ENSURING EQUITY-CENTERED PROVISIONS IN UPCOMING INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSALS
A STRATEGY DISCUSSION

Allies for Reaching Community Health Equity
www.healthequity.globalpolicysolutions.org

The Center for Global Policy Solutions
www.globalpolicysolutions.org
ALLIES FOR REACHING COMMUNITY HEALTH EQUITY
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

• Advances equity-centered strategies that strengthen families and communities and build a culture of health

• Innovative components designed to promote equitable public health strategies across the social determinants of health:
  – Health Equity Design (HED) Labs
  – Culture of Health Institute for Leadership Development (CHILD)
  – Action Collaborative
  – Health Equity Experts Network
  – Online Resource Center

Dr. Judy Lubin, Director, ARCHE Program, CGPS
WEBINAR OBJECTIVES

THROUGH TODAY’S SESSION, WE WILL...

• Identify what’s at stake for underserved communities and how infrastructure investments can improve the social determinants of health (e.g., employment, housing, transportation, income) for disadvantaged families and communities

• Explore the strengths and limitations of racial and health impact assessment tools that can be used by governmental agencies at the local, state and/or federal level to ensure underserved populations and communities benefit through jobs, community development, and improvements in the natural and built environment

• Identify preliminary recommendations for how policymakers can ensure equity-centered provisions are included in infrastructure legislation
Presentations

- **Existing Infrastructure Proposals and Opportunities to Advance Equity**
  Kalima Rose, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, PolicyLink

- **Leveraging Infrastructure Investments to Improve the Health and Economic Wellbeing of Underserved Populations and Communities**
  Yvette Sanchez Fuentes, Assistant Director for Policy, ASCEND, Aspen Institute

- **Civil Rights and Racial Impact Assessment Tools**
  Guillermo Mayer, President & CEO, Public Advocates

- **Health Impact Assessment Tools**
  Sara Satinsky, Project Director, Human Impact Partners

- **Audience Q & A**
  Moderated by Dr. Judy Lubin, Director, ARCHE Program
EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSALS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE EQUITY

Kalima Rose, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, PolicyLink
INFRASTRUCTURE EQUITY

• Equity is just and fair inclusion into a society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential.

• Addressing equity in infrastructure means ensuring vulnerable people, places, and systems are all strengthened.
INFRASTRUCTURE EQUITY: KEY PRINCIPLES

1. Prioritize infrastructure investment in communities and areas that need them the most

2. Investments must deliver community benefits, environmental justice, racial equity, and good jobs

3. Require transparency, data-informed decision making and diverse local input

4. Prioritize public financing and public control

5. Broaden the definition of infrastructure and link investments together
CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSALS

Administration

• Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao described a complex administration package of transportation infrastructure, water, broadband, energy and electrical grid, and upgrades to veterans’ hospitals.

• Secretary Carson has said public housing will be part of infrastructure bill.

• Package could be from hundreds of billions to as great as $1T, with up to $200B in direct spending, and the majority proposed as tax-credits for private-public partnerships (P3s)
CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSALS

Congress

• Democratic proposal: 10-year blueprint w/ $75 billion for schools, $210 billion for roads and bridges, $110 billion for aging water and sewer systems, $180 billion for expanded rail and bus lines, $70 billion for deeper ports and upgraded airports, $100 billion for an updated electrical grid, $10 billion for VA hospitals, $20 billion for broadband, $200 billion for unspecified “vital infrastructure projects” and $10 billion for an infrastructure bank to “unlock” private capital by providing loan guarantees or low-cost loans.

• Task requires a ‘WPA 2.0’—the framework of massive undertaking, but infused with new thinking about the environment and resilience, to make future infrastructure longer-lasting and with greater economic payoff

• Environment and Public Works committee hearings on next gen Infrastructure models

• Asset recycling or federal grants to states and municipalities to cover up front P3 costs
CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSALS

Several 2017 Congress-driven bills that advance:

• **S. 181** – Sherrod Brown, D-OH, to ensure that certain Federal public works and infrastructure projects use materials produced in the United States


• **H.R. 52**: , David Scott, D-GA Jobs, On-the-Job ‘Earn While You Learn’ Training, and Apprenticeships for African-American Young Men Act

• **H.R. 1579 Safe and Resilient Water Systems Act**, Scott Peters, D-CA To require drinking water systems to assess and address their vulnerabilities to climate change, source water degradation, and intentional acts to ensure security and resiliency.

• **H.R. 159**: Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that infrastructure spending bills should include development ...... programs that recruit and train individuals from communities with high unemployment rates., Gregory Meeks, D-NY

• **H.R. 343: Community Parks Revitalization Act**, Albio Siles, D-NJ

• **S. 922: Climate Change Adapt America Fund Act of 2017**, Richard Durbin, D-IL

• **H.R. 1071: Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2017**, Paul Tonko, D-NY, To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to increase assistance for States, water systems, and disadvantaged communities; to encourage good financial and environmental management of water systems; and to strengthen the Environmental Protection Agency’s ability to enforce the requirements of the Act, and for other purposes.
POLITICAL CHALLENGES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSALS

• Bi-partisan resistance in states and cities to privatizing transportation infrastructure [Texas bill rejected P3s in 18 highway projects]

• Rural areas resist P3s because projects don’t pencil out for profit

• Republicans resist direct spending as want to reduce federal budget

• Democrats resist tax credits as driving poor infrastructure choices

• President insisting on 90-day ‘shovel ready’

• Could be attached to tax plan for simple majority reconciliation vote that will not address key policy needs

• Republicans waiving Davis-Bacon prevailing wages, nonstarter for Dems

• Republicans waiving environmental review, nonstarter for Dems
TARGET HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT POPULATIONS FOR JOBS IN RESILIENCY

- Retrofit municipal buildings, affordable housing for energy efficiency
- Address storm water and rising sea levels through natural barriers
- Upgrade building systems to be out of harm’s way
Protect key infrastructure systems most critical to economy
LEVERAGING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING OF UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

Yvette Sanchez Fuentes, Assistant Director for Policy, ASCEND, Aspen Institute
The Aspen Institute: Principles that Endure and Inspire

The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization with the mission of fostering values-based leadership and providing a nonpartisan venue for dialogue around critical issues.

The timeless values that inspired the creation of the Institute after World War II continue to guide us today.
Ascend at the Aspen Institute: A New Way Forward for Children and Families

Ascend at the Aspen Institute is the national hub for breakthrough ideas and collaborations that move children and the adults in their lives toward educational success, economic security, and health and well-being.

How We Work:
• Convene and communicate
• Build leadership and a national network
• Advance practice and policy solutions

We embrace a two-generation approach and a commitment to racial equity and a gender lens.
Why a Two-Generation Approach

New research from Nobel-winning economist James Heckman demonstrates a 13% return on investment in high-quality early childhood for each year of a child’s life. And a college degree doubles a parent’s income.

For families with young children who have an annual income of $25,000 or less, a $3,000 increase during the years of early childhood yields a 17% increase in adult earnings for those children.

Recent brain research shows that the brains of new parents undergo major structural changes just as babies’ brains do. Studies also show that parents with health insurance are more likely to seek care for themselves and their children.
The Two-Generation Continuum

- **Child-focused**
  - with parent elements
  - e.g., early childhood development, parenting skills, family literacy, and health screenings

- **Whole family**

- **Parent-focused**
  - with child elements
  - e.g., child care and workforce programs, food and nutrition, and supports for student parents
2GEN CORE COMPONENTS

- **Social Capital**: Peer and family networks, coaching, and cohort strategies
- **Early Childhood Development**: Head Start, Early Head Start, child care partnerships, preK, and home visiting
- **Postsecondary & Employment Pathways**: Community college, training and certification, workforce partnerships
- **Health & Well-being**: Mental, physical, and behavioral health, coverage and access to care, adverse childhood experiences, toxic stress
- **Economic Assets**: Asset building, housing and public supports, financial capacity, transportation
2GEN STATE MOMENTUM

States pursuing a 2Gen approach to policy (Republican governor)

States pursuing a 2Gen approach to policy (Democratic governor)

White House Rural IMPACT demonstration sites
Support for a two-generation program that helps parents get education and skills training to get a better job, has increased since 2012. Tax sensitivity remains, but a 56 percent majority strongly favor it even if it increased their taxes.

One program designed to help people who are living in poverty get out of poverty targets both parents and their children, so that parents get education and skills training to get a better job and at the same time their children get a good start with Head Start, early education, and quality schools...

...even if it increased your taxes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. '12</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. '12</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE 2GEN EFFORTS

- Measure and account for outcomes for both children and their parents
- Engage and amplify the voices of families
- Ensure equity
- Foster innovation and evidence together
- Align and link systems and funding streams
1) Outcome goals for children & families;
2) Health and human services innovation, collaboration capacity, and leadership;
3) New paradigm for child & parent supports;
4) Build a culture of early learning and brain-building with quality child care and early childhood development;
5) Strong pathway to career jobs;
6) Streamline existing services and financial supports;
7) Real-time feedback loops and evaluation capacity.
PRIORITIZE HUMAN CAPITAL WHEN WE INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE

• Job training that matches the local market
• Recognize the care economy as part of the critical national infrastructure
• Incorporate the availability and location of child care programs in the context of other community and economic development goals
• Conduct long-term analysis and ROI when assessing community child and elder care assets and needs, including the maintenance of facilities and ongoing professional development and pay for early childhood workers.
CIVIL RIGHTS AND RACIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Guillermo Mayer, President & CEO, Public Advocates
ABOUT PUBLIC ADVOCATES

• A nonprofit law firm and advocacy organization that challenges the systemic causes of poverty and discrimination by strengthening community voices in public policy and achieving tangible legal victories that advance education, housing, transportation and climate equity.

• Together with our grassroots partners, we fight for new policies that lead to the equitable distribution of resources and broader opportunities for low-income people and people of color to shape the decisions that impact their lives.
BIG PICTURE: WHAT GETS FUNDED?

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION SPENDING

- Highways 80%
- Public Transportation 20%
FUNDAMENTAL EQUITY QUESTIONS

Who gets the jobs?

Who is burdened?

Who are the beneficiaries?

Who gets the business?
Prohibits any recipient of federal funds from discriminating on the basis of race, color or national origin.

- Intentional discrimination
- Disparate impact \(\text{via regulations}\)
  
  • Actions that have the effect of discriminating on the basis of race, color or national origin, regardless of intent

President Johnson and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is signed into law.
EXECUTIVE ORDER 12898 ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Requires federal agencies to make Environmental Justice a part of their mission by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs on minority and low-income populations.
US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

• Title VI Regulation
  – 49 CFR Part 21: Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation

• Environmental Justice
  – DOT Order to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations

• Federal Transit Administration
  – FTA Circular 4702.1B – Title VI Requirements and Guidelines
  – FTA Circular 4703.1 – Environmental Justice Policy Guidance
WHAT DOES FTA’S TITLE VI CIRCULAR DO?

Requires grantees to:

• Collect and report demographic data
• Prepare mobility needs assessments
• Develop public participation plans
• Adopt service standards
• Conduct disparate impact analyses
  – When adjusting transit fares
  – Increasing or decreasing transit service
  – Locating facilities
  – Monitoring service standards
  – Implementing new fixed guideway project (e.g., rail line, subway, bus rapid transit)

Title VI can be enforced through complaints and compliance reviews
CASE STUDY: OAKLAND AIRPORT CONNECTOR

SENATE BILL 535 & AB 1555

State law requires

• No less than 25 percent of cap-and-trade polluter fees to be allocated to projects located within disadvantaged communities.

• No less than 10 percent of polluter fees to be allocated to projects that benefit low-income households regardless of geographic location.

How do we ensure these projects truly benefit disadvantaged communities?
DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY BENEFIT TOOL

Will the investment meet an important community need?
- Disadvantaged communities have needs and priorities that may be distinct from those of the public at large

Are the benefits significant?
- Each benefit should meet a threshold of significance. A mere incidental or nominal benefit is insufficient

Are low-income residents or households the primary beneficiaries?
- Where possible, investments should be expressly targeted to low-income residents and households

Does the investment avoid substantial burdens?
- Administering agencies should monitor, prevent and minimize the adverse impacts of projects receiving funding
HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Sara Satinsky, Project Director
Human Impact Partners
WHAT WE MEAN BY HEALTH

Source: Booske, et. al. 2010. County Health Rankings Weighting Methodology
How does the proposed project, plan, policy affect health outcomes and lead to health recommendations?
DEFINITION

• Health Impact Assessment
  – A systematic process that uses an array of data sources and analytic methods and considers input from stakeholders to determine the potential effects of a proposed policy, plan, program, or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects.
  
  • National Research Council of the National Academies, 2011
HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

• **Core Aspects**
  - Equity is key value
  - Who is involved & that impacted populations help lead
  - Transparent final products about health
  - Voluntary – though MA has legislation (see NCSL & Pew brief, 2015)

*Health impact assessment is 1 approach for describing health equity effects*
TOPICS HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENTS ADDRESS

Source: Health Impact Project. Data as of 8/17/16.
EXAMPLE HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOPICS

• How would proposed widening of the I-710 freeway in Los Angeles to 10+ lanes affect health, especially for populations closest to the freeway?

• How would approval of a new dirty materials recovery facility impact community health, including in an environmental justice area that is predominantly low-income and Latinx?
PUBLIC HEALTH AWAKENED

800+ public health members from 38 U.S. States + internationally organizing for health, equity, and justice.

Resources so far:
• Consequences of Dismantling the Affordable Care Act (info brief)
• Guide for Public Health Actions for Immigrant Rights
• Scripts and resources to Protect Transgender Rights

www.publichealthawakened.com

Public Health Awakened is an initiative convened and staffed by Human Impact Partners
TEASER OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE BRIEF

To come! – Brief on health equity impacts of privatizing infrastructure

• Identifies importance of how infrastructure is defined to what is funded
• Identifies possible health and equity effects of privatizing infrastructure
• Lists actions for health departments and practitioners

Whether health impact assessment, a brief, etc there are strengths and challenges to this approach…
STRENGTHS OF USING HEALTH FRAME & ASSESSMENTS

Improve proposals! Improve health – esp around race/ethnicity and income!

Unifying value around health & shape discourse

Informed decision-making & re-centers who is deserving

Support empowerment of people directly affected
CONSIDERATIONS IF USING HEALTH FRAME & ASSESSMENTS

Time before decision is made

Cost

Participants’ time to do assessment work

Evidence available
QUESTIONS WE ASK AT START OF HIA

• Is there a clear decision point, and what is the timing for that decision?
• Is health equity already being discussed?
• What would a health frame add to the conversation?
• How would health inequities be impacted?
• Is there clear evidence?
• Who are stakeholders and groups interested in being part of the process, and do they have capacity?
• Is HIA the most effective approach to bring a health frame to the conversation?
You will receive an email with a link to the survey shortly after this session concludes.