Health metrics to shape transportation investment
METROPLAN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

METROPLAN ORLANDO, A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) that represents three counties and 23 municipalities in Central Florida, is taking the lead to advance public health through multiple transportation policies and initiatives. These include integrating health into their long-range transportation plan and corridor studies and collaborating with county health departments.

MetroPlan staff are currently developing a comprehensive guide that ensures its transportation investments promote health, economic development, and opportunity for those living in the region. The guide, to be completed in 2017, will feature the Transportation and Health Tool and will include the Housing and Transportation Affordability and Land Use Mix indicators. MetroPlan is also considering using up to 10 other THT indicators to support the objectives, goals, and performance measures of their next long-range transportation plan (LRTP), which establishes the region’s vision for a multimodal transportation system and outlines priority transportation projects for the upcoming 20 years.

MetroPlan’s Board formulates its LRTP every five years, aligning the plan with overarching goals that are assessed by evaluation criteria and performance measures. As a result of using the THT, MetroPlan is including health among the overarching goals in its 2045 LRTP and pursuing ways to integrate THT data into evaluation criteria and performance measures.

MetroPlan is also using THT indicators in its Corrine Drive Complete Streets study, a project funded through a Federal Highway Administration MPO Planning grant. For the study, MetroPlan is using the Commute Mode Share, Housing and Transportation Affordability, Land Use Mix, Road Traffic Fatalities by Mode, and Road Traffic Fatalities Exposure Rate indicators in conjunction with other health data to reveal areas in which public health improvements are most needed. The primary objective of the Corrine Drive Complete Streets study is to improve accessibility to key points of interest along the
“The THT is helping us fine tune our approach to transportation planning so that our decisions contribute to a healthier Central Florida region.”

— Harold W. Barley, Executive Director, MetroPlan Orlando

Semoran Boulevard has become a focal point for MetroPlan to incorporate health data into transportation planning. Currently, MetroPlan is determining how to use THT indicators to advance health and transportation outcomes for the 22-mile corridor. MetroPlan will also use its familiarity with the THT to provide input on transportation and health for the triennial Community Health Improvement Plans of Orange, Seminole, and Osceola counties.

Source: USDOT, Transportation and Health Tool website

THT indicator scores (represented by the blue bars) demonstrate how the Orlando, FL metropolitan statistical area (MSA) performs on key transportation and health measures compared to other MSAs. Scores are presented on a 100 point scale where 50 is the median and higher scores always represent better performance from a health perspective.