



Hwy 252/I-94 Equity & Health Assessment (EHA) Equity and Health Neighborhood Advisors -- Meeting #11

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 | 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Brookdale Library – 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430
Zoom Meeting ID: 922 3922 2734 | Passcode: 292382

Attendees

EHNA members:

1. Darryl Sannes, Brooklyn Center resident
2. Edna McKenzie, Brooklyn Park resident
3. Jim Wynne, Brooklyn Center resident
4. John Wexler, Brooklyn Park resident
5. Michael Svard, Brooklyn Park resident
6. Nahid Kahn, Brooklyn Center resident
7. Sherri Orr, Minneapolis resident
8. Simeon Momanyi, Brooklyn Center resident
9. Tara McCarthy, Brooklyn Center resident

Staff and consultants:

1. Aaron Tag, MnDOT
2. Allison Bell, Bellwether Consulting
3. C Terrence Anderson, CURA
4. Marie Cote, SRF Consulting
5. Nissa Tupper, MnDOT
6. Rebecca Lieser, Bellwether Consulting

Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. EHA Report 3 Overview

- Allison Bell and Rebecca Lieser presented a proposal for EHA Report 3. Report 3 will be submitted to MnDOT as public comment during the public comment period for the Hwy 252/I-94 Scoping Decision Document (SDD). It will complete the equity and health assessment by identifying the health and equity impacts of the Hwy 252/I-94 project alternatives and provide recommendations on the alternatives and elements.
- Report 3's primary audience is MnDOT and the secondary audience is the general public. The report is intended to be short, accessible, and visually appealing. Report 3 will be published before the end of the public comment period to share with others and encourage them to apply their lived experiences to the health and equity priorities and submit public comment to MnDOT.
- The report will include three video testimonials from EHNA members. Videos will prompt EHNA members to share a story that illustrates why one of the three priority areas (Community Livability, Roadway Safety, and Transportation Equity) is important to you or your community.
- The release of the SDD is tentatively planned for mid-March 2023. After its release, EHNA members will review the project alternatives and complete the alternatives assessment framework individually and bring it to the EHNA #12 meeting. During the EHNA meeting, members will go into breakout groups to consolidate and discuss findings and scores. At least one EHNA member from each breakout group will commit to listening to each other's feedback during the breakout groups, and bringing that feedback to a final EHNA recommendations meeting, to finalize the EHA findings and recommendations.
- After Report 3 is submitted to MnDOT, it will be published on the EHA project website, sent to the Hwy 252/I-94 Environmental Review email listserv, and sent to the cooperating agencies.

EHNA questions and discussion:

- The proposed approach to Report 3 sounds good. It feels like we're preserving the voices of the community, but putting it into a language MnDOT understands.
- Who is the audience of Report 3?
 - The primary audience is MnDOT since it will be submitted as public comment on the SDD, but the secondary audience is the community. We also want to make it interesting to other Hwy 252/I-94 residents and have it resonate with their experiences.
- What is the intent of Report 3?
 - Assessing the project alternatives and providing recommendations on the alternatives and the elements.

- The intended usage of the report goes beyond recommendations for MnDOT to consider. We should release the report well before the end of the public comment period.
- Would like to see the recommendations on the alternatives and elements separated from the recommendations on the EHA process.
- EHNA recommendations on the EHA process should be its own separate document.
 - That will work. We anticipate that there will be recommendations from the EHNA that go beyond the scope of the Hwy 252/I-94 project, the recommendations on the EHA process could fit into there. Report 3 will solely be about how to advance the health and equity priorities in the SDD.
- How long is the public comment period?
 - The public comment period will be 60 days. It is usually 30 days but because of the nature of this project, it has been extended.
- How many people are on the Hwy 252/I-94 project email list?
 - Roughly 6,235 people subscribe to the Hwy 252/I-94 project email list.
- EHA Report 3 will be published after the cooperating agencies review and comment on the SDD. Will there be an expectation that they will comment again on the SDD after considering the EHNA's feedback in Report 3?
 - MnDOT can give a heads up to the cooperating agencies about when they can expect EHA Report 3 so they can account for this in their own comments.
- To shorten the report, you could condense Slide 2: What is the EHA? and Slide 3: Who created the EHA?

3. Breakout group discussion: What changes would you make to the EHA process?

- C Terrence Anderson introduced the discussion group topic and participants went into two groups.
 - Policies and structures recommendations:
 - Include equity and health in the project's purpose and needs statement.
 - Treat the EHNA as a cooperating agency, enabling it to comment before the SDD goes to public comment.
 - Form the EHNA right at the beginning of the project scoping process.
 - Shorten timeframe between meetings or reduce delays as much as possible. A lot of EHNA meeting time was spent rehashing what happened at past meetings.
 - Provide opportunities for open ended community engagement with forums, listening sessions, and discussions.
 - Prioritize the feedback from people who live close to the highway (hence most likely to be impacted by changes) when conducting and analyzing public feedback.
 - Account for a final EHNA recommendations report specifically for MnDOT on the lessons learned from the EHA process or community engagement.
 - The EHA process is progress for MnDOT.

- o Relationships, connections, and power dynamics
 - Do a better job of communicating and "connecting the dots" between the EHNA and related initiatives (i.e. PAC meetings). Don't treat the EHNA as an isolated segment.
 - Provide more clarity about the role and real power of the EHNA in the EHA process.
 - Make more formal or informal connections between the EHNA and the TAC. Have a standing update at each meeting about what the other group is doing.
 - Similarly, make stronger and more frequent connections between the EHNA and the PAC. Provide frequent written or verbal updates in both directions.
 - When MnDOT makes presentations to City Councils or other public bodies, share these with the EHNA.
 - Create a feedback loop so that we know our comments inform the next version, consider, adjust, create a revision.
 - Get a larger number of people involved in the EHA process. More of the community. Use local media and pitch the story to get people engaged.
 - Have more of a human factor. Humanize the agency so we can see that MnDOT is part of the community.
 - Improve transparency - front load information. People lost faith in EHA process when they were left out of key information.
 - Identify who are the influencers in the community. Involve them and get them to be part of it.
 - Have the type of consultants and staff who can listen and meet the committee where they are at.

4. Equity and health alternatives assessment framework and recommendations

- Rebecca presented an overview of the draft alternatives assessment framework which provides a structure for the EHNA to determine the equity and health impacts the Hwy 252/I-94 alternatives.
- The framework is organized into the three equity and health priorities (Community Livability, Roadway Safety, Transportation Equity) that came out of the broader public engagement in spring 2022. The elements were developed from the breakout discussion with EHNA members during the June 2022 workshop where they discussed what elements should be assessed to determine the equity and health impacts of the project alternatives. The supporting statements help indicate how the elements should support health and equity in the alternatives.

EHNA questions and discussion:

- When we go into breakout groups at EHNA #12 workshop to discuss findings and consolidate assessments on the framework, let's rotate groups so we can talk about all three categories.

- Would also like to hear during that meeting what other groups are talking about.
- What are our resources if we have a question once the SDD comes out?
 - The Hwy 252/I-94 project team will be putting together public-facing handouts with a lot of information on the alternatives. In addition, EHNA members can contact EHA staff and consultants with questions. If we can't answer it, we can connect you with someone who can.
- To the Water Quality element, add a transportation factor about salt. Concerned about protection of groundwater and river water.
- For the Traffic Volume element, add a transportation factor about types of vehicles. For example, trucks are a concern on Hwy 252 since we don't have a lot of semi-truck traffic now.
- Change "reduces likelihood of crashes" to just "reduces crashes" in the Roadway Safety supporting statements. The traffic volume in a freeway will be higher than on a local road, so while the percent of crashes may be smaller, the number of actual crashes may be actually higher. More interested in the actual number than the percent.

5. Wrap up and next steps

- C Terrence wrapped up the meeting and shared next steps:
 - Project staff will send out the EHA process recommendations from the breakout groups to the EHNA for other recommendations.
 - Project staff will send out the revised alternatives assessment framework from the comments from the EHNA meeting and collect additional edits.
 - Project staff will send out additional information on the video testimonials.