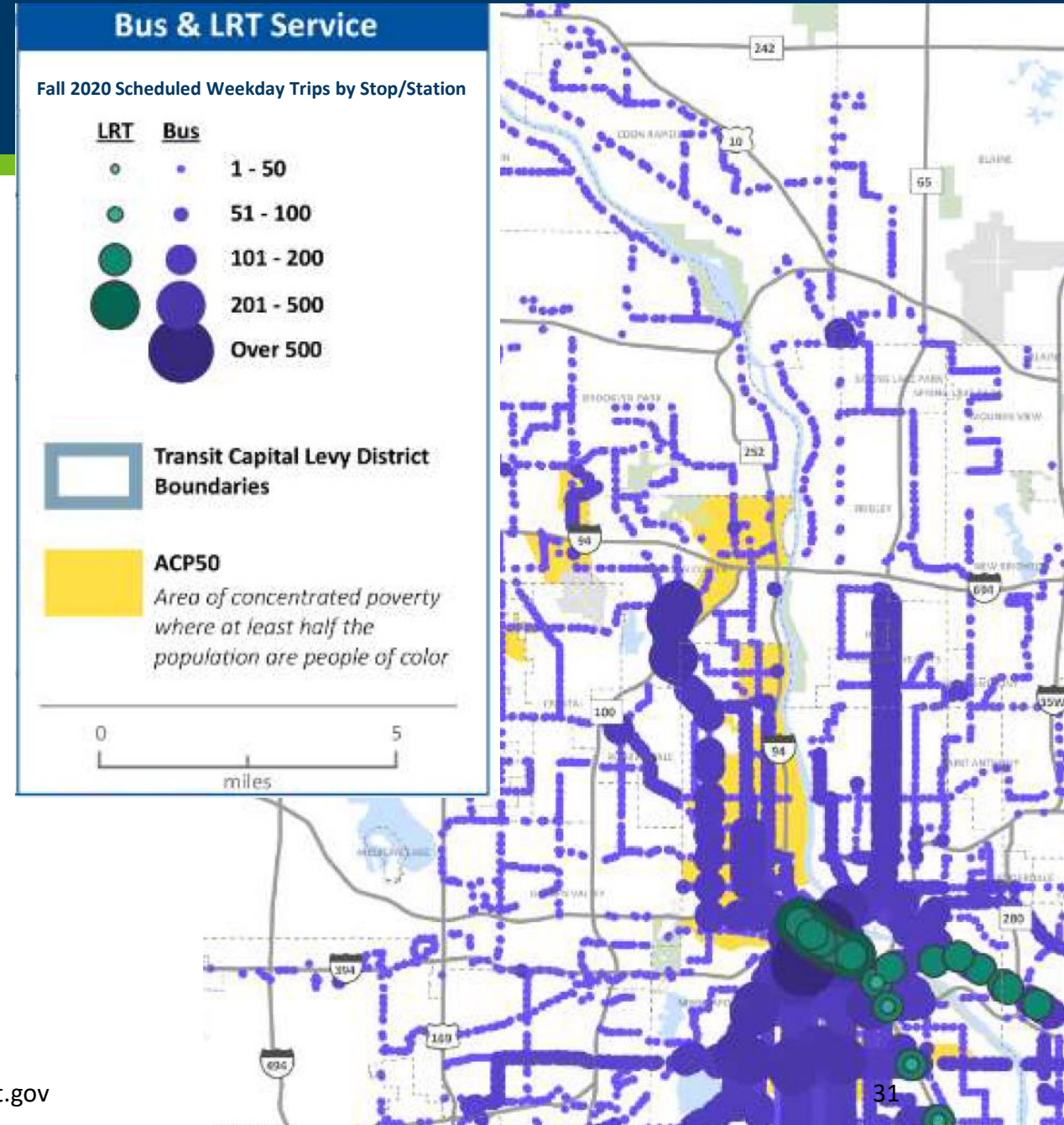
- Air quality.
- Traffic proximity.
- Water quality.
- Wildlife/vegetation impacts.
- Impacts to the Mississippi River.





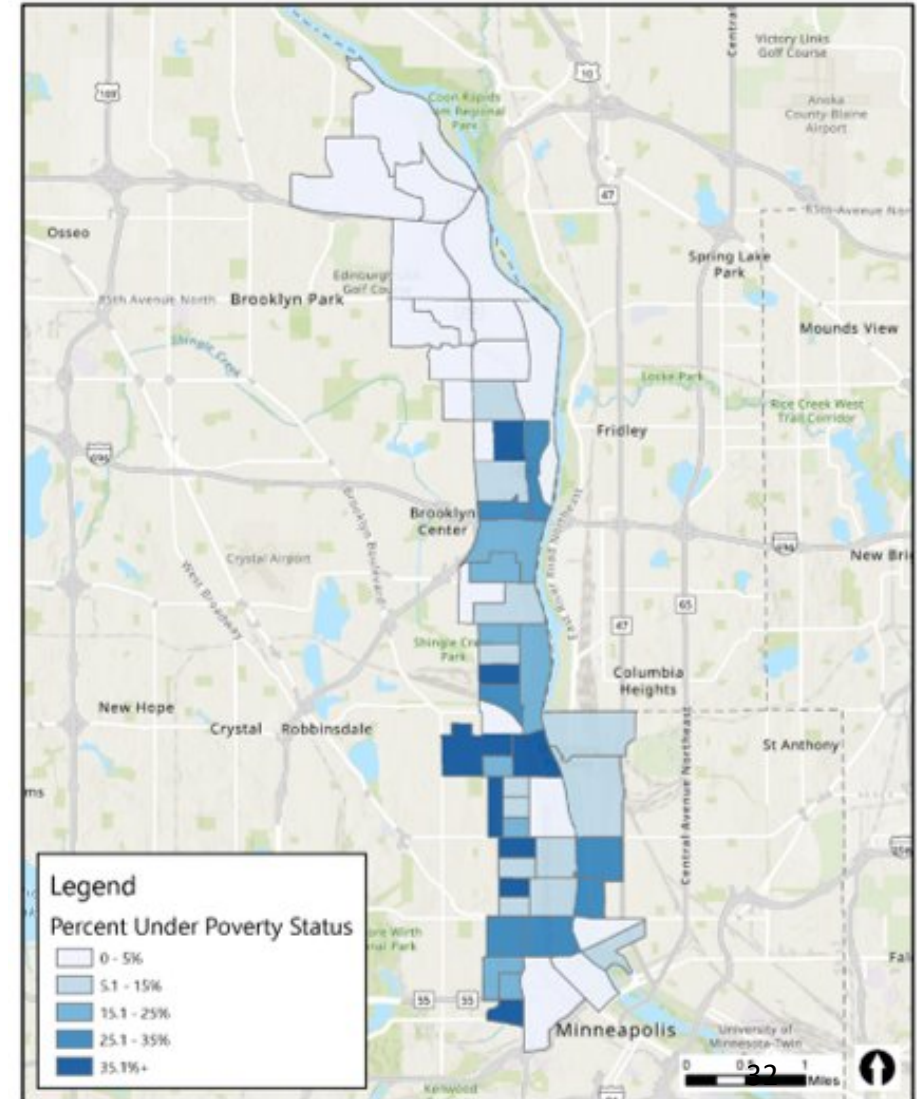
# Transportation options

- Access to transit and/or access to high frequency transit.
- Transit travel time.
- Transit reliability.
- Access to bicycling facilities.
- Pedestrian network connectivity.
- Neighborhood walkability.



# Access to destinations/opportunities

- Access to destinations (jobs, schools, retail, etc.) by mode.
- Travel time to work by sector/type of job.
- Access to affordable housing.
- Transportation and housing cost.
- Economic development/job creation.
- Wealth generation.





# Neighborhood livability

- Traffic noise.
- Community cohesion.
- Sense of place.
- Aesthetics/visual quality.

## Activity

What equity and health baselines are most interesting to you?

What questions are you hoping this analysis will answer over the next month?

# THANK YOU

# Paperwork and Process

- Facilities overview.
- SRF payment process.
- Forms:
  - Sign-in sheets.
  - ACH/direct deposit.
  - W-9.