

PBIC Livable Communities Webinar Series

Using Health Impact Assessments to connect bicycle and pedestrian safety and health



Bethany Rogerson, Health Impact Project

Jim Skoog, St. Louis County, Minn.

Ellen Pillsbury, Arrowhead Regional Dev. Comm.

Brendon Haggerty, Clarke County, Wash.

July 24, 2012, 3:30 pm



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Today's Presentation

- ⇒ **Introduction and housekeeping**
- ⇒ **Audio issues?** Dial into the phone line instead of using “mic & speakers”
- ⇒ **PBIC Trainings and Webinars**
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- ⇒ **Registration and Archives at**
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- ⇒ **Questions at the end**



PBIC Livable Communities Webinar Series

Health Impact Assessment: What, Where, Why?

July 24, 2012

Bethany Rogerson
Health Impact Project

www.healthimpactproject.org



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Presentation Overview

- What influences our health?
- What is HIA and how can it add value to a decision-making process?
- Where is HIA being used and how?
- How can HIAs connect bicycle and pedestrian safety and health?
- What resources are there to conduct an HIA?



The Public's Health



The Problem

So many daily policy, project, and program decisions made outside of the health sector have significant health implications that go unrecognized because health is just not on the radar screens of decision makers.



What is HIA?

Health Impact Assessment has been defined in various ways, but essentially it is:

A structured process that uses scientific data, professional expertise, and stakeholder input to identify and evaluate public health consequences of proposals and suggests actions that could be taken to minimize adverse health impacts and optimize beneficial ones

Source: “Improving Health in the United States: The Role of Health Impact Assessments” by the National Research Council, September 2011



What HIA is NOT...

- It's not used to make the case for why a policy, program or project should be proposed.
- It's not an assessment to understand the impacts of a program or policy once it has been implemented.
- It's not a community assessments tool (i.e., MAPP, CHIP, CHA), but those are used during the assessment stage of HIA.



The HIA Process

- **Screening**: *Is HIA feasible and likely to add value?*
- **Scoping**: *What are the important health effects, who are the affected populations, what is available evidence?*
- **Assessment**: *What are the baseline conditions and likely health effects?*
- **Recommendations**
- **Reporting**: *Disseminate the report to the public, stakeholders, solicit input*
- **Monitoring and Evaluation**



Key Values of HIA

- Democracy
- Equity
- Sustainable Development
- Ethical Use of Evidence
- Holistic Approach to Health



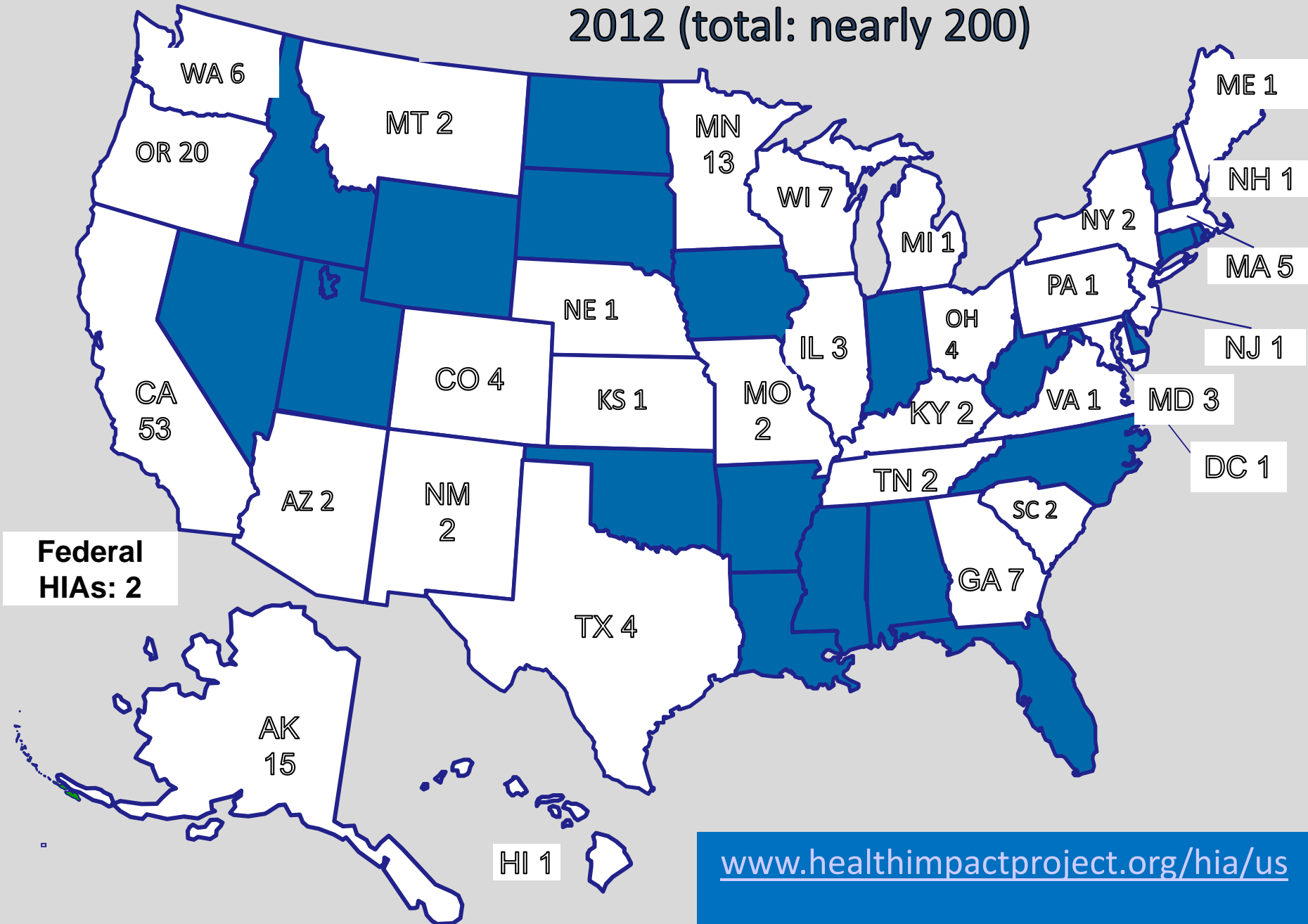
Source: The International Association of Impact Assessment (Quigley 2006)

The Benefits of HIA...

1. Involves a **broad-range of impacted people**
 - Community, business/industry, decision makers, etc.
2. It's an effective tool for **meaningful cross-sector collaboration**
 - Relationships/trust are built among partners through HIA process
 - Increases likelihood of routine consideration of health

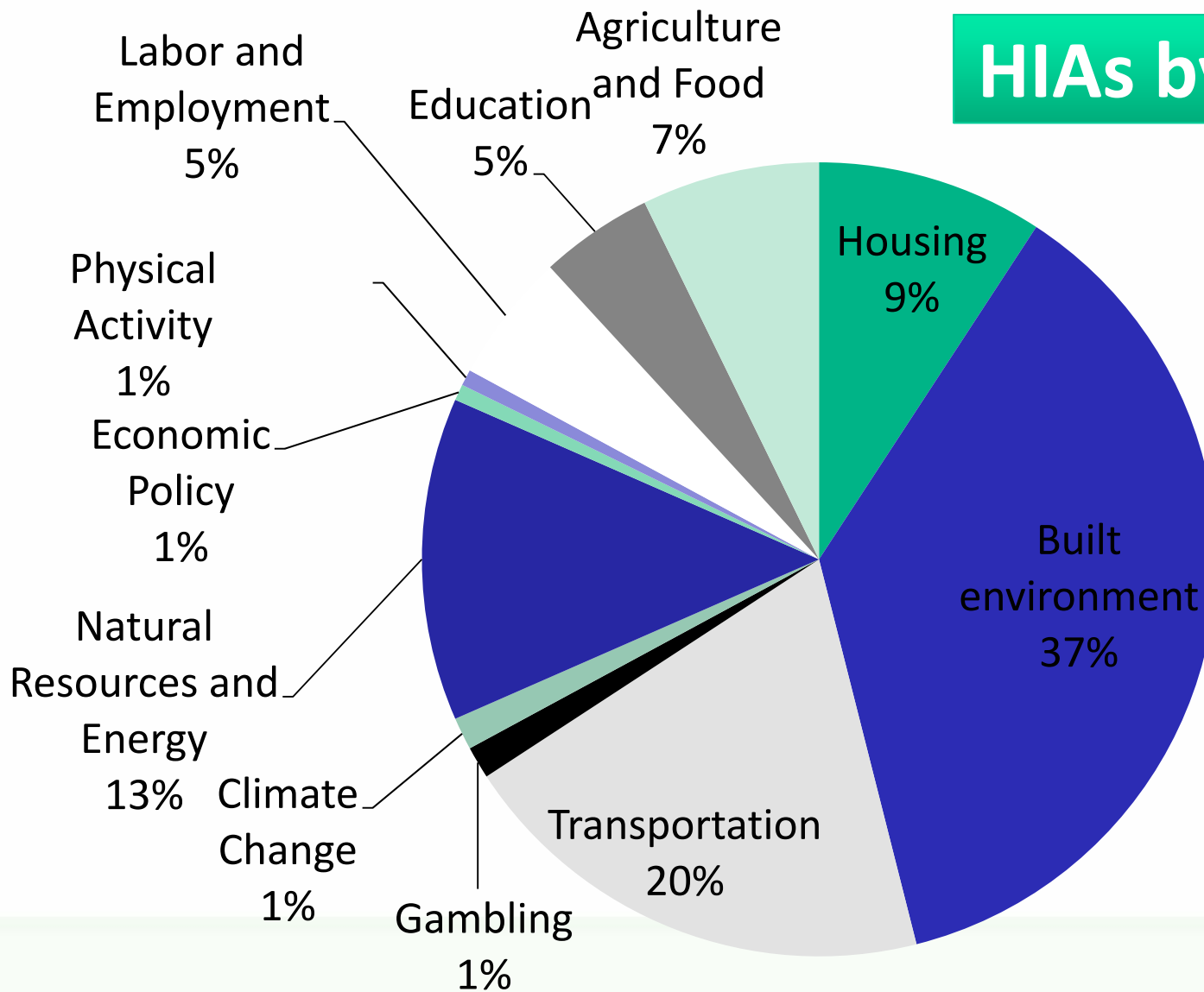


Completed HIA and In Progress HIAs 2012 (total: nearly 200)



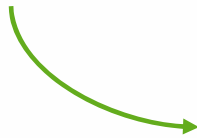
**Federal
HIAs: 2**

HIAs by Sector



HIA Addresses Determinants of Health

How might the proposed project, plan, policy



- affect*
- Housing
- Noise
- Safety*
- Air quality*
- Social networks*
- Transportation**
- Parks and natural space*
- Physical activity*
- Private goods / services
- Nutrition
- Public services
- Livelihood
- Water quality
- Education
- Inequities

And potentially lead to predicted health outcomes?



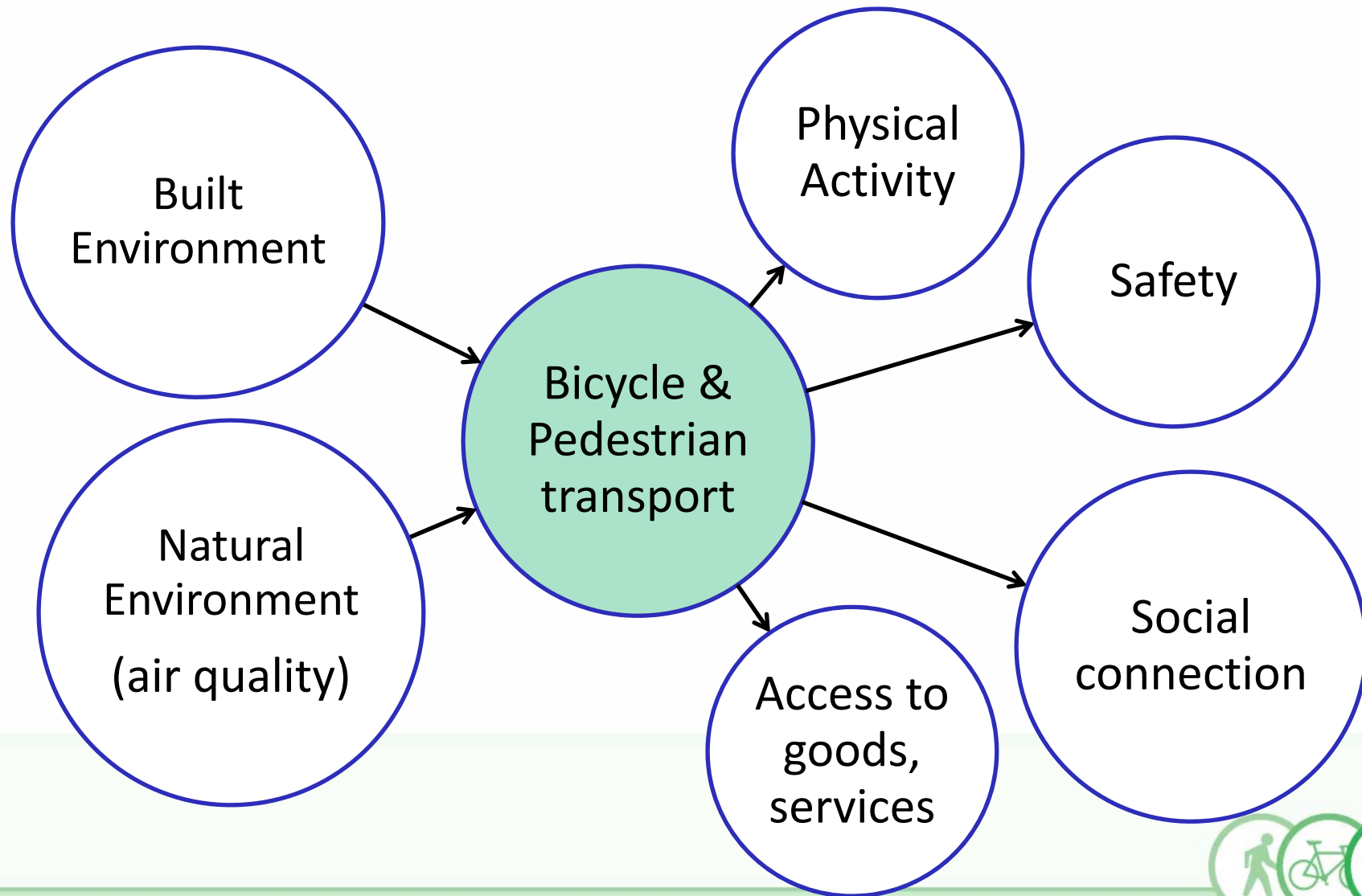
Slide courtesy of Human Impact Partners

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How are bicycle and pedestrian transport connected to health?



Bicycle and Pedestrian Environment and HIAs of Programs, Plans

Land use plans	<p>Housing developments, revitalization plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• University of Rochester Waterfront Revitalization Plan (Rochester, NY)
Transportation plans	<p>New transit stations, roadway expansions, new rail lines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buford Highway (Atlanta, GA)• Street Design Ordinance (Davidson, NC)• East Bay Greenway (Alameda County, CA)• Daniel Morgan Avenue Road “Diet” (Spartanburg, SC)
Comprehensive or specific area plans	<p>Guides for future development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clark County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (Clark County, WA)



Resources

General HIA Resources

- National Research Council HIA report
- Health Impact Project: www.healthimpactproject.org
- Human Impact Partners: www.humanimpact.org
- HIA Guide: www.hiaguide.org

Assessment Tools

- Systematic Pedestrian and Cycling Environmental Scan (SPACES) Instrument
- Neighborhood Environment Walkability Survey (NEWS)
- Healthy Development Measurement Tool (HDMT)
- Pedestrian Environmental Quality Index (PEQI)



Thank you!

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Duluth, Minnesota's Hillside HIA

Jim Skoog

St. Louis County Public Health

Ellen Pillsbury

**Arrowhead Regional Development
Commission**



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Duluth Hillside Neighborhood's HIA

- Full report and Executive Summary is on the Health Impact Project's website

<http://www.healthimpactproject.org/>



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Minnesota's HIA History

- By 2011, about 12 HIA's conducted
- Comprehensive plans and land use plans were most common
- Duluth's HIA - one of two outside the Twin Cities Metro area



Duluth's Hillside HIA

- 6th Avenue East Schematic Redesign
- Duluth's Complete Streets Resolution
- Mobility in the Hillside neighborhoods



6th Avenue East (south view)



6th Avenue East (north view)



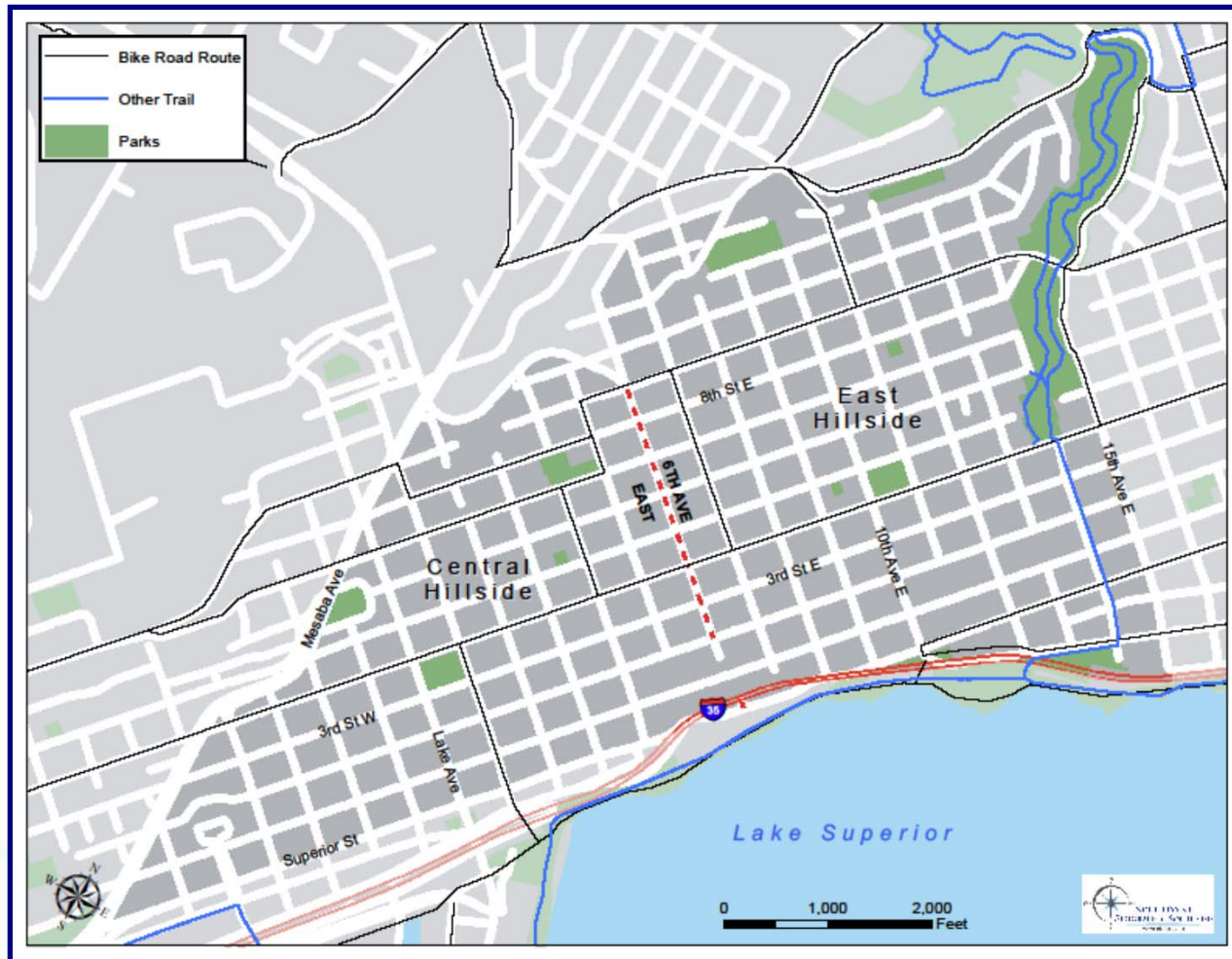
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Background on 6th Avenue East

- Former MN Trunk Highway 194
- Arterial, straight, 4-lane, high speeds
- Barrier for all non-motorized transportation
- Many crashes
- Beginning to fail motorized vehicles
- Ongoing neighborhood concern



Hillside Neighborhood Map



6th Ave E Schematic Redesign Study

- Completed in 2010
- Surface redesign only
- Both public and technical advisor input
- Limited to 7 blocks & within right-of-way



Initial HIA Team Assessment

- Residents avoided crossing 6th Avenue East
- Too few bus stops - a concern
- Emergency access to hospitals - a concern
- Vibrant, green, friendly corridor wanted
- Fidelity to Complete Streets is vital



Health Categories

- Accessibility & Safety - combined
- Physical Activity – our source of funding
- Livability – mental health, noise & “green” environment - combined



Health Indicator & Recommendations

Accessibility & Safety Category

- HI - Bus accessibility. REC - add stops & install shelters where warranted
- HI - Crashes on 6th Ave E. REC - Monitor crashes and apply mitigation measures



Hillside Crashes - 2005-2009



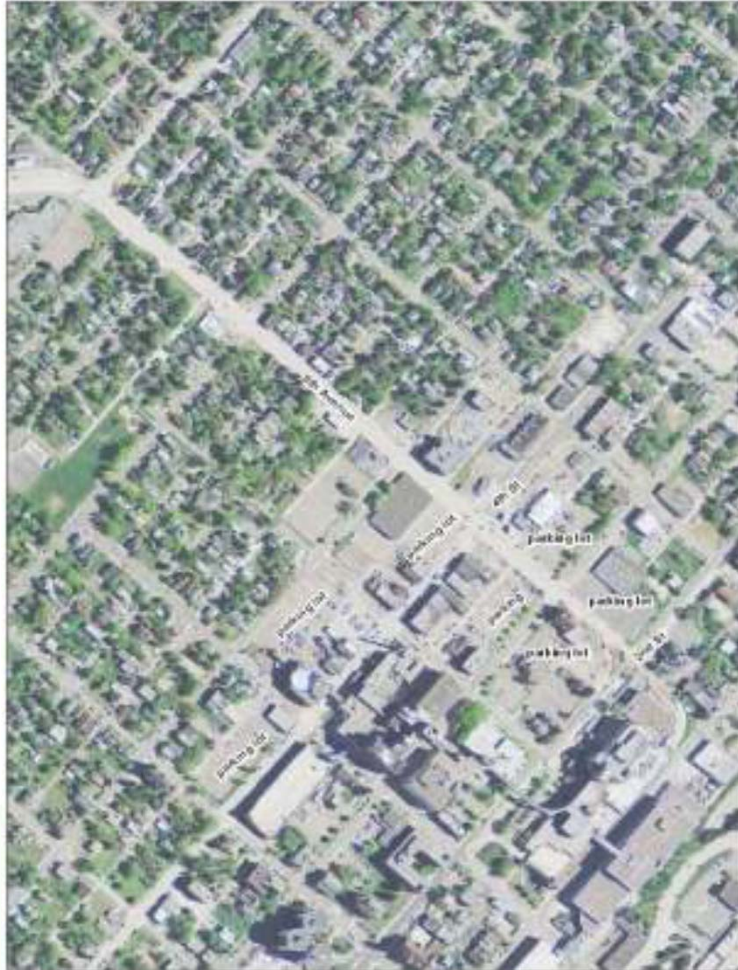
Health Indicator & Recommendations

Physical Activity Category

- HI - Policies & plans. REC - monitor implementation and use for healthy development
- HI - Winter connectivity. REC - Support “Duluth Digs” for residential snow removal

Health Indicator & Recommendations

Livability Category



- HI - Unattractive parking lots. REC - Implement UDC parking standards and focus on “green” improvements

Reporting

- Reports complete & distributed
- Press release
- Meeting with city staff
- Meeting with city council



Monitoring

- Work with city to reconstruct 6th Avenue East – not an immediate priority
- Monitor Complete Streets implementation
- Public Health monitors fulfillment of recommendations



HIA Conclusions

- HIA paired with Redesign & upcoming traffic study
- HIA recommendations positively affect health categories
- City's Comp Plan supports HIA recommendations



HIA Conclusions

- Roadway redesign is feasible
- Out of right-of-way changes are feasible
- City policies and HIA recommendations support neighborhood unification and improved resident health
- THANK YOU



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Applying HIA to Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

Brendon Haggerty
Clark County Public Health



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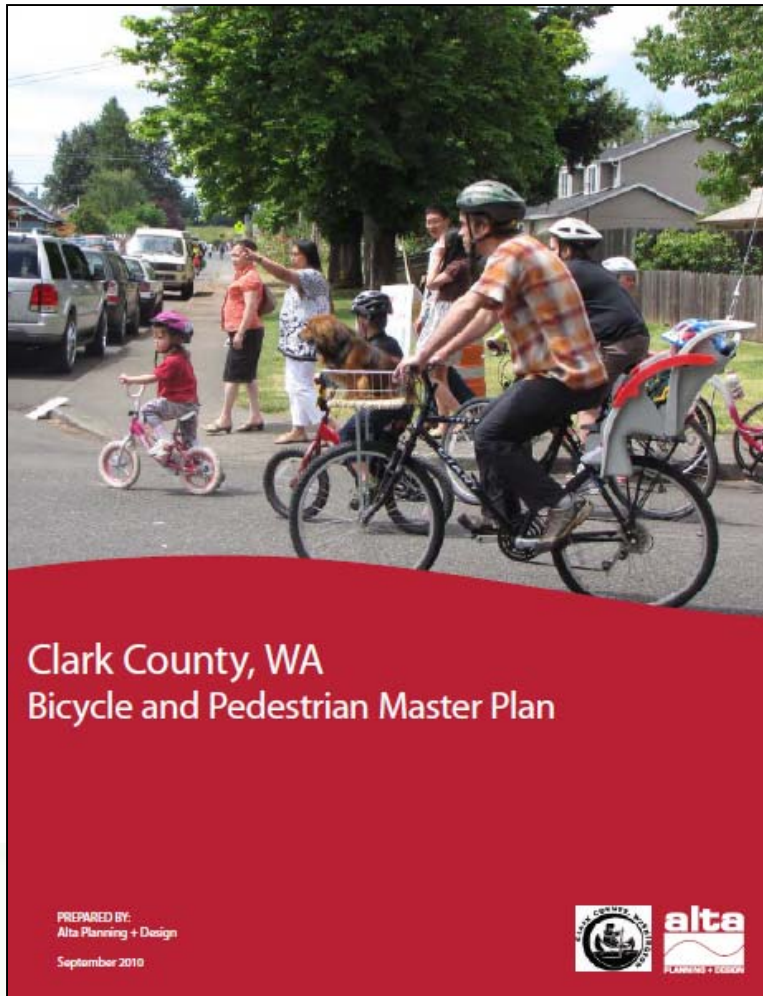
Overview

- Plan summary
- HIA approach
- Recommendations
- Evaluation
- Lessons learned



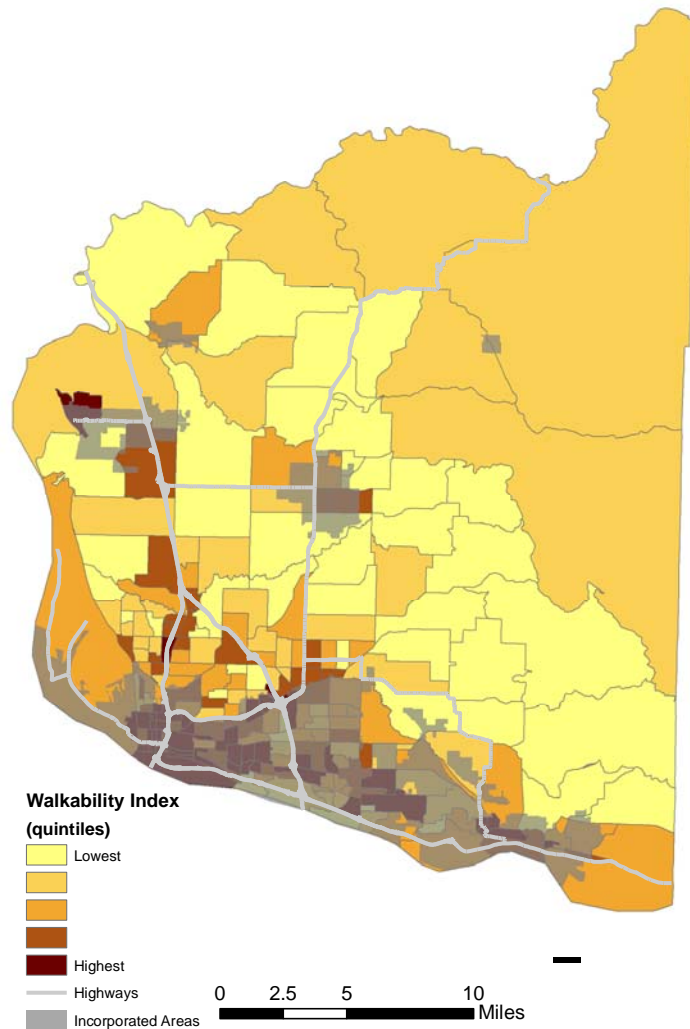
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Clark County Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan



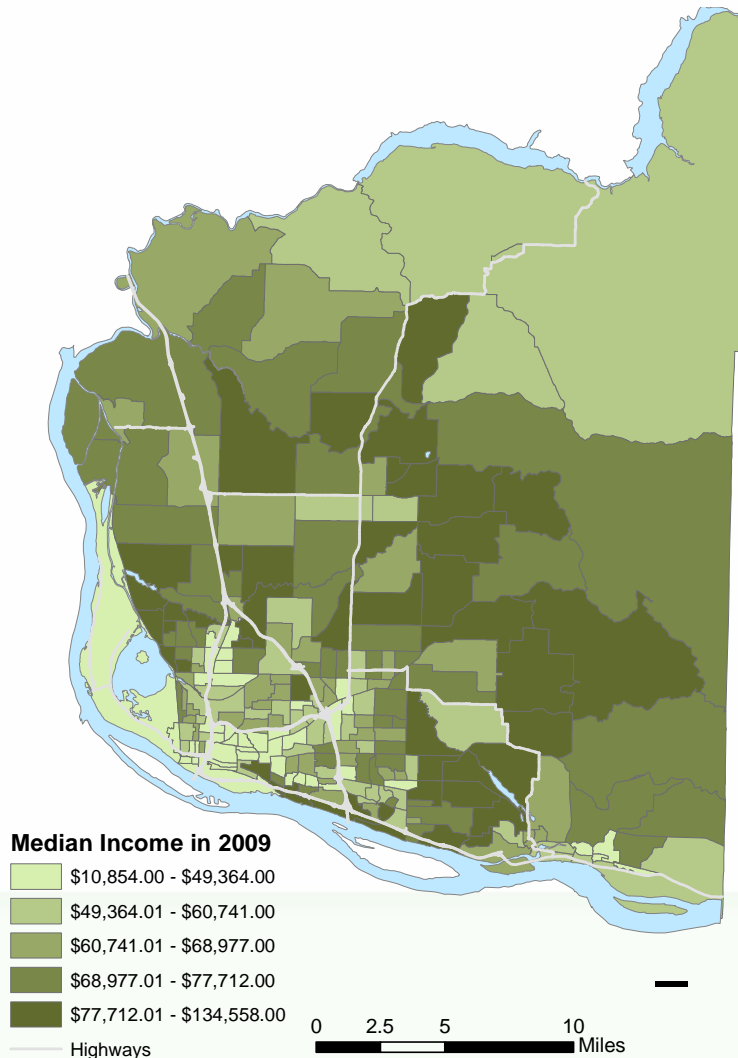
- Programs
- Projects
- Policies

HIA Approach



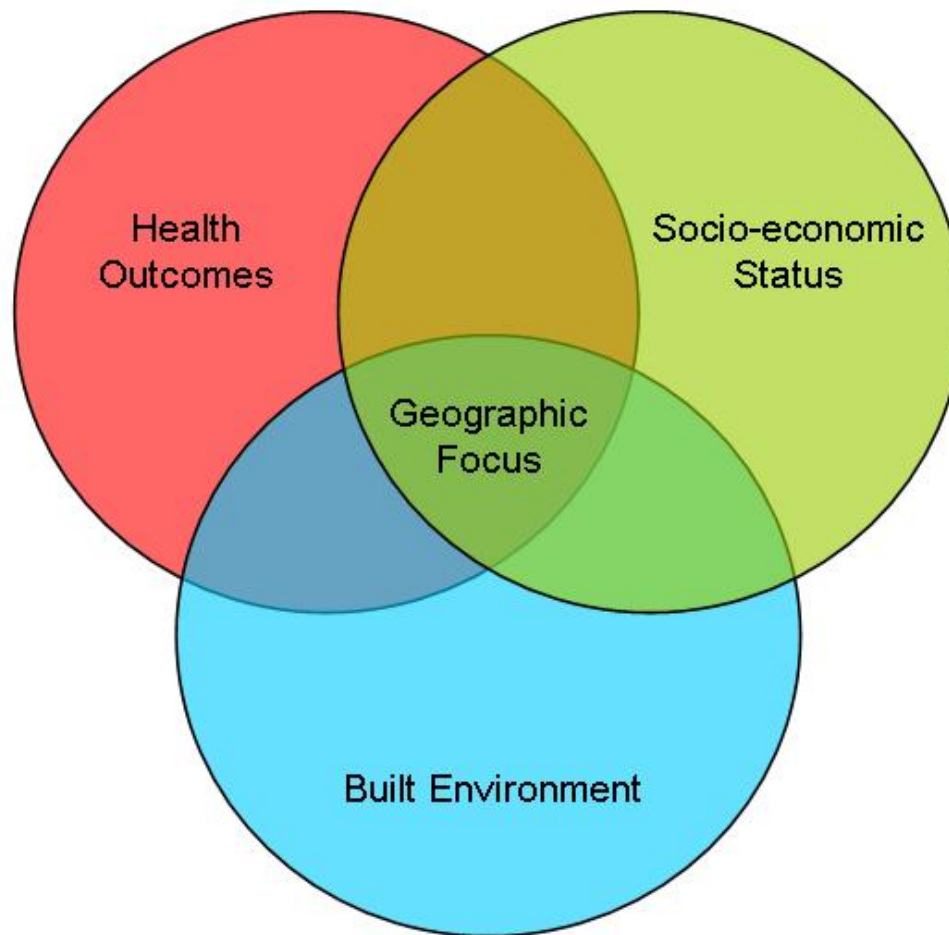
- Iterative Rapid + Comprehensive
- Baseline Assessment
- Impact Assessment
- Recommendations

Baseline Assessment



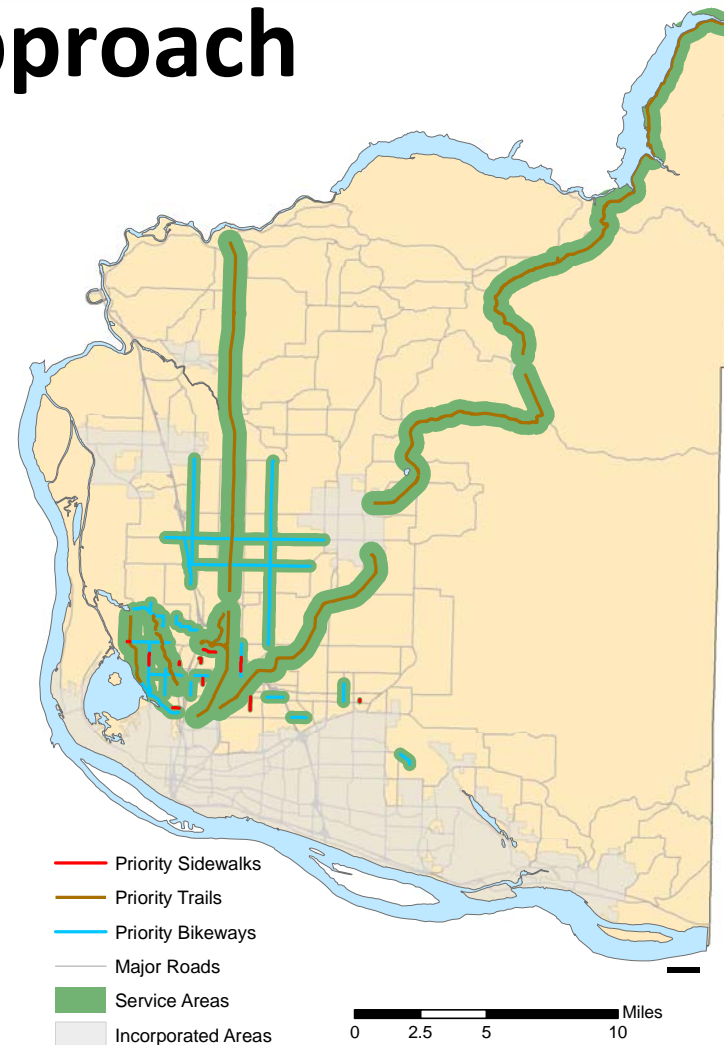
- Demographics
- Overweight & obesity
- Crashes
- Access to resources
- Walkability & bikeability

Impact Assessment



HIA Approach

- Compared impacts by school attendance area & neighborhood socioeconomic status



Findings

- When all projects are completed, about 95,000 residents will be served.
- 50% of proposed sidewalk miles and 45% of bikeway miles are in low-income neighborhoods.



Recommendations




- Low-speed designs
- Variety of facility types
- Parking programs
- Performance measures
- Land use policies
- Food access
- Design for all users
- Recognize safety in numbers
- Include health & equity in criteria



Evaluation

- **Process:** Did we do what we said we would?
- **Impact:** How did the HIA affect the decision?
- **Outcome:** Did the HIA change health determinants or outcomes?

Evaluation

Not adopted	
Partially adopted	
Fully adopted	

Recommendation 9: Include health and equity as project prioritization criteria

Finding: Fully adopted

Discussion: The planning committee developed a 100-point prioritization scoring process. Of these, 20 were allocated to health outcomes, allocated based on neighborhood socioeconomic status and potential to increase physical activity.

Evaluation

Examples of key themes

Informants recall exposure to health data.

The HIA exposed equity issues that were not brought up elsewhere.

Health information was useful and influenced the plan.

The HIA broadened perspectives and increased understanding of the consequences of decisions.

Lessons Learned

Strengths early involvement, iterative approach, extensive baseline assessment, collaborative relationships

Challenges data needs, state of the science, economic terms, communicating data, timing, dissemination

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Read related documents at:
<http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/reports/facts.html>

Thank You!

⇒ **Archive at** <http://www.walkinginfo.org/webinars>

- Downloadable and streaming recording, transcript, presentation slides

⇒ **Questions?**

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