Gary/New Duluth Small Area Plan & HIA Public Meeting

Kelly Muellman, MURP

MN Climate & Health Program Planner

651-201-5637

kelly.muellman@state.mn.us

November 6, 2013

MINNESOTA MDH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

What is health?

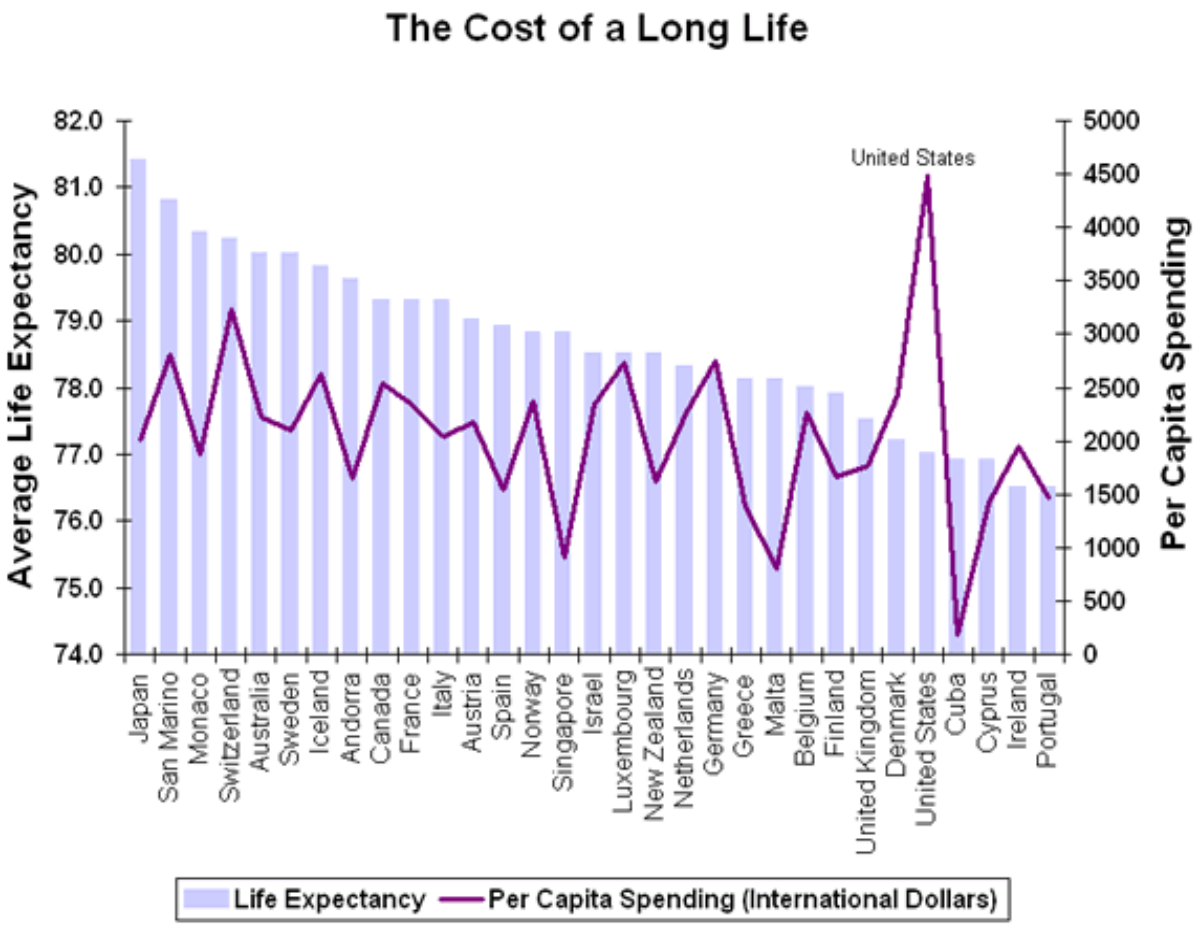
- **Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.**

Source: World Health Organization
This definition has not been amended since 1948

MINNESOTA MDH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Something is wrong

2000 Avg Life Expectancy and Healthcare Spending



http://ucatlas.ucsc.edu/spend.php

Health Determinants

Health status is determined by: 30% by genetics; only 10% by health care; but **60% by social & environmental conditions, and behavior**

Source: N Engl J Med 2007;357:1221-8.

Health & the Built Environment

Planning/Design Issues

- Disconnected Land Use Patterns
- Land Fragmentation (Loss of farmland, open space, wetlands, etc…)
- Low Density
- Auto Dependency
- Congestion
- Trail/Sidewalk Gaps
- Limited Choices

Health Issues

- Physical Inactivity
- Poor Diet & Nutrition
- Mental Health Issues
- Decreased Social Capital
- Poor Air Quality
- Increase in Car Crashes
- Increase in Bike/Ped Injuries
- Poor Water Quality

MINNESOTA MDH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

- Determine the potential positive or negative health effects of a proposed policy, plan, program, or project
- Provide recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects.

MINNESOTA MDH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Duluth's first HIA: 6th Ave E Redesign

- Schematic Redesign Study on the former MN Trunk Hwy 194 completed in January 2011
- Straight, four-lane, high speeds, main arterial
- Barrier for <u>all</u> non-motorized transportation/school access

MINNESOTA MDH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Duluth's HIA: 6th Ave E Redesign

Selected *Recommendations*

Hillside Neighborhood and Surrounding Area

The following selected recommendations should be taken into consideration for future planning and engineering initiatives associated with the redesign and reconstruction of Sixth Avenue East. They are intended as a foundation to meet the public's health needs and concerns identified through the HIA process. They should be considered by all parties, agencies and organizations that have a role in meeting the needs of the community within the HIA project area.

ACCESSIBILITY & SAFETY

- Add additional bus stops to the redesign study and install shelters where ridership warrants.
- The addition of a traffic signal at Sixth Avenue East and Seventh Street reinforces the Redesign Study, which recommended that option be explored and implemented, if possible.
- Implement measures to reduce crashes at the highest crash intersections, such as Sixth Avenue East and Fourth Street.
- Establish an official bike route on Sixth Avenue East, with corresponding changes in the physical environment including separation of bicyclists from cars to improve bicyclists' safety.
- Develop a plan to clear snow from the medians at the Sixth and Eighth Street pedestrian crossings.
- Provide safe crosswalks for school children, along with designating Sixth Avenue East north of Fourth Street a School Crossing Zone.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- Development patterns should encourage mixed uses, compact design, and a variety of transportation choices that promotes physical activity.
- Use the Metropolitan Interstate Council's sidewalk assessment as a guide to create a friendlier and more complete sidewalk network in the Hillside.
- Assist Duluth Parks and Recreation, Fit City Duluth, Safe and Walkable Hillside Coalition and other groups as they work to make Duluth and the Hillside a more easily active neighborhood.
- The project area should provide safe, convenient and affordable access to housing, worksites, schools and community services.

LIVABILITY

- Merge into one, unified Hillside Neighborhood Revitalization Plan and consider inclusion of a livability component.
- Implement the city's Unified Development Chapter parking standards within the Hillside neighborhoods completely, especially along the lower areas of the corridor, to greatly improve connectivity and livability for residents.
- Priority areas for "green" improvement are large parking lots around in the medical district. Improvements, such as border gardens, fences and the capture of additional rain water should be considered.
- Include amenities like lighting, benches, decorative fences, smaller localized pocket parks, trash receptacles, recycling containers, and rain gardens along the Sixth Avenue East corridor to create a neighborhood enhancing environment.
- Consider adding amenities outside of the right-of-way to create greener, more neighborhood-friendly development.

HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT: RECOMMENDATIONS, June 20, 2011 3

- Built off of existing partnerships
  - Used public meetings for input
- HIA issue areas:
  - Accessibility & Safety
  - Physical Activity
  - Livability
  - *Pollution*
  - *Food Access*
- HIA becomes an addendum to the Sixth Avenue East Schematic Redesign Study

MINNESOTA MDH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Gary/New Duluth Small Area Plan HIA

- Goal: Improve the health of Gary/New Duluth residents
- Objectives:
  - Determine potential positive or negative health effects of small area plan recommendations
  - Make recommendations to small area plan to prevent potential negative effects and support positive effects
- Strategies:
  - Community Input
  - Analysis of data

MINNESOTA MDH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Community Input

Do you have 5 minutes for your Neighborhood?

Gary/New Duluth Community Survey: *This survey is part of a health impact and quality of life assessment being done by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the City of Duluth. The responses collected will help determine the health issues analyzed in a Health Impact Assessment of the community and the development of a Small Area Plan for the neighborhood. Participation in the survey is voluntary and all responses will be kept anonymous. There are no benefits or harms in taking the survey. The survey should take no more than 5 minutes to complete.*

1. I am a resident of _____ neighborhood.
2. I am _____ years old.
3. Rank your opinion of the following health concerns from "Not an issue" to "Always an issue":

	Not an issue	Rarely an issue	Sometimes an issue	Often an issue	Always an issue
Being physically active					
Eating healthy foods					
Seeing a doctor					
Having a good job					
Breathing clean air					
Drinking clean water					
Other:					

4. Rank your current ability to access the following types of stores and public services from "Not Accessible" to "Easily Accessible":

	Not Accessible	Rarely Accessible	Sometimes Accessible	Easily Accessible	Not applicable to me
Fresh and healthy food					
Healthy and affordable restaurants					
Banks					
Senior citizen centers					
Parks and trails					
Medical care facilities					
Good jobs or job training centers					
Pharmacies					
Library					
Community centers					
Other:					

5. Rank how you perceive the following health concerns as issues for residents of Gary/New Duluth from "Not an Issue" to "Always an Issue".

	Not an Issue	Rarely an Issue	Sometimes an Issue	Often an Issue	Always an Issue
Affordability of housing					
Overweight or diabetes					
Depression or anxiety					
Problems associated with alcohol					
Problems associated with drugs and other substances					
Asthma or respiratory conditions					
Safety from an accident involving a car					
Safety from crime					
Other:					

- Technical Advisory Committee
- Community survey
  - Paper
  - Online:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/LW2XKYB

- Public meetings
- Contact me!
  - 651-201-5637
  - kelly.muellman@state.mn.us

MINNESOTA MDH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Health issues: what we have heard

- Favorite part of Gary/New Duluth
  - Quiet, small town feel
  - Sense of community/friendliness
  - Stowe school
  - Green space and trails
  - Safe

MINNESOTA MDH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

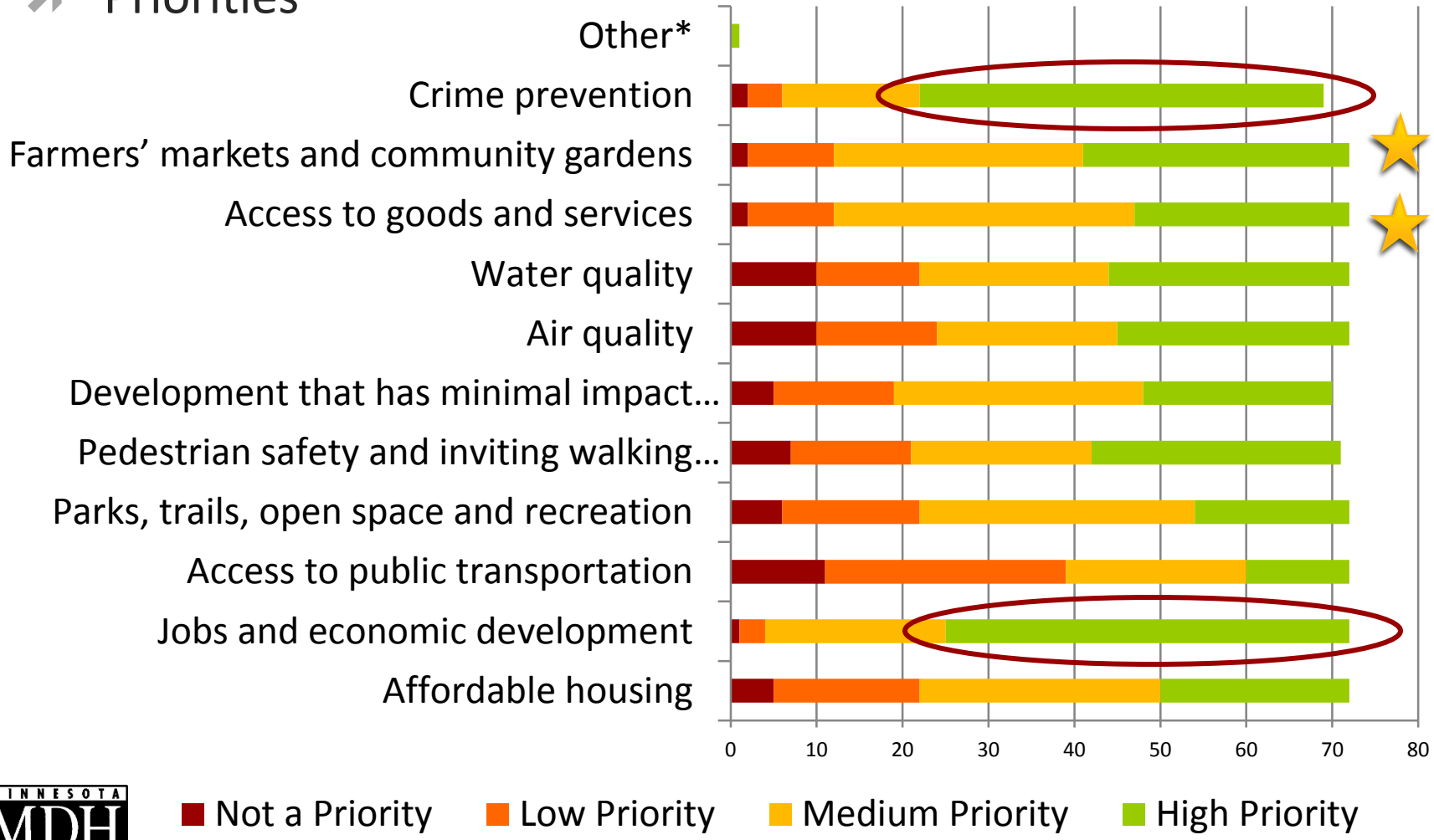
Health issues: what we have heard

- What should change
  - More businesses/jobs
  - More housing
  - Activities and programming for kids
  - More parks and trails
  - Grocery store/farmers' market
  - Lower crime/more police presence
  - Sidewalk/road improvements
  - Property maintenance

MINNESOTA MDH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Health issues: what we have heard

- Priorities



Next Steps: Analysis of data

- How will the small area plan affect the 3-4 major health concerns in the community?

1. Read scientific studies
2. Collect or analyze local data
3. Draw connections

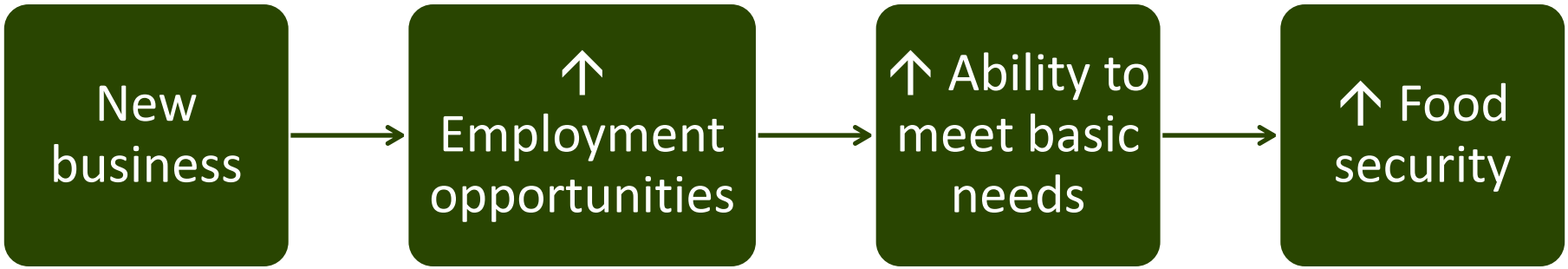
↑ Traffic and vehicle speeds → ↑ Motor vehicle accidents → ↑ Injuries and deaths

MINNESOTA MDH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Next Steps: Analysis of data

- How will the small area plan affect the 3-4 major health concerns in the community?

1. Read scientific studies
2. Collect or analyze local data
3. Draw connections



MINNESOTA MDH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Next Steps: Recommendations

- (Dec – Jan) Use results from assessment to develop recommendations that prevent potential negative health impacts and maximize health benefits
  - Get your feedback on draft recommendations
- (Jan – Feb) Present final HIA recommendations to Planning Commission and City Council

MINNESOTA MDH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Questions/Comments

Kelly Muellman

Minnesota Department of Health

651-201-5637

kelly.muellman@state.mn.us

MINNESOTA MDH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH