

# Equity & Health Neighborhood Advisors (EHNA) Meeting #5

March 1, 2022

# Getting started

# Meeting Objectives

- **Feel.** We want the meeting to feel responsive and optimistic.
- **Know.** We want to provide honest updates and allow for honest dialogue.
- **Do.** We want to fully engage EHNA members.

What do you most look forward to  
in the Spring?

What have we heard so far?

# Meeting 4 Recap – What We Shared

- EHA Engagement Proposal
- Baseline Equity and Health Condition Indicators

# Meeting 4 Recap – What We Heard

- MnDOT needs to slow down, simplify communication, and bring EHNA members along.
- EHNA members question whether MnDOT is willing to act on EHA findings.
- It feels like a decision has already been made and community needs are an afterthought in this process.

# During the Hwy 252/I-94 SDD, the EHA...

## Will

- Be informed by the EHNA, community engagement, and data analysis
- Be a standing item at each TAC and PAC meeting moving forward
- Evaluate how the SDD alternatives address equity & health and provide MnDOT with project alternative recommendations to consider before proceeding (Report #3)
- Have an evaluation plan with metrics to signal the need for course corrections

## Will Not

- Be reflected in the Purpose and Needs statement
- Be voted on or formally approved by the TAC and PAC
- Inform project alternatives *before* they are included in the SDD for public comment

# EHA during the Hwy 252/I-94 Scoping Decision Document (SDD) and Notice of Intent (NOI)

	Late 2020 to Early 2021	Mid-2021 to Early 2022	Early 2022 to Mid-2022	Mid-2022 to Early 2023
<b>What is happening in the Environmental Review?</b>	(SDD) Project Purpose & Need	(SDD) Project Scoping – Technical Analysis	(SDD) Project Scoping – Community Engagement	Notice of Intent (NOI) to publish a Hwy 252/I-94 SDD
<b>What is happening in the EHA?</b>	Develop EHA concept	Establish Equity & Health Neighborhood Advisory (EHNA) group  Analyze health data  Scope equity and health engagement	Engage communities on equity and health issues  Synthesize community input in consultation with the EHNA group  Evaluate how proposed SDD addresses equity and health conditions and priorities	Review MnDOT response to the SDD comments
<b>What will the EHA produce?</b>	EHA scope  Equity & Health Neighborhood Advisory (EHNA) group	<b>REPORT 1: Equity &amp; Health Conditions</b>  Document health conditions and disparities in corridor communities  Initial equity and health findings to explore, adjust through engagement	<b>REPORT 2: Equity &amp; Health Priorities</b> Community and EHNA equity and health priorities  <b>REPORT 3: Equity &amp; Health Assessment of the SDD</b> Community driven review of how the SDD considers equity and health  Recommendations for how to consider equity and health in the DEIS and outside the DEIS	Equity and health impact assessments for each Hwy 252/I-94 project alternative (to integrate into Report 4)
<b>How does the EHA influence the Environmental Review?</b>	Establishes process for how and when EHA information will flow into the project process  Convenes representative community group	Provides baseline equity and health conditions  Provides foundation for Reports 2 and 3	Establishes additional considerations related to equity and health for decision-making  Equity and health considerations are raised during the formal public comment period	Provides equity and health information to inform engagement during the DEIS

# EHNA Homework Assignment #1



EHA  
Engagement



EHA  
Indicators

- **WHAT** do you want to know about community experiences with equity, health, and transportation along the Hwy 252/I-94 corridor?
  - **HOW** do you think MnDOT should engage historically underserved and overburdened communities in conversations about equity and health?
  - **WHO** should MnDOT target as part of the EHA outreach?
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- What stands out to you in the presentation of baseline conditions?
  - How do you experience these equity and health conditions?
  - What questions do you have? What's missing from the indicators included in the presentation?

# EHNA Homework Responses – Key Themes

1. EHNA members have serious questions about the role of the EHA in the Hwy 252/I-94 Environmental Review.
2. The EHA should show how past transportation decisions contributed to equity and health conditions on the corridor today; consider the equity and health legacy of freeway construction on the corridor and throughout the region.
3. EHNA members want to see more information about how the corridor impacts access to destinations, the natural environment, and traffic safety.

# Comments re: the Hwy 252/I-94 EHA & Environmental Review

- Is MnDOT willing to have open-ended conversations with impacted communities about solutions to the safety and mobility challenges on Hwy 252?
- Seems like the environmental review process is designed to make a freeway the only viable solution.
- The EHA timeline is not aligned to the timeline of the Hwy 252/I-94 environmental review, and the EHA does not appear to have a role in the environmental review process.

# Comments re: EHA Engagement and Indicators

- How the corridor affects people is shaped by where they live and how they travel.
- Want to see more information about ...
  - Cumulative air, water, and soil pollution from transportation sources
  - How the Hwy 252/I-94 corridor impacts the Mississippi River
  - How the corridor impacts access to healthy food and green space
  - How fatalities/serious injuries on the corridor have changed over time and how fatalities/serious injuries on the corridor compare to other highways

# EHA Working Group Review of EHA Indicators

- **Points of comparison.** Why compare health in North Mpls to health in Brooklyn Park or Brooklyn Center? What is the purpose/significance of that comparison?
- **Sensitivity of indicators to transportation investment.** Some indicators are more sensitive to transportation and the Highway 252/I-94 project than others.
- **Additional indicators.** Add indicators and analysis regarding childhood poverty, built environment, jobs and destination access/skills match, and transit access.
- **Equity implications.** Add analysis of who benefits from the proposed action and past actions, who is burdened, and how.

1. Clarify the role of the EHA in the Hwy 252/I-94 Environmental Review.
2. Assess the equity and health legacy of freeway construction on the corridor and throughout the region.
3. Consider how transportation infrastructure shapes the ability of people to live without cars or reduce their need to drive.
4. Collect information about where people live and how they travel as part of EHA engagement.
5. Generate more information about how the corridor impacts access, the natural environment, and safety.

## Discussion of EHNA and EHA Working Group feedback

Did we hear you correctly?  
What is missing in the  
themes we identified?

What does a successful EHA look like?

# Why Create an EHA Evaluation Plan?

- **For the EHA:**

- Defines success and gives us a way to measure it
- Enables us to make course corrections if we're not hitting goals

- **Longer term:**

- Informs future MnDOT projects and way of doing business
- Identifies lessons learned

# EHNA Discussion to Inform the Evaluation Plan

- What does success look like for the EHA?
- How would we know if the EHA is successful or not?
- What story do we want to tell when the EHA is over?

What actions will we take?

# EHA Activities and Milestones – Spring 2022

- Incorporate feedback from the EHA Working Group and the Hwy 252/I-94 EHNA into the Baseline Conditions Report. **(March/April)**
- Engage historically underserved and overburdened communities along the corridor to understand, refine, and revise baseline indicators. **(March/April)**
- Identify priority indicators for use in the equity and health assessment of Hwy 252/I-94 project alternatives. **(April/May)**

# Baseline Conditions Report

- First of 6 EHA reports.
- Describes baseline equity and health conditions along the Hwy 252/I-94 corridor using equity and health indicators.
- Draft Executive Summary of the report to be distributed to EHNA members for review by mid/late-March.

- **Goal.** Learn how the Hwy 252/I-94 corridor affects historically underserved and overburdened communities.
- **Approach.** Engage people online, at community organization meetings, and through pop-ups and door knocks in late March and April. Collect demographic information to maximum extent possible.
- **Success.** Clear, community-driven direction to MnDOT and FHWA about how to assess the equity and health impacts of Hwy 252/I-94 project alternatives.

# EHA engagement survey

**DRAFT**

## 1. How does the Hwy 252/I-94 corridor affect you?

- The Hwy 252/I-94 corridor impacts my health and well-being by ....
- The Hwy 252/I-94 corridor impacts my economic opportunity by ...
- The Hwy 252/I-94 corridor impacts my environment by ....
- The Hwy 252/I-94 corridor impacts my community by ...
- The Hwy 252/I-94 corridor impacts my ability to get where I want to go by ...

## 2. Among the topics you described in your answer to question 1, which one do you most want to see explored in depth as part of the Hwy 252/I-94 EHA? Why?

## 3. What is most important to make Hwy 252/I-94 healthier and more equitable?

- Air quality and proximity to traffic
- Access to destinations by multiple travel options (e.g., walk, bike, transit, car)
- Reliable and affordable transit options
- Safe public roads
- Street scaping and tree cover
- Other <please specify>

## 4. What else should MnDOT think about relative to equity and health on the Hwy 252/I-94 corridor?

# In-Person EHA Activities (Draft)

	Brooklyn Park	Brooklyn Center	Minneapolis
<b>Community Organization Meetings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Alphonsus</li> <li>• CLUES</li> <li>• Brooklyn United Methodist Church</li> <li>• African Career, Education &amp; Resource (ACER)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laos Assistance Center</li> <li>• CAPI</li> <li>• Kenyan Community Church</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capri Theater</li> <li>• Folwell Recreation Center</li> <li>• Urban Research &amp; Outreach Engagement Center</li> <li>• Shiloh Temple International Ministries</li> </ul>
<b>Pop-ups/door knocks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Festival Foods</li> <li>• Zane Community Center</li> <li>• Riverview Apartments</li> <li>• Huntington Place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lutheran Church of the Master</li> <li>• Humbolt Center</li> <li>• Pines Apartment</li> <li>• Brookside Manor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camden Library</li> <li>• YMCA</li> </ul>

## Meeting 6 March 29, 2022

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- Launch of EHA engagement
  - Engagement plan
  - Engagement activity
  - EHNA input

- Please fill out your W9 and direct deposit form (optional) so we can compensate you for your time in EHNA meetings.
- Completed forms should be emailed to Britt Berner at [bberner@srfconsulting.com](mailto:bberner@srfconsulting.com)

# THANK YOU