BeltLine
Health Impact Assessment

Presented to the Healthy Places Research Group
January 10, 2006
Jason Barringer and Karen Leone de Nie
Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development
What is health?

Health is “a state of complete physical, social, and mental wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

- Constitution of the World Health Organization (1948)
A Health Impact Assessment is “a combination of procedures or methods by which a policy, program, or project may be judged as to the effects it may have on the health of a population.”

- Gothenburg Consensus Paper (WHO Regional Office for Europe)
Qualities of an HIA

- Structured approach
- Quantitative and qualitative data
- Multi-disciplinary
- Often does not provide absolute answers
Types of Assessments

HOW
- Rapid
- Intermediate
- Comprehensive

WHEN
- Prospective
- Concurrent
- Retrospective
What is the goal of an HIA?

Make health consequences part of the policy and/or design decisions of a project, policy, or program

- Link health consequences to real people
- Amplify positive health consequences
- Eliminate or mitigate negative health consequences
Key Tasks of the HIA

- Predict health consequences
- Involve stakeholders
- Inform decision makers
Steps in the HIA

**Screening**
Does the project pose any significant health questions?

**Scoping**
What could be the potential hazards/benefits? What are the boundaries?

**Risk Assessment**
How many and which people are affected and how?

**Decision Making**
Which choice to accept?

**Monitoring and Evaluation**
BeltLine Redevelopment Plan

SOURCE: ADA Redevelopment Plan, 2005
BeltLine Components

- Trail/Greenspace Network
- Transit Network

SOURCE: ADA Redevelopment Plan, 2005
BeltLine Components

- Redevelopment, Land Use Changes

SOURCE: ADA Redevelopment Plan, 2005
BeltLine HIA Goals

- Predict health consequences of BeltLine
- Involve stakeholders in the process
- Disseminate information to decision makers
BeltLine HIA Methodology

- Screening
- Scoping
- Risk Assessment
- Decision Making
- Monitoring and Evaluation
Measuring Health Consequences

- Physical
- Environmental
- Social/Equity
## Physical Consequences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Category</th>
<th>Potential Health Impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Activity (Recreational)</td>
<td>How will the BeltLine affect the number of trails available in the area? How will this change impact health?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Activity (Transit)</td>
<td>How will the BeltLine impact the number of biking and walking trips taken? How will this change impact health?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike/Walk to School</td>
<td>How will the BeltLine affect opportunities for active transport to school? How will this change impact health?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Environmental Consequences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Category</th>
<th>Potential Health Impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Air Quality</strong></td>
<td>How will the BeltLine affect the region’s traffic congestion?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>How will this change impact health?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Greenspace</strong></td>
<td>Will the addition of greenspace along the BeltLine affect the region’s air quality?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>How will this change impact health?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brownfield Redevelopment</strong></td>
<td>Will the BeltLine result in brownfield redevelopment?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>How will this change impact health?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Social/Equity Consequences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Category</th>
<th>Potential Health Impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Capital</td>
<td>What effect will the BeltLine have on access to and connectivity between residences, businesses, community facilities and social support institutions? How will this change impact the social capital of affected populations?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>Will the BeltLine make nature and greenspace more accessible to people? How will this change in access impact mental health?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commute Impacts</td>
<td>Will the BeltLine create changes in commuting choices? What effect will those changes have on stress and anxiety?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Social/Equity Consequences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Category</th>
<th>Potential Health Impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility for disadvantaged/disabled groups</td>
<td>Will the BeltLine provide for a change in the mobility of disadvantaged, disabled or transit dependent populations? How will this change affect access to hospitals, recreation, and employment? How will this change in access affect health?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gentrification</td>
<td>Will the BeltLine cause a displacement of lower income residents? How will that displacement affect their health?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>Will BeltLine components decrease real and perceived crime? What impact will this have on affected residents quality of life?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Visualizing recommendations

SOURCE: ADA Redevelopment Plan, 2005
Visualizing recommendations

SOURCE: ADA Redevelopment Plan, 2005