

Health in Transportation Working Group

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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1. INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Health in Transportation (HinT) Working Group examines and promotes the Department's existing policies and programs to assist modal agencies address health-related topics that are raised by staff, project sponsors, and the public. The Working Group covers topics such as multimodal connectivity, safety, accessibility, air quality, noise, and access to jobs and services. This annual report provides an overview of the Working Group's activities in 2019, summarizes other USDOT health-related accomplishments, documents the Working Group's progress toward implementing the goals laid out in the 2018 Annual Report, and offers goals for the Working Group for 2020.

2. WORKING GROUP OVERVIEW

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) established the HinT Working Group in 2012 in response to growing interest in how transportation can support healthy outcomes in the communities we serve. The Working Group initially included representatives from various FHWA Offices. Since then, the Working Group has expanded its membership to include representatives of other modal administrations, including the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST).

The Working Group's purpose is to support transportation planning, programming, and project delivery by fostering a Department-wide understanding of health in transportation and identifying aspects of existing agency programs that relate to health. The Working Group also serves as a resource to USDOT to support engagement with other Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, academics, researchers, and others in areas related to transportation and health. Through regular meetings, publications, and collaborating with the field and other Federal agencies, the HinT Working Group prepares participants to quickly find answers and expertise needed to respond to stakeholder requests. The Working Group develops a work plan annually that lays out its planned activities for the year.

3. 2019 WORKING GROUP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RURAL TRANSPORTATION OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND MOBILITY OPTIONS AND IMPROVE HEALTH

The Working Group developed a white paper on rural transportation opportunities to expand mobility options and improve health as part of the Working Group's goals for 2019. The paper will serve as a resource for Working Group members and State and local transportation agencies to identify and pursue opportunities for improving transportation and health in rural areas. The paper describes challenges to rural transportation and health, and identifies opportunities to address each of these challenges. The Working Group will finalize the white paper in 2020.

COORDINATION WITH CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)

CDC representatives participated in three Working Group meetings held in 2019 to provide updates on CDC activities related to transportation and health. Additionally, Working Group members have been invited to present at the CDC's Built Environment Working Group (BEWG) multiple times over the years. Working Group members also hosted representatives from CDC at USDOT to discuss topics of common interest. In July, CDC Physical Activity and Health Branch staff met with FHWA staff to discuss the Active People, Healthy Nation initiative and activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations. In August, FTA hosted CDC staff and several transportation and public health stakeholders to share information and discuss areas of potential collaboration around transportation access and mobility. In December, a HinT Working Group member presented about CDC-DOT collaboration at the CDC Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity's National Partner Collaboration Meeting.

FHWA MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR PLANNING FRAMEWORK TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In 2019, FHWA provided six transportation agencies with training and technical assistance on how to use the *Framework for Better Integrating Health into Transportation Corridor Planning* to incorporate multimodal access, improve health outcomes, and enhance community considerations into corridor planning. The purpose of this effort is to support transportation agencies working to enhance collaboration with stakeholders, safeguard communities, and build partnerships that promote a healthy environment. The transportation agencies who received training and technical assistance included:

- California Department of Transportation and San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (California)
- Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization (Arkansas)
- McLean County Regional Planning Commission (Illinois)
- Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (Maryland)
- Summit County Department of Regional Transportation Planning (Utah)
- Texas Department of Transportation (Texas)

ACCESS AND MOBILITY SUMMIT & COORDINATING COUNCIL ON ACCESS AND MOBILITY (CCAM) MEETING

USDOT hosted the [Access and Mobility for All Summit](#) on October 29, 2019, to raise awareness about DOT and government-wide efforts to improve access and mobility for people with disabilities, older adults, and individuals of low income. The summit also sought to identify priority Federal and non-Federal activities and innovations that can provide more efficient, affordable, and accessible vehicles and mobility services such as transit and ridesharing. The summit featured discussions with leaders across academia, industry, and government and a showcase of innovations enabling expanded access to mobility for people with disabilities, older adults, and individuals of low income.

In conjunction with the summit, the CCAM met for the first time in over 10 years on October 29, 2019. Chaired by the Secretary of USDOT, the CCAM issues policy recommendations and implements activities that improve the availability, accessibility, and efficiency of transportation for the following populations: older adults, people with disabilities, and individuals of low income. The interagency initiative supports states and localities in developing coordinated human service delivery systems and includes [11 Federal agencies](#). At this meeting, the CCAM adopted a [strategic plan](#) and identified points of contact at each CCAM agency. The CCAM is currently developing a cost-sharing policy and cost-allocation model to determine who will pay for which parts of a trip, and how reimbursement will be handled.

HinT Working Group members played key roles in both planning and participating in these events. They also shared outcomes of these events with the group.

OLDER DRIVER SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

Older Driver Safety Awareness Week was held December 1-7, 2019. During this week NHTSA, in coordination with its partners, encouraged drivers and their families to develop “transportation plans” that consider the needs of aging drivers.

TRB CONFERENCE ON HEALTH AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Working Group members supported the planning of and participated in the Transportation Research Board (TRB) [Conference on Health and Active Transportation](#), which took place in Washington, DC on December 11-12, 2019. The conference brought together researchers and practitioners from disciplines such as urban planning, public health, transportation and civil engineering, and health care and health economics to identify the health effects of transportation policies, planning, and infrastructure, and to develop an understanding of the institutional opportunities and barriers for considering health within the transportation field.

4. OTHER HEALTH IN TRANSPORTATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019

In addition to the Working Group accomplishments described above, many members had other health in transportation accomplishments within their roles outside of the Working Group. These accomplishments are listed below, organized into the categories of resources, Federal funding programs, member participation in related conferences and meetings, and coordination with other organizations and groups.

RESOURCES

- FHWA’s Office of Operations published a series of [fact sheets](#) on how Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) supports, impacts, or otherwise relates to other State and local transportation agency functions and offices. One of the fact sheets focuses on how TSMO can benefit the environment, such as reducing fuel consumption

and improving air quality, promoting the use of non-single-occupancy vehicle modes of travel, and coordinating quick and safe clean-up of incidents involving hazardous materials.

- FHWA’s Office of Operations released a publication titled “[Does Travel Time Reliability Matter?](#)” which describes the impacts of an unreliable system. These impacts include increased time for first responders to arrive at an incident scene; adverse effects on worker productivity; and more time budgeted for travel to account for uncertainty in travel time.
- NHTSA updated its [Clearinghouse for Older Road User Safety \(ChORUS\)](#) to include new information and a new design.
- USDOT, in partnership with U.S. Department of Labor, launched a national online dialogue called [Barriers and Solutions to Complete Trips for All](#) to inform efforts to reduce barriers that constrain Americans with disabilities from fully participating in the workforce and their communities.
- USDOT’s [Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success \(ROUTES\)](#) is an initiative to address disparities in rural transportation infrastructure. Established in October 2019, the initiative will work to provide rural project sponsors with pertinent and easy-to-use information about USDOT’s infrastructure programs, to help overcome resource challenges that can be an impediment to competitive applications.
- USDOT’s [Safety Data Initiative](#) uses data to identify safety challenges and find solutions that can save lives. In 2019, the initiative held a Safety Data Forum that convened over 60 stakeholders from all levels of government, non-profit organizations, universities, and the private sector to share updates on pilot projects and seek input to help focus and prioritize future investments. The initiative also released a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for projects that implement data tool applications that address specific roadway safety problems, and a Broad Agency Announcement focusing on innovative, applied policy research to gain new roadway safety insights and tools.

USDOT FUNDING PROGRAMS

- FTA: In 2019, through FAST Act Section 3006(b) pilot program funding, FTA awarded:
 - The Vermont Agency of Transportation \$170,000 in funding to assist individuals suffering from substance abuse, specifically opioid addiction, by providing on-demand trips as well as research to identify strategies to expand rural transportation services to increase access to substance abuse treatment and jobs.
 - The Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center, Inc. \$194,944 in funding to purchase accessible vans and hire a mobility manager for its

Transportation for Rural Appalachian Communities Program, which helps underserved populations in rural southern West Virginia access healthcare, including opioid treatment.

- FTA also made an additional \$3.5 million in FAST Act Section 3006(b) funds available for projects that enable transportation connections to jobs, education and health services through its [Mobility for All Pilot Program](#).
- FTA's [Integrated Mobility Innovation \(IMI\) Demonstration program](#) made \$15 million in research funds available for projects that demonstrate innovative and effective practices, partnerships and technologies to enhance public transportation effectiveness, increase efficiency, expand quality, promote safety and improve the traveler experience.
- FTA: On January 28, 2020, USDOT [announced](#) \$5.4 million in grant selections as part of FTA's Human Trafficking Awareness and Public Safety Initiative. [Twenty-four organizations](#) will receive funding for projects to help prevent human trafficking and other crimes on public transportation.
- USDOT's [BUILD Transportation Grant Program](#) made up to \$900 million in funding available for eligible projects including those that implement safety improvements to reduce fatalities and serious injuries, such as improving grade crossings or providing shorter or more direct access to critical health services; projects that connect communities and people to jobs, services, and education; and, projects that anchor economic revitalization and job growth in communities.
- The [USDOT Safety Data Initiative](#) made [\\$3 million in funding](#) available for projects that develop, refine, and implement data tool applications that address specific roadway safety problems and can demonstrate deployment applications, and an additional \$1 million in funding available for innovative, applied policy research to gain new roadway safety insights and tools.

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS RELATED TO HEALTH IN TRANSPORTATION THAT WORKING GROUP MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN

- Working Group members participated in the [98th TRB Annual Meeting](#) in January 2019. Member activities included attending a workshop on developing a rural risk roadmap, including health risks for rural areas; attending the TRB Health and Transportation subcommittee meeting; and attending other sessions related to health.
- Victoria Martinez (FHWA) presented the *Framework for Better Integrating Health in Transportation Corridor Planning* at the [Center for Advancing Research in Transportation Emissions, Energy and Health \(CARTEEH\) Symposium](#) in February 2019.
- FHWA participated in and sponsored, in collaboration with the Maricopa Association of Governments, an event called [At the Intersection of Aging and Transportation](#) in March

2019 in Phoenix, Arizona. This one-day event brought together a wide variety of national experts to share data on the impact of aging on transportation services, focusing on the well-being of older adults.

- FTA presented on coordinating resources for transportation and mobility management to promote prevention and recovery at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Region 3 Health and Human Service (HHS) and Federal Partners Opioid Taskforce meeting, along with the National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) in April 2019.
- Danielle Nelson of FTA presented on a CCAM webinar titled, [Identifying Transportation Solutions to Improve Access to Economic Opportunities](#) in April 2019 with the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the FTA-funded the National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM).
- FTA hosted a [Federal Interagency Input Meeting for the CCAM 2020 Grant Programs](#) in April 2019 to encourage a more collaborative approach to developing [CCAM initiative notices of funding opportunities](#). Ten Federal agencies were represented and provided input on three grant opportunities that will be announced in 2020: [FAST Act Section 3006\(b\) Pilot Program](#); [National Aging and Disability Transportation Center \(NADTC\) grants](#); and [National Center for Mobility Management \(NCMM\) grants](#).
- FHWA participated in the joint meeting of the AASHTO [Committee on Design and Council on Active Transportation](#) in July 2019.
- FHWA: The Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP) initiative of the [Every Day Counts \(EDC\)-5 Program](#) partnered with America Walks to hold a peer exchange in Little Rock, Arkansas in October 2019.
- FTA chaired the [Coordinated Council on Access Mobility \(CCAM\)](#) meeting held in October 2019.
- Victoria Martinez of FHWA participated in a National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) listening session to inform future efforts related to health equity and childhood obesity in October 2019.
- In November 2019, Working Group members Victoria Martinez, Jason Broehm, and Danielle Nelson presented on USDOT efforts related to social determinants of health at the [fifth meeting](#) of the [National Clinical Care Commission](#). The Commission evaluates and provides recommendations on the coordination and leveraging of federal programs related to complex metabolic or autoimmune diseases that result from insulin-related issues. These diseases and related complications represent a significant disease burden in the United States.
- Marianne Stock of FTA presented on a CCAM webinar titled [Expanding Access to Transportation for Older Adults and People with Disabilities](#) in November 2019 hosted by the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC), a program funded by FTA with guidance from the Administration for Community Living (ACL).

- Working Group members participated in the [TRB Conference on Health and Active Transportation](#) in December 2019.
- FTA participated in the [Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) Rural Transportation, Funding and Recovery Workshop](#) in December 2019.
- FTA presented on coordinating resources for transportation and mobility management to promote prevention and recovery at the Substance Use Disorder Rural Transportation, Funding and Recovery full-day workshop at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in December 2019.
- Danielle Nelson of FTA attended the White House launch of a [new tool](#) to assist rural community leaders in building an effective local response to the crisis of addiction, the [Rural Community Action Guide: Building Stronger, Healthy Drug-Free Rural Communities](#). The FTA-funded National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) authored the transportation section on page 34 titled, *Bridging the Transportation Gap for Access to Substance Use Disorder Services in Rural Communities*. The purpose of the Guide is to arm rural leaders with information they can put into immediate action to create change. It provides background information, recommended action steps, and promising practices to help manage the impact of substance use disorder on local communities and help persons with the disease of addiction.

PROMOTING WORKING GROUP MEMBER ACTIVITIES ON SAFETY, MULTIMODAL CONNECTIVITY, INNOVATION, AND OTHER HEALTH-RELATED TOPICS AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS

- Paula Bawer of the NHTSA Safety Countermeasures Division presented on the [Older Driver Safety Program](#) at the May 2019 HinT Working Group Executive Session meeting. With the aging population of 65 years and over growing, there is a need for more older driver program activities. NHTSA is supporting older driver safety by training medical professionals to counsel older drivers and recognize risks and through partnerships with the American Geriatric Society and the American Occupational Therapy Association, as well as through the development of [aging-related driver resources](#).
- Ed Fendley of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Community Revitalization presented an overview of the [Recreation Economy for Rural Communities planning assistance program](#) at the May 2019 HinT Working Group meeting.
- Natalia Sizov of the FAA Office of Environment and Energy presented on the [health impacts of aviation noise](#) at the September 2019 HinT Working Group meeting. The impacts of noise that FAA studies include sleep disturbance, health (cardiovascular disease), annoyance, and student learning.
- Tasha Ray of the NHTSA Office of Safety Programs presented on research projects being pursued by [NHTSA public health fellows](#) at the September 2019 HinT Working Group

meeting. These research projects include a project using National EMS Information System data to descriptively analyze pedestrian EMS responses, a project using Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) and Crash Report Sampling (CRSS)/National Automotive Sampling System General Estimates System (NASS/GES) data to descriptively analyze pedestrian injuries, and a project developing media materials to empower bystanders to act when they encounter a crash, among others.

- CDC shared during Working Group meetings that its [physical activities guidelines](#) have been updated to include a chapter highlighting community-level interventions to make physical activity safer and easier, including in terms of transportation opportunities.
- CDC shared during Working Group meetings that it added [seven new strategies that work at the community level to increase physical activity](#) as a part of the [Active People, Healthy Nation initiative](#), including several that specifically relate to transportation systems or the built environment.

5. PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING 2019 GOALS

In the 2018 Annual Report and 2019 Work Plan, the HinT Working Group set three goals for its activities for 2019. These goals are listed below, along with progress that the Working Group made towards achieving them.

Goal 1: Promote Working Group member activities on safety, multimodal connectivity, innovation, and other health-related topics within USDOT and to external audiences.

- Working Group members presented about health-related topics at transportation conferences and events, including the TRB Conference on Active Health and Transportation, the Coordinated Council on Access Mobility, the National Clinical Care Commission, and others.
- Working Group members presented at Working Group meetings to provide updates to the group on health-related topics they are working on, including presentations from NHTSA on older driver safety, FAA on the health impacts of aviation noise, and NHTSA on public health fellow research projects.
- *Ongoing:* The Working Group continues to promote members' activities and publications through existing channels.

Goal 2: Conduct research on emerging trends and technologies related to health and transportation, and serve as a resource to Working Group members and other interested parties about these topics.

The Working Group developed a white paper on the topic of rural transportation opportunities to expand mobility options and improve health. The paper describes the opportunities for expanded mobility options in rural areas, identifies potential challenges, and describes how these

challenges can be addressed and can also improve health. The Working Group will finalize the white paper in 2020.

Goal 3: Engage partner organizations to advance joint projects and research related to health in transportation.

- The Working Group continued engagement with CDC’s BEWG, including by inviting CDC representatives to participate in HinT Working Group meetings to share updates, participating in BEWG meetings, and identifying future opportunities for further collaboration.
- Working Group members engaged with TRB in planning the Conference on Health and Active Transportation, held December 2019 in Washington, DC.

6. 2020 WORKING GROUP GOALS

The Working Group offers the following goals and related activities for 2020. These goals are carried forward from 2019. The goals and activities to support them will be laid out in more detail in the 2020 HinT Work Plan.

Goal 1: Promote Working Group member activities on safety, multimodal connectivity, innovation, and other health-related topics within USDOT and to external audiences.

The Working Group will engage with related USDOT efforts and initiatives related to health, including the OST-R-led Micromobility Summit, the FHWA Administrator’s Pedestrian Safety Initiative, and OST-led Accessibility Strategic Plan. Working Group members will also conduct outreach about members’ activities and publications to internal and external audiences using existing newsletters and other channels, potentially including disseminating research results from the Working Group’s rural transportation and health white paper, sharing information on FHWA’s [corridor planning technical assistance](#) pilot projects, and other publications. The Working Group will also update the HinT website to reflect recent activities, resources, and priorities, and will continue to serve as a resource for USDOT field staff and stakeholders.

Goal 2: Conduct research on emerging trends and technologies related to health and transportation, and serve as a resource to Working Group members and other interested parties about these topics.

The Working Group will complete the white paper on rural transportation and health and share research results from that effort. Additionally, the Working Group will select and initiate an additional research project. Research products may include a white paper, a set of case studies, an update to existing tools, or another format. Working Group members will also share their expertise with the Working Group and other USDOT staff on the connections between health and other transportation trends.

Goal 3: Engage partner organizations to advance joint projects and research related to health in transportation.

The Working Group will continue to engage with CDC's BEWG, including attending each other's meetings and giving updates, and identifying opportunities for further collaboration. HinT and BEWG are planning to hold a joint meeting in March 2020 in Atlanta. The Working Group will also pursue collaboration opportunities with the new TRB Committee on Transportation and Public Health, including pursuing opportunities for USDOT representation on the committee. The Working Group will also identify additional opportunities to collaborate with other organizations.