

# BUILDING CAPACITY TO PERFORMING HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (HIAS)

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual New Partners for  
Smart Growth Conference**

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**Minnesota Department of Health**



# PILOT HIA GRANTS—SPONSORED BY ASTHO & CDC

- Four states funded: CA, MN, OR & WI
- Funding started in 2009
- up to \$90,000/year

Goal: build capacity to perform HIAs

- Training: in-person/Webinars
- Communication: Websites/listservs
- Practice: perform HIAs/grants to locals
- Sharing Lessons Learned/Evaluation



# LAST YEAR'S HIA-RELATED ACCOMPLISHMENTS—ASTHO GRANT

- 3 HIA trainings
  - State agency professionals
  - Local public health and planning professionals
  - Table top exercise: TCAAP
- Website
- Technical support
  - List of state and local experts
  - Shared lessons with other states
- Evaluation



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# THIS YEAR'S HIA-RELATED GOALS— SUPPORTED BY ASTHO & CDC GRANTS

- Provide 2 HIA trainings
- Provide technical support/Mini-grants
  - HIA Advisory Committee
  - Douglas County Comprehensive Plan HIA
  - Duluth-Complete Streets HIA
- Perform HIAs
  - HIA on 7-county metro area comp planning process
  - HIA on the MN Environmental Assessment Worksheet
- Enhance Website
  - Establish a communication vehicle
- Evaluation



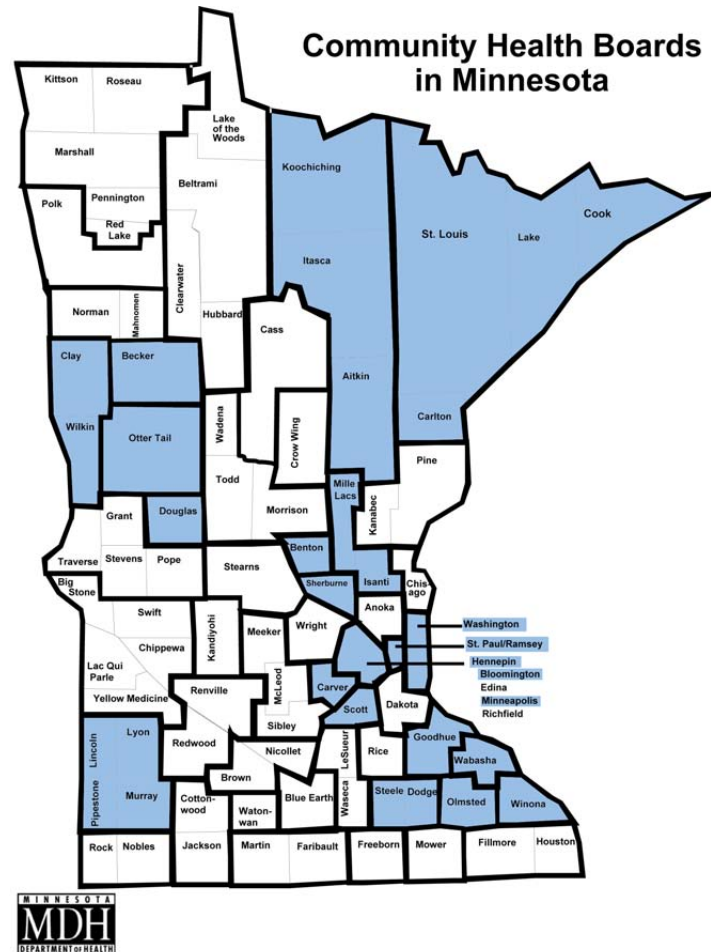
# HIA TRAINING: 12\_10\_10

- Methodology: Public health & planning
- Trainers: MDH & Hennepin County
- Evaluation
- 40 Attendees/24 agencies
  - PH professionals
  - City/county planners
  - Engineers
  - Landscape architects
  - Lawyer
- Pre evaluation:
  - 93% little to no experience w/ HIAs
- Post evaluation (n=29)
  - Group exercises most important
  - Level of knowledge gained 1-5 (5=expert): 54%-3 | 48%-4
  - 96% would recommend training to their colleagues



# TRAINING GOAL: REACH 50% OF MN CHBs

- 53 Community Health Boards (CHBs)
- Reached 22 to date
- 5 more to go!



# 2011 HIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE: 23 MEMBERS

- Local public health agencies
- ISAIAH
- Local Public Health Association (LPHA)
- Minnesota Public Health Association (MPHA)
- MN American Planning Association
- City/county planning agencies
- MetCouncil
- MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- MN Center for Environmental Advocacy
- University of Minnesota (U of MN)
- Minnesota Housing Agency
- Aeon
- MN Department of Transportation (MNDOT)
- Blue Cross & Blue Shield of MN



# MINI-GRANTS DOUGLAS COUNTY COMP PLAN

- Conduct HIA of 2010 draft revision of Douglas County Comprehensive Plan to ensure that health issues are considered when examining future land use, environmental quality, resource preservation and utilization, transportation and economic development

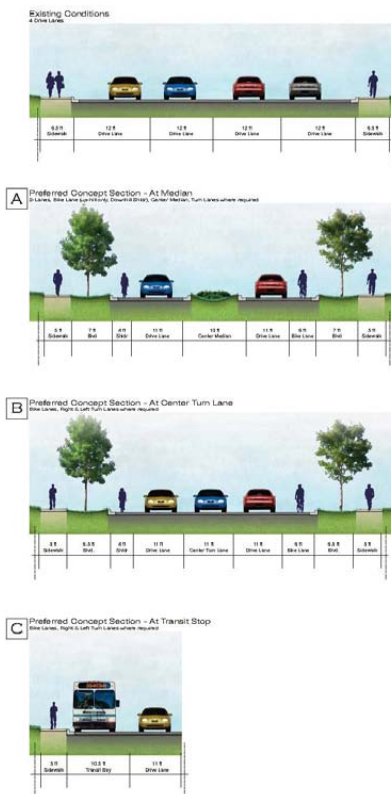


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Slotterback

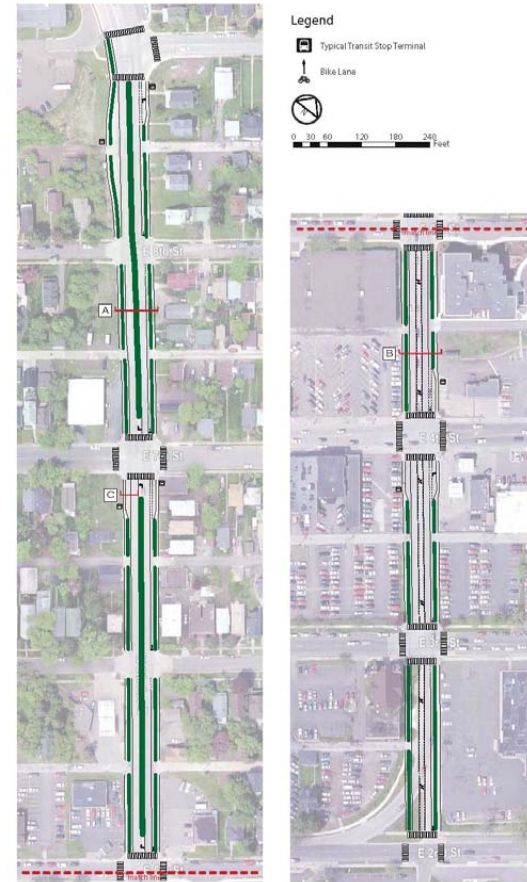




# MINI-GRANTS DULUTH COMPLETE STREETS POLICY



CONCEPT CROSS-SECTIONS  
 #16 AV E EAST CONCEPTUAL BE-EMPO PROJECT



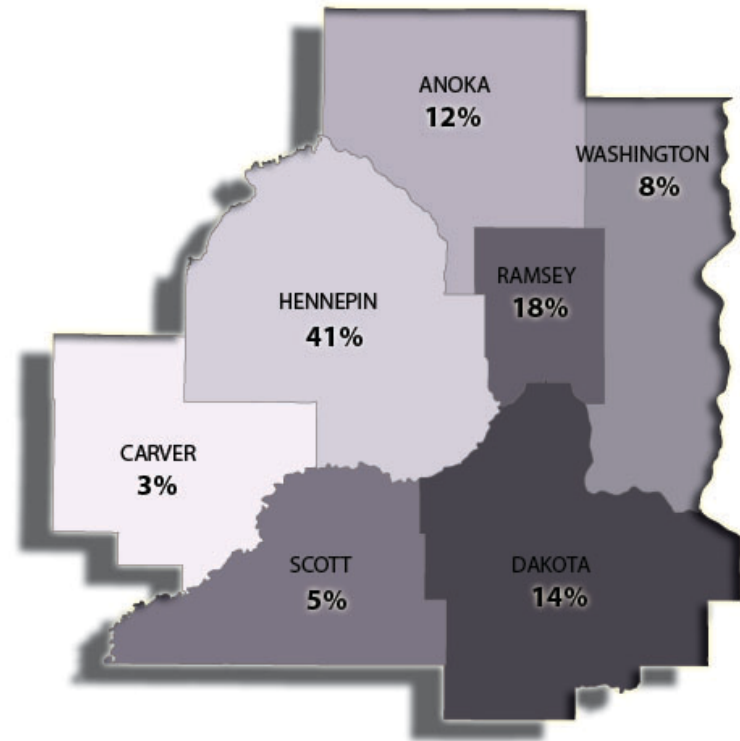
PREFERRED CONCEPT PLAN  
 #16 AV E EAST CONCEPTUAL BE-EMPO PROJECT

6<sup>th</sup> Avenue East conceptual re-design project



# HIAS: METRO-AREA COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS

- 7-county metro area pop = 2,846,576
- 46% of state's pop
- Planning required every 10 years by State law
- 189 jurisdictions in the metro area
- Transportation, aviation, water resources, regional parks and open space systems



% of Seven County Metropolitan Area Population - Source: 2009 Population Estimates: U.S. Census Bureau

# HIAs: MN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET (EAWs)

- All major built projects/landuse changes are assessed through an EAW and/or EIS
- 100-150/year
- FY 08/09-208 projects:
  - highway (~27)
  - feedlot (~25)
  - commercial (~18)
  - residential (~18)
  - nonmetallic (~18)



## SUCCESSSES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Health professionals and planners are eager to work with one another
- Potential to influence Complete Street policy implementation
- Reviewing 7-county metropolitan area comprehensive plans for health has not been done before
- EAW
- Introduction of legislation—Minnesota Healthy Communities Act (MHCA)



# CHALLENGES

- Political barriers to influence policy change at the regional and state level
- Language barriers between disciplines
- We need to work harder to bring together other disciplines, such as engineers and developers
- Knowledge and experience with HIAs varies greatly
- HIAs are still new in MN—additional training/education is needed
- Evaluation is lacking



# RESULTS OF FUNDING TO DATE

- Built relationships with other state, local & federal agencies/ organizations
- Trained over 100 state and local professionals, representing over 40 different organizations
- Able to provide technical assistance



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**THANK YOU!**

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