Theme #4: Intersection of Health and Transportation

Aging in Place

1. Identify innovative (non-infrastructure) transportation options for aging in place in rural areas and tribal communities.
2. Identify effects of online shopping and home delivery on transportation needs for rural and tribal elders.

EMS

1. Identify and document innovative administrative, operational, and design techniques for reducing rural emergency services response times.
2. Develop guidance on the use of gate-controlled responder-only access from secondary roads to freeways to reduce response times.
3. Document best practices in coordinating emergency services to healthcare hubs.
4. Develop a planning toolkit for mapping rural EMS response times, develop strategies to reduce service gaps by coordinating services among public and private EMS providers, and identify opportunities to co-locate EMS with outlying public facilities.
5. Identify methods for incorporating EMS into future transportation research efforts.
6. Identify strategies and best practices to coordinate EMS agencies and 911 public safety access points and support areawide cross-jurisdictional coordination and facilities sharing.
7. Develop guidance for standardizing EMS data reporting practices.
8. Evaluate the feasibility of training drivers of non-emergency medical transportation vehicles to support mass-evacuation of nursing home patients and other vulnerable populations in the event of a natural disaster or similar emergency.
9. Develop reliable statistical information on the prevalence of trips where an ambulance was used for a trip that could have been made using paratransit or other non-emergency medical transportation services.

Planning

1. Identify techniques for integrating health into rural transportation planning efforts.
2. Evaluate barriers that prevent public health officials from becoming involved in transportation planning. Inventory the state of the practice and compile best practices for engaging the public health community in transportation discussions.
3. Identify best practices for incorporating transportation issues into Health Impact Assessments. Develop guidance on when the health impacts of a plan or policy should be evaluated and methods for conducting these evaluations.

4. Develop recommended access-to-healthcare metrics for use in federally-mandated Community Health Impact Assessments (CHIPS).
5. Compare the costs of medical treatment for crash victims with systematic safety upgrades on rural highways and identify potential policies for using healthcare cost savings to pay for infrastructure.
6. Assess the link between transportation accessibility and public health outcomes.
7. Quantify the health benefits of ped/bike facilities and compare the costs of this infrastructure with avoided medical costs.
8. Document best practices for collaborations between transportation, public health, and healthcare organizations to support implementation and utilization of active transportation.

Social Issues

1. Identify and address social indicators of health benefits for transportation.
2. Evaluate how social issues impact the health and economic development of rural communities and their intersection with transportation.

Technology

1. Identify innovative ways for technology to overcome transportation barriers to healthcare access, work, and education.
2. Develop a process for regularly updating rural telecommunications coverage maps to document gaps that impact transportation agency operations or hamper utilization of alternatives to travel.
3. Develop a toolkit for planning and coordination of rural communication technology implementations.
4. Identify barriers to the implementation and expansion of telemedicine services to rural areas.
5. Analyze the effects of telehealth and increased data access on rural transportation.
6. Evaluate the feasibility of using unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) to deliver medications, medical supplies, and medical devices in emergency and non-emergency situations.
7. Evaluate the effects of using pilotless vertical take-off-and-landing (VTOL) aircraft for medical transportation on patient safety, air traffic control, and medical transportation costs.

Transportation for Healthcare

1. Analyze the impact of closing/consolidating rural hospitals on transportation.
2. Identify training and other interventions rural transit systems can utilize to assure that passenger medical needs are appropriately addressed in service planning and day-to-day operations.
3. Identify best practices/innovative methods to connect transportation disadvantaged populations to healthcare facilities in rural areas.
4. Document strategies to coordinate scheduling of medical care with transportation.
5. Identify methods for helping rural residents make sensible choices for medical transportation: when to use ambulances, medical shuttles, paratransit, ride hailing services, etc.

6. Review the rural "transportation broker" concept and evaluate its impacts on health outcomes and cost of providing rural transportation services.
7. Document best practices in healthcare transportation initiatives.
8. Quantify the impact of increased in-home dialysis on rural transportation needs. What training and support is needed for this model?
9. Identify the potential for regularly-scheduled bus services connecting rural communities to major medical centers in distant urban areas.
10. Evaluate transit demand to major medical facilities (AP025(2)).