

Health in Transportation Working Group

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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CONTENTS

1. Introduction.....	4
2. Working Group Overview	4
3. 2022 Working Group Accomplishments	4
Support of DOT Strategic Plan Implementation.....	4
CDC Equity and Built Environment Research	5
Health- and Equity- Related Tools	5
Public Roads Article on Transportation and Health	6
Working Group Partnerships	6
4. Other Health in Transportation Accomplishments in 2022	7
Resources	7
Conferences and Events Related to Health and Transportation that Working Group Members Participated in	8
5. Progress Toward Achieving 2022 Goals	9
6. 2023 Working Group Goals.....	11

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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 to 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 as they relate to health. This annual report provides an overview of the Working Group's activities in 2022, summarizes other USDOT health-related accomplishments, documents the Working Group's progress toward implementing the goals laid out in the [2021 Annual Report](#), and offers goals for the Working Group for 2023.

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 from 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). Representatives from partner agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), also regularly participate in HinT Working Group meetings and activities.

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. 2022 WORKING GROUP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SUPPORT OF DOT STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

HinT Working Group members participated in work in support of the [DOT Strategic Plan FY 2022-26](#), notably around the health-related aspects of the key priority areas of safety, economic strength and global competitiveness, equity, transformation, climate and sustainability, and organizational excellence. HinT Working Group members across the USDOT aided the development or implementation of programs and produced tools, reports, and other materials in

support of the Strategic Plan goals. Some examples of Working Group members efforts to support implementation include:

- [FHWA Office of Safety Pedestrian and Bicyclist Program](#) improved safety for pedestrian and bicyclists accessing transit, developed a guide for maintaining pedestrian and bicycle facilities for enhanced safety, using [global benchmarking](#) against countries that have already adopted the Safe System Approach, and pursued the My Street and the [Focused Approach to Safety](#) programs.
- [NHTSA Office of Safety Roadway Programs Research and Development](#) built safety resource toolboxes for school bus safety, older road users, motorcyclists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other micromobility users. These toolboxes included materials such as courses, guidelines, marketing materials, reports, informational PowerPoints, and legislation trackers. Additional resources are available at [NHTSA.gov](#) and [TrafficSafetyMarketing.gov](#).
- FHWA developed the [Complete Streets Report to Congress](#) that details five challenge and opportunity areas: improve data collection and analysis, support rigorous safety assessment, accelerate adoption of standards and guidance, reinforce the primary safety for all users, and make Complete Streets FHWA's default approach.
- FHWA developed an internal Health Research Library that provides DOT staff information on emerging health in transportation issues, recent research, publications, and other related materials.

CDC EQUITY AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH

CDC published a report, [Interviews with Black Scholars in Transportation, Public Health, and Land Use](#). It discusses the barriers and racial inequities that influence physical activity decisions to inform future efforts that promote safe and healthy transportation routes to everyday destinations.

The recommendations include build trust through genuine engagement; focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion by hiring more people from racial/ethnic minority groups to serve within the federal government; increase funding for infrastructure, such as trails, sidewalks, greenspaces, housing, broadband service, and basic services such as water and energy; provide incentives for sustainable modes of transportation; and increase resources to local government for implementation.

CDC will use this report to support efforts regarding other underserved populations such as Latinos, Native Americans, and Asian-American communities.

HEALTH- AND EQUITY-RELATED TOOLS

The Working Group held informational presentations and a facilitated discussion on health- and equity-related tools developed by USDOT and other organizations to introduce the Working Group to tools that can be used to inform decision-making. These include:

- [EPA Smart Location Database](#): Nationwide geographic data resource for measuring location efficiency and shows how location in an area impacts transit services. It shows more than 90 attributes, such as housing density, diversity of land use, neighborhood design, transit service employment, and demographics.
- [EPA Access to Jobs and Workers via Transit tool](#): Provides indicators to summarize accessibility by workers, households, and population. It is a mapping tool for comparing the accessibility of neighborhoods via public transit service.
- [EPA National Walkability Index](#): Provides a walkability score based on a formula that ranks selected indicators from the Smart Location Database. Block groups are ranked relative to one another.
- [EPA Smart Location Calculator](#): Explores how workplace location affects worker commute travel. It generates location efficiency scores for a user-entered address. Users can enter an address and the tool provides a range of information on the sustainability of a specific location. Other indicators include worker greenhouse gas emissions, mode share, vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and workplace accessibility by transit.
- [Kansas Department of Health and Environment County Health Outcomes Ranking](#): Ranks counties by health outcomes and health factors. It facilitates policymaking by highlighting specific health challenges in a community.
- [Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map](#): Ranks counties by health outcomes and health factors with an emphasis on environmental factors. The map provides insights on where public investments in environmental health can be prioritized.
- [Transportation for Society and Economy \(TransportSE\)](#): This Volpe Center developed tool shows indicators of transportation burden and social vulnerability at the census block group level. Indicators can be viewed individually and as a combined social vulnerability composite metric. It could be used to deliver solutions as part of the Justice40 initiative by identifying disadvantaged communities to inform equitable decision making. The tool is currently a prototype as additional funding would be required for further development.

PUBLIC ROADS ARTICLE ON TRANSPORTATION AND HEALTH

The Working Group created a steering committee to develop an article for the summer 2023 issue of the FHWA Public Roads magazine. The steering committee includes staff and contributions from FHWA, FTA, CDC, EPA, and the Volpe Center. The proposed article will discuss transportation and health connections, the importance of community engagement for successful transportation, health, and equity outcomes. There will also be callout boxes highlighting Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM), 10 years of HinT, and new programs between DOT and EPA.

WORKING GROUP PARTNERSHIPS

The Health in Transportation Working Group continued and strengthened partnerships with representatives from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [Environmental](#)

[Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#). Representatives are invited to participate in quarterly Working Group meetings and share updates on their agency's work relevant to the group. Additionally, these partnerships have opened opportunities for further coordination on interagency projects to achieve Administration goals.

Additionally, several Working Group members participated in the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Health Committee and the [Institute of Transportation Engineers \(ITE\) Standing Committee on health](#) and shared opportunities relevant to the group, such as webinars and conferences.

4. OTHER HEALTH IN TRANSPORTATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022

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

RESOURCES

- FTA developed the [2023 CCAM strategic plan](#) with support from CDC, FHWA, FTA, and OST. Additionally, the CDC Director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, gave a [presentation](#) on connections between health and transportation when the plan was adopted in October 2022.
- FHWA and NHTSA developed the [Evaluating Disparities in Traffic Fatalities by Race, Ethnicity, and Income report](#). The document explores disparities in traffic safety among different race-ethnicity groups and economic disparities in traffic safety.
- The FHWA Office of Safety published 3 noteworthy practices on [Minnesota DOT](#), [San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Commission](#), and [CalTrans](#). All three have a health connection, primarily on reducing fatalities.
- The FHWA Office of Planning added a free web-based [training](#) on Integrating Transportation and Land Use on the National Highway Institute (NHI) site. It is designed to help practitioners design multimodal systems.
- FHWA [2022 Environmental Excellence Award Winner, Frontier MPO in Ft. Smith, AR](#) highlighted the Framework for Better Integrating Health into Transportation Corridor Planning HinT resource. By leveraging FHWA's Framework for Better Integrating Health into Transportation Corridor Planning tool, the Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was able to form critical partnerships, enhance public engagement to collect public health and equity data, and develop criteria for corridor improvements that incorporated health equity and mobility access.
- The FTA Office of Program Management released its [largest bus grant program](#) with \$1.6 billion towards clean transit buses.

- FTA developed an ArcGIS Online map showing awardees in the [Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning](#).
- Staff from OST presented to the Working Group on findings from [Request for Information: Transportation Equity Data](#), and shared the [comments summary](#). OST is developing a transportation equity research roadmap aligned with USDOT strategic priorities that builds upon previous and ongoing work to fill gaps to improve equity analysis. Working Group members will support transportation equity assessment efforts identified by the roadmap.
- OST supported development of the [White House National Nutritional Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#). The strategy aims to end hunger in America and increase healthy eating and physical activity by 2030, so fewer Americans experience diet-related diseases. Five actions were included, and OST is currently wrapping up tracking and monitoring actions.
- A representative from EPA presented to the Working Group on how EPA is working directly with communities on the ground using the Community-Driven Solutions platform to empower community voices, deliver EPA resources in a more coordinated and impactful way, and take EPA’s capacity for community work to the next level. This strengthens coordination and accelerates results from Justice40, [Energy Communities](#), climate, and post-disaster resilience.
- OST developed an [action tracking dashboard](#) for the [National Roadway Safety Strategy](#). It denotes if an identified action is preparing to begin, in progress, or complete/ongoing and includes quarterly updates on each action.
- FAA funded an article from Boston University School of Public Health titled “[Changes in Ultrafine Particle Concentrations Near a Major Airport Following Reduced Transportation Activity During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).” It compares ultrafine air particle concentration near Logan Airport in Boston, MA before, during, and after the pandemic to determine if changes in concentration corresponded to changes in aviation travel trends.
- NHTSA published [traffic safety marketing materials](#) for Older Driver Safety Awareness Week (ODSAW) materials in December.

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

- Several HinT Working Group members participated in the TRB Transportation and Public Health Committee meeting on January 11, 2022.
- FTA participated in a [webinar](#) with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Innovation Center (CMMI) titled Leveraging Value-Based Insurance Design (VBID) to Improve Equity in Transportation Access on September 15, 2022. One of the speakers was

Sherry Welsh, Senior Project Manager, [rabbitcares](#) Administrator, Susquehanna Regional Transportation Authority.

- FTA hosted an in-person meeting at the DOT media center in with FHWA administration to adopt plans and resource commitments over the next 4 years. There was an associated webinar in regarding highways, planning, and bike/ped.
- Faith Hall of the FHWA Office of Human Environment helped organize an AASHTO workshop on Elevating Equity Through Spatial Analysis and Visualization on March 19, 2022 and provided a health perspective using the [Corridor Planning Framework case studies](#).
- Anthony Boutros of the FHWA Office of Safety presented on Equity in Vision Zero at the [Texas Vision Zero Summit](#) on May 24, 2022.
- FTA hosted a [webinar](#) on the 2023 CCAM Strategic Plan on November 30, 2022.

5. PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING 2022 GOALS

In the 2021 Annual Report and 2022 Work Plan, the HinT Working Group set four goals for its activities for 2022. These goals are listed below, along with progress that the Working Group made towards achieving them.

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

- Working Group members presented updates regarding ongoing health-related topics and efforts at Working Group meetings.
- Updated the FHWA [Health in Transportation website](#) with new resources, including updating Working Group products, other USDOT Resources, other government resources, webinars and media, advocacy and coalitions, associations, and non-profits.
- Developed a matrix to describe how the Working Group activities from 2022 support the goals in the FY22-26 USDOT Strategic Plan.
- Ongoing: Working Group members support USDOT efforts and initiatives related to health, including work related to key USDOT priorities of access, climate change, equity, and safety (for more information, see Goal 4).
- Ongoing: The Working Group continues to promote members' activities and publications through existing channels.
- The Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM) held a [public webinar](#) on November 30, 2022 laying out the 2023 – 2026 strategic plan. The plan detailed how Federal agencies and key stakeholders will collaborate to improve transportation and mobility options for constituents. CCAM also shared goals created to improve transportation access for all which included promoting the development of safer and more accessible transportation networks.

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

- Held informational presentations, facilitated discussions, and considered how tools related to health, equity, and transportation can best be used to support health and transportation activities.
- Outlined and began drafting an article for the summer 2023 issue of FHWA's *Public Roads* magazine on the connections between transportation and public health. The article will build off of a [2013 Public Roads article](#) on transportation and health and highlight the HinT Working Group 10-year anniversary and recent accomplishments around access, safety, and equity.
- Working Group members shared their expertise with members and other USDOT staff on the connections between health and other transportation considerations.

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

- Participated in ITE's health committee and provided input on its health and transportation activities and identified areas for future collaboration
- Continued participation in the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Committee on Health and Transportation.
- Continued coordination with CDC's Built Environment Work Group (BEWG), including inviting representatives from CDC to participate in HinT Working Group meetings.
- Invited representatives from EPA to participate in HinT Working Group meetings.
- Collaborated with representatives from CDC and EPA on steering committee to develop the *Public Roads* article

Goal 4: Support implementation of new health and transportation related programs.

- Working Group members provided regular updates on new health and transportation programs. This includes updates as relevant programs have been developed, and efforts from Working Group members to support program development and implementation.
- Working Groups members supported other USDOT groups tasked with implementing the new program, such as the National Roadway Safety Strategy, DOT Equity Plan, and the Thriving Communities Pilot Program. These Working Group members served as a resource to the groups on topics related to transportation and health and provided relevant updates to the HinT WG.

6. 2023 WORKING GROUP GOALS

The Working Group offers the following goals and related activities for 2023. These goals are carried forward from 2022, 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 2023 HinT Work Plan.

- Goal 1: Promote Working Group member health-related activities associated with equity, climate change, safety, and innovation within USDOT and to external audiences.
- Goal 2: Develop or disseminate tools, research, and training related to health and transportation, and serve as a resource to Working Group members and other interested parties about these topics.
- Goal 3: Engage partner organizations to advance health in transportation initiatives.
- Goal 4: Support implementation of new health and transportation programs.
- Goal 5: Publish the Summer 2023 Public Roads article to increase awareness regarding the health and transportation nexus, and highlight the contributions being made by Federal Agencies in this space.