# HEALTH IN TRANSPORTATION WORKING GROUP 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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Health in Transportation Working Group 2017 Annual Report

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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 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 2017, summarizes other USDOT health-related accomplishments, documents the Working Group’s progress toward implementing the recommendations laid out in the 2016 Annual Report, and offers goals for the Working Group for 2018.

Many of the Working Group’s activities in 2017 support the goals in the USDOT Strategic Plan of safety, infrastructure, innovation, and accountability. The Appendix demonstrates how the Working Group activities described in this report support these goals.

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, including Chief Counsel, Federal Lands Highway, Planning, Environment, and Realty, Resource Center Environment and Planning Technical Service Teams, and Safety. 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. 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. 2017 WORKING GROUP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COORDINATION WITH CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

DATA LINKAGE PILOT

In 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and USDOT continued their collaboration to improve understanding of interactions between transportation and health with a pilot project that linked transportation system data with public health data. The project tested the feasibility of linking individual-level geospatial transportation variables around the geocoded residential location of respondents to CDC’s National Health Interview Survey. Using the exact residential location can give researchers a better measure of exposure to transportation variables and how it affects health. The study used data from four large states – California, Florida, New York, and Texas – for the years 2011-2014. The project team found that the process for linking the data is feasible, straightforward, and could be scripted. However, the national dataset is very large, and it would be resource intensive to do a full national match. The project team from CDC and USDOT presented their results at the March 2017 HinT Working Group meeting.

CDC-DOT COORDINATION WORKSHOP

On November 9, 2017, the HinT Working Group and the CDC Built Environment Work Group (BEWG) held a joint workshop to advance collaboration and coordination between the two working groups on topics relating to the intersection of health and transportation. The workshop focused on developing a roadmap for BEWG and HinT Working Group collaboration over the next several years. To this end, participants split into three breakout groups: active transportation and physical activity, State and local coordination on transportation planning and health, and transportation and health data linkages. The breakout groups identified desired outcomes and potential activities for collaboration. They then held follow-up calls in late 2017/early 2018 to build upon the discussion and identify specific interagency collaboration activities. This was the third workshop since 2014 at which staff from both agencies have met to explore opportunities to build on previous interagency collaborations.

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

HinT Working Group members collaborated with the BEWG and others to plan and deliver a session focused on health and transportation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) annual meeting. The panel session focused on promoting equity through health, transportation, and other infrastructure collaborations. Panelists and participants discussed several examples of multi-sector collaboration and decisionmaking processes that have been used to successfully address inequities, and how to expand these kinds of collaborations in the future.

The HinT Working Group and BEWG also organized a peer exchange and networking session for APHA participants and community activists to discuss health and transportation. They then went on a bus tour led by a community member and learned about the ecosystem that contributes to healthy communities in Atlanta, with a focus on community development and health.
CASE STUDIES

The Working Group has developed the last in a series of case studies that highlight how transportation agencies are using their transportation planning and project development processes to support community priorities such as safety, multimodal connectivity, air quality, or physical activity. The Working Group published one case study in 2017 and drafted two additional case studies that are expected to be published in early 2018. These case studies, along with two published in 2016, are available on the Health in Transportation website. The new case studies are:

- **Planning for Transportation and a Healthier North Central Texas**: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the metropolitan planning organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth region, has integrated health into its transportation planning process, including its most recent long-range transportation plan. NCTCOG is using data on health-related indicators to assess the health of counties today and to measure changes in the future.

- **Considering Health in Transportation Planning and Project Selection in the Chattanooga Region**: The Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia Transportation Planning Organization’s regional transportation plan identified gaps in access to active transportation facilities and health-related destinations, and used performance measures related to health to prioritize projects that close those gaps.

- **Go Boston 2030: Planning a Transportation System that Supports Residents’ Health**: From 2015 to early 2017, the city of Boston developed Go Boston 2030, a long-term mobility plan that includes a vision for the city’s transportation system and a list of actions to be implemented in the next 5, 10, and 15 years. The city saw Go Boston 2030 as a way to integrate walking and bicycling more completely into the transportation system, as well as to look ahead to emerging technologies and trends that will play a role in the next 15 years.

HAPPY, HEALTHY, SMART CITIES SYMPOSIUM (KNOXVILLE, TN)

The Happy, Healthy, Smart Cities Symposium was held in Knoxville, Tennessee on March 29-30, 2017 and organized through the FHWA/FTA Transportation Planning Capacity Building program. The idea for the peer exchange originated locally because the city was attempting to use their zoning code update and transportation plan to improve economic development and increase public involvement. An interdisciplinary group planned the event, including the MPO, local government, University of Tennessee, and several USDOT offices, some of which participate in the HinT Working Group. The [report](#) summarizing the event discusses findings related to modernizing public engagement tools, building healthy communities, and supporting all modes of transportation.

RIDES TO WELLNESS

FTA’s [Rides to Wellness](#) initiative promotes coordination and partnerships between health and transportation providers. The goals of Rides to Wellness include increasing access to care, improving health outcomes, and reducing healthcare costs. FTA awarded 19 grants under the
Rides to Wellness Demonstration Grant program in 2017. FTA also released a report on the Rides to Wellness Community Scan Project, which was intended to determine the impact of transportation barriers on health care costs and to highlight existing, patient-centered transportation solutions.

**MAKING CONNECTIONS: SAFE, MULTIMODAL, COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS IN CORRIDOR PLANNING UPDATE**

FHWA and FTA developed the Framework for Better Integrating Health into Transportation Corridor Planning (Framework) in 2016, with oversight from the HinT Working Group. The Framework is an action-oriented, flexible guide for communities that are considering health in an agency’s existing corridor planning process. In 2017, FHWA established a contract to update the Framework, which will include new case studies that focus on making the business case for incorporating safety and multimodal connectivity considerations into corridor planning.

**JOURNAL OF TRANSPORT AND HEALTH ARTICLE**

In 2017, HinT Working Group members and CDC staff developed an article for the September 2017 issue of the Journal of Transport and Health that describes the Transportation and Health Tool and how it can be used. The Transportation and Health Tool (THT) provides practitioners data on a set of transportation and public health indicators for each U.S. State and metropolitan area.

**2017 WORK PLAN**

The Working Group’s 2017 Work Plan outlined the planned activities for the year. The activities included collaborating with CDC; engaging with other organizations including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), and Transportation Research Board (TRB); developing communication tools; supporting field staff; developing health-related tools; writing health in transportation case studies; and developing research ideas. The Working Group also aimed to continue engaging USDOT leadership and expanding Working Group membership within USDOT.

**4. OTHER HEALTH IN TRANSPORTATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017**

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, member participation in related conferences and meetings, and coordination with other organizations and groups.

**RESOURCES**

- NHTSA completed a five-year cooperative agreement with the Safe States Alliance focusing on bicycle and pedestrian safety. They implemented a number of initiatives under the agreement, including developing consensus recommendations for pedestrian
injury surveillance, publishing a report highlighting program successes and lessons learned, and developing a Pedestrian Injury Prevention Portal website to house related resources.

- The FHWA Office of Safety worked on the Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP) initiative, part of Every Day Counts 4, which aims to improve unsignalized and uncontrolled crossing locations to enhance pedestrian safety. STEP involves five countermeasures: road diets, pedestrian hybrid beacons, pedestrian refuge islands, raised crosswalks, and crosswalk visibility enhancements. The FHWA Office of Safety is working with 26 States that have indicated that they are interested in implementing the initiative’s countermeasures.

- The FHWA Office of Safety released an updated list of Proven Safety Countermeasures. The list includes 20 treatments and strategies that practitioners can implement to successfully address roadway departure, intersection, and pedestrian and bicycle crashes.

- OST completed the Safety for All Users report, which is required under Section 1442 of the FAST Act. The report identifies eight multimodal policy and program areas that can be implemented to help improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other users, and it provides examples from States that have done so.

- OST published a series of case studies that describe how States, MPOs, and industry groups are working to develop and implement new performance metrics distinct from the traditional automobile level of service (LOS) model. The case studies present the experiences of agencies working to achieve specific goals—related to financial constraints, safety, and the environment—and finding that in order to do so, they must update their use of LOS.

- The FHWA Office of Human Environment published a number of resources on active transportation, including reports that address considerations for accommodating pedestrians with vision disabilities; implementing context sensitive and design; implementing bicycle and pedestrian connections to transit; and implementing small town and rural multimodal networks.

- The FHWA Office of Human Environment released a free Fundamentals of Environmental Justice web-based training course through the National Highway Institute.

**MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN RELATED CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**

Working Group members participated in the following conferences and meetings:

- FHWA: Attended and presented at the National Walking Summit in September 2017, which included a majority of attendees from the health sector.
- FHWA: Presented at Obesity Week in October/November 2017 about FHWA efforts to support bicycling and walking.
- FHWA: Attended the California Planning Conference, hosted by Caltrans, which included a number of sessions and conversations related to transportation and health in the State.
• OST: Participated in a gathering of local health officials convened by the National Association and County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) as part of CDC’s Health Impact in 5 Years initiative, with a particular focus on the health benefits associated with expanded transit service. A Working Group member provided an overview of the transportation planning process at the State and metropolitan levels and opportunities for public health officials to get involved.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS

• Working Group members participated in several research studies related to health in transportation through TRB. These include:
  o An Airport Cooperative Research Program project on Assessing Aircraft Noise Conditions Affecting Student Achievement (ACRP 02-47).
  o A Transit Cooperative Research Program project to develop a guidebook on effective practices to build health and transportation partnerships, as well as a research roadmap that outlines specific research projects to address existing needs and gaps in the area of access to health care facilities (TCRP H-55).
  o A National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) project on developing a research roadmap for transportation and public health (NCHRP 20-112).
  o A NCHRP project on developing a guidebook for communications between transportation and public health communities (NCHRP 25-25(105)).

• David Berrigan of the NIH National Cancer Institute (NCI) gave a presentation at the March 2017 HinT Working Group meeting. He provided an overview of NCI’s work related to transportation, including research on the topics of pollution, community, safety, and physical activity and sedentary behavior.

• Chris Kochtitzky of CDC gave a presentation at the July 2017 HinT Working Group meeting on a new recommendation of the CDC Community Guide that focuses on transportation, the built environment, and physical activity.

• Working Group members provided input and expertise to ITE as they developed a transportation and health initiative. This included serving on a task force of individuals from outside ITE who are providing input on the initiative, giving a presentation on a webinar on health and transportation tools, and reviewing ideas for future research.

5. 2017 PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

This section lists the recommendations from the 2016 Annual Report and discusses Working Group progress in 2017 toward meeting these recommendations. Next steps on these recommendations are discussed in the Working Group’s 2018 goals (see Section 6).

Recommendation #1: Communicate with External Audiences using Existing Mechanisms

The Working Group continued to post relevant information on the Health in Transportation website, including case studies and the Working Group’s annual report. Moving forward, the
Working Group will continue to identify avenues for sharing updates about activities in existing USDOT newsletters and email lists, such as the Multimodal Connectivity newsletter or the Human Environment Digest.

Recommendation #2: Continue to Coordinate with CDC

In 2017, the HinT Working Group collaborated with CDC in several ways:

- Working Group members and CDC staff completed a pilot project to link health and transportation data and presented the findings to the HinT Working Group at the March 2017 meeting.
- The HinT Working Group and BEWG held a joint workshop in November 2017 in Atlanta to plan future collaboration activities.
- HinT Working Group members collaborated with the BEWG and others to plan and deliver a session at APHA focused on health and transportation, as well as a related peer exchange and networking session.

Recommendation #3: Engage USDOT Field Staff on Health in Transportation

FHWA field staff from two States (California and Nebraska) participated in Working Group meetings in 2017. FHWA Tennessee Division Office staff helped to plan the Happy, Healthy, Smart Cities Symposium in Knoxville. FTA field staff from Region 4 participated in the CDC-DOT workshop in Atlanta.

Recommendation #4: Expand Working Group Membership within USDOT

Staff from two FHWA Division Offices and the FHWA Office of Operations participated in the Working Group for the first time in 2017. Moving forward, Working Group members will reach out to agencies and offices within USDOT that are not involved in the Working Group to determine whether they might be interested in participating in Working Group activities. These agencies and offices might include the Federal Railroad Administration, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and the FHWA Offices of Freight Management and Civil Rights, as well as additional FHWA and FTA field offices.

Recommendation #5: Engage Leadership in Working Group Activities

Two of the Working Group meetings in 2017 included Executive Sessions, where Office Directors of Working Group members attended to receive updates about recent activities and provide input on future direction. The Working Group plans to continue holding semi-annual Executive Sessions in 2018.

6. 2018 WORKING GROUP GOALS

This section offers goals for the Working Group to address in 2018 based on activities and discussions at meetings in 2017. Through these goals, the Working Group will aim to support the broader USDOT goal areas of safety, infrastructure, innovation, and accountability. Activities
that the Working Group plans to undertake to meet these goals will be discussed in more detail in the 2018 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 strive to promote members’ efforts to advance health and educate stakeholders. In 2018, these efforts may include:

- Development of a decision making framework on Making Connections: Safe, Multimodal, Community Considerations in Corridor Planning. This will include case studies that focus on making the business case for incorporating safety and multimodal connectivity into corridor planning.
- FTA’s **Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility** (ICAM) grant program (previously Rides to Wellness);
- A NHTSA project on educating health care providers on older driver safety; and
- FHWA projects relating to automated vehicles and shared mobility.

The Working Group will identify outreach and educational opportunities to share information about these and other projects, including using existing USDOT newsletters, email lists, and webinars for sharing information about health in transportation.

**Goal 2: Expand Working Group engagement on USDOT priorities such as multimodal connectivity, safety, and innovative technology.**

Working Group members will aim to serve as resources within USDOT on the connections between health and USDOT’s Strategic Goals – safety, infrastructure, innovation, and accountability. The Working Group will use ongoing USDOT initiatives, such as Planning and Environment Linkages, Context-Sensitive Solutions and Design, the Human Environment Working Group, bicycle and pedestrian initiatives, and automated and connected vehicle initiatives as opportunities to connect with field staff that work in planning or project development.

**Goal 3: Build upon previous collaboration with CDC to advance joint projects and research related to health in transportation.**

Building upon the November 2017 workshop and previous collaboration, Working Group members will continue to collaborate with CDC on projects within the topics of active transportation, State and local coordination, and data linkages.

**Goal 4: Serve as a resource to Working Group members and other interested parties about emerging trends and technologies.**

Through guest presentations at quarterly meetings and use of the internal HinT email list, the Working Group will serve as a resource on trends and emerging technologies related to health in transportation. The Working Group will share expertise and make connections across the
Department on topics such as the impacts of automated vehicles, air pollution and noise impacts of new technologies, and transportation and health in rural areas.
This table describes how the activities from the HinT 2017 Annual Report support the goals in the USDOT Strategic Plan:

- **Safety**: Reduce transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries across the transportation system.
- **Infrastructure**: Invest in infrastructure to ensure mobility and accessibility and to stimulate economic growth, productivity, and competitiveness for American workers and businesses.
- **Innovation**: Lead in the development and deployment of innovative practices and technologies that improve the safety and performance of the nation’s transportation system.
- **Accountability**: Serve the nation with reduced regulatory burden and greater efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability.

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<th>Working Group Accomplishments</th>
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