

# Planning & HIA



**Anna Ricklin**

Manager, Planning & Community  
Health Research Center

# Introduction to APA

- Serving 43,000 members
- Publications
- Conferences, Webinars, Local trainings
  
- American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)
  - Functional areas that relate to health:
    - Environmental planning
    - Food system planning

# National Centers for Planning

- 3 Centers
  - Hazards Planning Research Center
  - Green Communities Research Center
  - Planning & Community Health Research Center
- Research, Education, and Policy
  - Conduct research on best practices
  - Provide training and technical assistance
  - Inform planning and public policy at local, state, and national levels
- Multi-disciplinary and Collaborative Approach
  - Work with partner organizations and federal agencies to develop and disseminate material

# Planning & Community Health Research Center



## Planning & Community Health Research Center

# Priority Issues

### Planning for:

- Active living and physical activity
- Access to healthy food and good nutrition
- Aging population and people with disabilities
- Education for future planners and health professionals
- Environmental health
- Environmental justice and social equity
- Healthy community design
- Schools
- Social cohesion and mental health



## Planning & Community Health Research Center

# Current Projects

- Evaluation of comprehensive and sustainability plans for inclusion of:
  - General public health goals, policies and implementation mechanisms
  - Food systems, security and access



# What HIA does for Planning

- Increases awareness among planners about the built environment-health connection
  - Demonstrates impact of land use decision making
  - Builds capacity for planners to include health promoting elements in plans that may otherwise be sidelined
  - Diversifies stakeholder involvement: Citizens maintain the most power to influence government
- 
- HIA should be required for policies or projects? Not really.



# Challenges

- Unevenly applied
- HIA is reactive
- Struggle with how to move beyond HIA toward including health in process from the beginning

## New tool

- Health in Planning Checklist – in development with CDC
- For use with community engagement





## APA Contributions to HIA

- October 2011 issue of *Zoning Practice*: “The Effective Use of Health Impact Assessment in Land-Use Decision Making”
  - Emphasis on local decision making for specific populations
  - HIA as improving participatory and evidence-based approach to plan making
  - Roles of planners and HIA: Educate public officials; Guide or influence development and land use decisions; Strengthen plans through maximizing health benefits
- Free 6 hour on-line training course structured for planners

# APA's free online HIA training course

- Modules cover Screening, Scoping, Assessment, Recommendations, Reporting, Evaluation
- Includes planning related case examples and potential scenarios for applying HIA in planning work
- Why people are taking the course:
  - Integrate HIA into the comprehensive planning process
  - Integrate into the project development process
  - Use HIA to form a relationship with the public health department;  
Use HIA to form a relationship with the planning department
  - Integrate HIA into the rezoning process
  - Lead an HIA on projects in the planning department / in the public health department

## APA's free online HIA training course

- Course evaluations: Very positive
- Most agree HIA is relevant to their work and community
- Most agree: "This program introduced me to new ideas or provoked me to think more critically about planning."
- Many agree: "The benefits of Health Impact Assessment outweigh any monetary and or time cost."

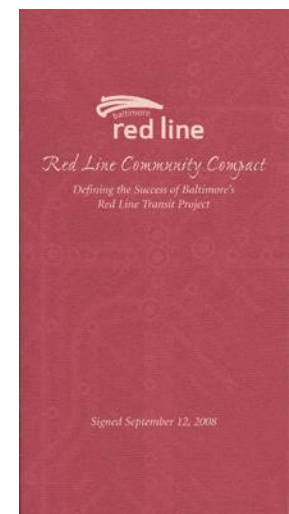
# Baltimore Red Line – 2008

- 14-mile transit line – [light rail]
- East-west line will create a system with two existing rail lines
- Route will connect directly to major employment centers and downtown
- “Reunite east and west”



# Baltimore Red Line HIA

- ***Red Line Community Compact: Defining the Success of the Baltimore's Red Line Transit Project***
- Collaborative agreement among City & State agencies, non-profit/private entities and community groups
- Sets specific goals & strategies
  - Making the Red Line Green: water, energy, green space, health & safety
- Impetus for undertaking HIA



# Baltimore Red Line HIA

- Submitted as comment to DEIS
- Premise: Red Line will improve health
- How can we maximize positive health impacts?
- Analysis and Recommendations for:
  - *Improve air quality*
  - *Improve accessibility and connectivity to services and opportunities for physical activity*
  - *Mitigate construction issues*

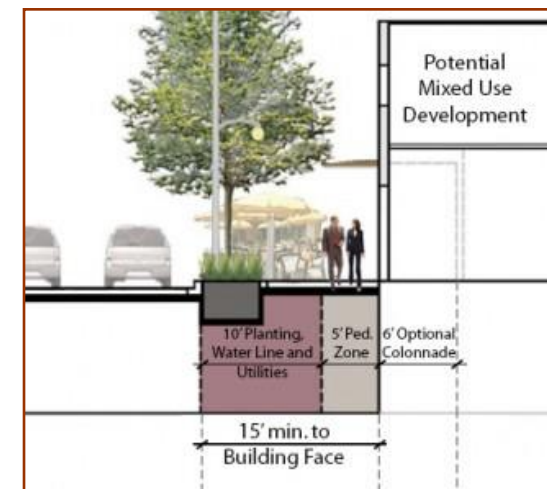


# Baltimore Red Line HIA - Implementation

- City-driven through the Compact process—Health & Environment Sub-committee
- Partners from Health Dept, Planning Dept, Baltimore Medical Systems, Parks & People Foundation
- Developed set of *Green Design Guidelines*
- Refining and producing recommendations for specific locations/areas

# Baltimore Red Line HIA - Challenges

- Scoping the project
- Initial unfamiliarity with engineering/planning documents
- Getting the right information; Quantitative v. Qualitative
- Implementation:
  - Keeping health at forefront
  - Coordination - Sub-committee no longer meets
  - Funding for “extras” – e.g. bike facilities, trees/landscaping, corridor enhancements





Thanks!

[aricklin@planning.org](mailto:aricklin@planning.org)


[www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health](http://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health)

**NATIONAL CENTERS FOR PLANNING**



American Planning Association  
 Making Great Communities Happen

**PLANNING & COMMUNITY HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER**




**Planning for healthy communities**

Obesity, Food deserts, Accessibility, Transportation alternatives. The way a community is planned—in land-use patterns, transportation systems, or community design—bears heavily on the health of those living there. By working closely with policymakers, public health professionals, environmental health scientists, transportation engineers, educators, and other community members and experts, planners work to create healthier communities, eliminating adverse conditions and building better places for everyone to live, work, and play. ABP&C Planning and Community Health Research Center is dedicated to integrating community health issues into local and regional planning practices by advancing a program of research, education, and policy.

Working with a nationwide network of research fellows and partner institutions, our staff conducts collaborative, multidisciplinary research and practical work aimed at addressing today's pressing health issues through city and regional planning, whether it be increasing physical activity and access to healthy food and health services, planning for aging populations and people with disabilities, creating schools that are centers of their communities, promoting environmental justice and social equity, or developing a future workforce with an understanding of health and planning issues.


Our work advances healthier policies and planning practices through:

- Research targeting areas at the intersection of planning and health
- Training and technical assistance for planners and allied professionals
- Information that affects planning and public policy at the local, state, and national levels
- Outreach efforts that increase awareness of health and planning issues
- Guidance for the next generation of planning and public health officials

ABP&C Planning and Community Health Research Center has the expertise and influence to help planners, health professionals, and citizens create healthier communities, shaping better places for future generations. To learn how ABP&C Planning and Community Health Research Center can help you or to discuss opportunities for research partnerships, contact ABP&C at [healthycommunities@planning.org](mailto:healthycommunities@planning.org) or visit [www.planning.org/nationalcenters](http://www.planning.org/nationalcenters).

ABP&C is the premier nonprofit education and research organization devoted to urban, suburban, regional, and rural planning. Through serial publications, research monographs, online resources, and distance and face-to-face training, we reach frontline professionals and decision makers. With more than 44,000 members and established partnerships with numerous academic, nonprofit, and public institutions, APA is connected to the innovative thinking and the practical realities of the planning profession.

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