

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Highway 252/I-94

Equity and Health

Assessment

Report #3: Impacts

May 2023



What is the Equity and Health Assessment (EHA)?

An evaluation of the Minnesota Department of Transportation Scoping Document (SD) for Highway (Hwy) 252/I-94 in Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and Minneapolis.

Report #1: Baseline Conditions

- Health conditions and disparities of Hwy 252/I-94 communities

Report #2: Priorities

- Equity priorities of Hwy 252/I-94 communities

Report #3: Impacts

- Assessment of the health and equity impacts of the Hwy 252/I-94 alternatives



Who created the EHA findings and recommendations?

The EHA findings and recommendations are developed by a committee of community members, the Equity and Health Neighborhood Advisors (EHNA).

EHNA members live, work, or own a business in the project area and have an interest in advancing equity and health in the Hwy 252/I-94 project area.



Community Livability is an EHA priority

Community Livability refers to impact that traffic volume, air and water quality, traffic noise and light pollution, neighborhoods, businesses, community resources, and personal safety have on livability and wellbeing.



[Michael, EHNA member, shares why Community Livability is a community priority](#)

Compared to the average Minnesotan, people living along the Hwy 252/I-94 project area are at greater risk of disease, hospitalization, and death due to **poor air quality**.

There is **limited access to parks** in the Hwy 252/I-94 project area. About six in 10 community residents can access a park within a 10-minute walk.



Roadway Safety is an EHA priority

Roadway Safety refers to the number of crashes involving people driving, walking, and biking on Hwy 252/I-94 and intersecting or adjacent roadways.



[Tara, EHNA member, shares why Roadway Safety is a community priority](#)

There are **more vehicle crashes** on Hwy 252 than on similar highways across the region.

Although there are fewer people walking, biking, and rolling compared to people driving in the Hwy 252/I-94 community, **pedestrians and bicyclists** are significantly more likely to be involved in a fatal or serious injury crash at a Hwy 252 intersection than are people in motor vehicles.



Transportation Equity is an EHA priority

Transportation Equity refers to walking, biking, and transit to people who don't have cars, and the distribution of project benefits and burdens.



[Nahid, EHNA member, shares why Transportation Equity is a community priority](#)

22% of households with children along the project area are experiencing **poverty**, compared to 10 % in Hennepin County.

14% percent of households along the project area **do not have access to car**, compared to 9% for Hennepin County.

Residents of majority Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) areas along the project area are 20-25% percent more likely to experience **asthma and other chronic diseases**.



Recommendations based on EHA priorities and analysis

- Advance alternatives that were eliminated in the SD, including the 4-lane low speed freeway and non-freeway alternatives
- Continue to analyze the alternatives according to EHA priorities
- Revisit the purpose and need statement to include equity
- Analyze and share how alternatives:
 - Distribute benefits and burdens between the local community and commuters
 - Distribute benefits and burdens across BIPOC and white areas
- Prioritize alternatives that have the lowest projected traffic volumes, crashes, property impacts, and air and water quality impacts
- Identify ways to improve or enhance pedestrian and bike networks, aesthetics and green space, and public transit



What's next?

- Read the entire EHA Report #3 on the [project website](#), along with [Report #1](#) and [Report #2](#)
- Learn more about the SD [here](#)
- Comment on the project [here](#)

