

# Health in Transportation Working Group

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Office of Natural Environment



U.S. Department of Transportation

**Federal Highway Administration**

## CONTENTS

1. Introduction.....	4
2. Working Group Overview .....	4
3. 2020 Working Group Accomplishments .....	4
HinT Website Updates .....	5
Coordination with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.....	5
Transportation and Health Outreach Brochures .....	5
Transportation and Health Tool Review and Scoping.....	6
Pedestrian Safety.....	6
FTA-HUD Partnership on Access to Essential Services .....	6
Older Driver Safety Awareness Week.....	6
4. Other Health in Transportation Accomplishments in 2020.....	7
Resources .....	7
USDOT Funding Programs.....	7
Conferences and Events Related to Health in Transportation That Working Group Members Participated In .....	8
5. Progress Toward Achieving 2020 Goals .....	8
6. 2021 Working Group Goals.....	10

## **Notice**

The contents of this report reflect the views of the authors, who are responsible for the facts and accuracy of the data presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

This report does not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation.

## **Quality Assurance Statement**

The Federal Highway Administration provides high-quality information to serve Government, industry, and the public in a manner that promotes public understanding. Standards and policies are used to ensure and maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of its information. FHWA periodically reviews quality issues and adjusts its programs and processes to ensure continuous quality improvement.

## 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 safety, equity, accessibility, sustainability, air quality, noise, and access to jobs and services. This annual report provides an overview of the Working Group's activities in 2020, summarizes other USDOT health-related accomplishments, documents the Working Group's progress toward implementing the goals laid out in the 2019 Annual Report, and offers goals for the Working Group for 2021.

## 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. 2020 WORKING GROUP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### RURAL TRANSPORTATION OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND MOBILITY OPTIONS AND IMPROVE HEALTH

In 2019, the Working Group developed a white paper on rural transportation opportunities to expand mobility options and improve health. The paper was finalized in 2020 and was distributed to Working Group members and leadership. The paper serves as a resource 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.

## HINT WEBSITE UPDATES

In February 2020, the Working Group completed an update to the [HinT Working Group website](#). This update included refreshing [the website's resources page](#) to reflect up-to-date resources supported by the Working Group, resources developed or provided by USDOT, and resources from other related organizations and sources.

## COORDINATION WITH CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

In March 2020, Working Group members traveled to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, GA, to hold a joint meeting with the CDC's Built Environment Working Group (BEWG). At this meeting, members of the Working Group presented on Working Group activities and recent USDOT efforts related to health, and heard from BEWG members about transportation-related work at CDC. Working Group members also met separately with CDC BEWG leadership to discuss potential collaboration opportunities, as well as with CDC Physical Activity and Health Branch leadership to discuss upcoming CDC activities and additional opportunities for future collaboration between USDOT and CDC. This meeting included the following presentations from Working Group members:

- Amy Plovnick of the Volpe Center and Victoria Martinez of FHWA's Office of Natural Environment presented on the HinT Working Group and other health-related efforts within USDOT at the joint HinT-BEWG meeting held at the CDC in March 2020.
- Fred Bowers of FHWA's Office of Planning presented on his office's work on health-related topics such as pedestrian safety and Vision Zero at the joint HinT-BEWG meeting held at the CDC in March 2020.
- Guan Xu of FHWA's Office of Safety presented on her office's work on speed as a factor in roadway safety at the joint HinT-BEWG meeting held at the CDC in March 2020.
- Danielle Nelson of FTA's Office of Program Management and Wendy Heaps, the transportation lead for [CDC's Health Impact in 5 Years \(HI-5\) initiative](#), and presented on the [Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility \(CCAM\)](#) and its recent activities at the joint HinT-BEWG meeting held at the CDC in March 2020.
- Jason Broehm, then with OST's Office of Policy Development, Strategic Planning, & Performance, presented on USDOT's [Complete Trips initiative](#), a multimodal, multi-year effort led by the Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office (ITS JPO), with support from OST, FTA, and FHWA, at the joint HinT-BEWG meeting held at the CDC in March 2020.

## TRANSPORTATION AND HEALTH OUTREACH BROCHURES

In March 2020, the Working Group published [six new outreach brochures](#) on transportation and health. These brochures make the business case for transportation investments that support health

and cover topics including active health, complete streets, economic benefits, interagency cooperation, public transit, and rural and small town transportation.

## **TRANSPORTATION AND HEALTH TOOL REVIEW AND SCOPING**

The Working Group identified the [Transportation and Health Tool](#) (THT) as a topic of interest in its 2020 Work Plan. As a result, in 2020, the Working Group reviewed the tool to identify how it might be updated with recent data, as its data has not been updated since its release in 2015. The THT was heavily used in the months after its launch, with approximately 23,000 unique page views from November 2015 to January 2016. However, as the promotion of the tool slowed and the data became older, fewer people visited the website over time. Based on this information, the Working Group scoped what options existed to update and modernize the tool. This information was compiled into an options memo completed in 2020. This memo provides the basis for potential further work on the Transportation and Health Tool in 2021.

## **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

USDOT held a [Summit on Pedestrian Safety](#) in July 2020. The purpose of the summit was to provide a virtual platform for dialogue to discuss pedestrian safety issues and determine initiatives and actions to improve pedestrian safety.

Additionally, NHTSA held the [inaugural pedestrian safety month](#) in October 2020. Each week of the month, NHTSA highlighted dangerous driving behaviors that put pedestrians at risk, as well as ways to improve pedestrian safety. NHTSA [has developed resources](#) to help states and local communities identify, address, and improve pedestrian safety, including a data visualization tool, safety tips, and social media graphics and messaging.

## **FTA-HUD PARTNERSHIP ON ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

In November 2020, [FTA announced a new partnership](#) with the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)'s Office of Public and Indian Housing \(PIH\)](#) on an educational campaign about how FTA's public transportation grantees, public housing authorities, Tribally-designated housing entities, and Tribes can jointly support access to transportation, educational support services, and food, medical appointments and other essential services.

## **OLDER DRIVER SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK**

Older Driver Safety Awareness Week was held December 7-11, 2020. 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.

## 4. OTHER HEALTH IN TRANSPORTATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

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.

### RESOURCES

- NHTSA launched a [school bus driver curriculum](#) with 10 modules of e-learning. The curriculum is free for anyone to take.
- The [Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility \(CCAM\)](#) released a [cost-sharing policy statement](#) and a [federal fund braiding guide](#) to provide guidance on the 130 federal programs that can fund human service transportation in June 2020.
- The [CCAM](#) also released a [report to the president](#) identifying challenges and barriers to improving access to transportation for targeted populations in September 2020.
- Working Group members supported the development of the USDOT Draft Strategic Plan on Accessible Transportation throughout 2020. A draft of the plan was [released in early 2021](#).
- OST developed a [toolkit](#) for the [Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success \(ROUTES\)](#) initiative in July 2020.
- NHTSA developed a Motorcycle Safety Law Enforcement Course in 2020 to provide law enforcement officers an understanding of motorcyclist behavior and enforcement concepts related to motorcycle safety so that they have the knowledge and confidence to increase their contact with motorcyclists.
- NHTSA's Office of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) published [EMS by the Numbers](#).
- NHTSA published a new [factsheet on motorcycle safety](#) in November 2020.
- FHWA's Office of Human Environment published [new handouts on micromobility](#) in November 2020.

### USDOT FUNDING PROGRAMS

- In June 2020, [FTA announced \\$3.5 million in grants](#) for 17 projects in 16 states under its [Mobility for All Pilot Program](#).
- USDOT's [BUILD Transportation Grant Program](#) made up to \$1 billion 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.

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

- Working Group members participated in the [99<sup>th</sup> TRB Annual Meeting](#) in January 2020. Member activities included attending the [TRB Committee on Transportation and Health \(AME70\)](#) meeting as well as attending other sessions related to health.
- Victoria Martinez of FHWA's Office of Natural Environment presented on the Framework for Better Integrating Health into Transportation Corridor Planning during a TRB Health and Transportation Webinar in April 2020.
- Victoria Martinez of FHWA's Office of Natural Environment and Fleming El-Amin of FHWA's Office of Human Environment participated in a panel discussion on the connection between health and transportation at the AASHTO Center for Environmental Excellence's Environmental Justice Virtual Peer Exchange in July 2020.
- Briana Thrift of FHWA's Office of Transportation Policy Studies presented her research on traffic fatalities at the USDOT Safety Council meeting in September 2020.
- Briana Thrift of FHWA's Office of Transportation Policy Studies presented her research quantifying non-motorist traffic fatality racial disparities at the American Public Health Association (APHA) conference in October 2020.
- Faith Hall of FTA's Office of Research Management, Innovation, and Outreach participated in meetings and activities undertaken by the [TRB Committee on Transportation and Public Health \(AME70\)](#), of which she is a member, and shared information about the committee at HinT Working Group meetings.
- Corbin Davis of FHWA's Office of Planning presented on the [Community Connections Toolbox](#) at the August 2020 HinT Working Group meeting. The purpose of the toolbox is to help transportation agencies and practitioners incorporate innovative practices into their processes.
- Danielle Nelson of FTA's Office of Program Management presented on the [FTA's collaboration](#) with the Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at the December 2020 HinT Working Group meeting. Under this collaboration, FTA and HUD are partnering to educate stakeholders and to encourage partners to work together to improve access to transportation, especially for essential workers, with a focus on improving access to food, medical appointments, and other essential services.
- Tameka Macon of FHWA's Office of Planning joined the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)'s Transportation Planning Council in December 2020. At an initial meeting, collaboration opportunities between the two groups were discussed.

## 5. PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING 2020 GOALS

In the 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Work Plan, the HinT Working Group set three goals for its activities for 2020. 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 at the TRB Annual Meeting, meetings of the TRB Committee on Transportation and Public Health, CDC BEWG, USDOT Safety Council, and APHA.
- Working Group members presented updates regarding ongoing health-related topics and efforts at Working Group meetings.
- The Working Group updated its website to provide up-to-date information on HinT Working Group activities and resources.
- *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 finalized its white paper on the topic of rural transportation opportunities to expand mobility options and improve health in 2020. 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.

Additionally, the Working Group reviewed the Transportation and Health Tool and developed an options memo scoping possible updates to the tool. This options memo provides the basis for potential future work on updating the Transportation and Health Tool in 2021.

**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 traveled to the CDC in Atlanta, GA, in March 2020 to attend a joint HinT-BEWG meeting and hold additional discussions about the potential for future USDOT-CDC collaborations.
- The Working Group participated in TRB events, including active participation in the TRB Committee on Transportation and Public Health.
- The Working Group began participating in the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)'s Transportation Planning Council to identify health-related collaboration opportunities.

## 6. 2021 WORKING GROUP GOALS

The Working Group offers the following goals and related activities for 2021. These goals are carried forward from 2020, with some minor changes to reflect Working Group priorities. The goals and activities to support them will be laid out in more detail in the 2021 HinT Work Plan.

**Goal 1: Promote Working Group member activities on equity, sustainability, safety, 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. Working Group members will also conduct outreach about members' activities and publications to internal and external audiences using existing newsletters and other channels.

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

The Working Group will select and initiate a research project. This may include updating the Transportation Health Tool, or another research effort such as 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. The Working Group will also continue to engage with and pursue collaboration opportunities with the TRB Committee on Health and Transportation. The Working Group will also identify additional opportunities to collaborate with other organizations.