

Goals of Day 2 Training & Working Session-- Using HIA to Assess the Health Impacts of the Fort DuPont Master Plan

- Review HIA process and barriers and challenges to HIA
- Review baseline data for the Fort DuPont site and surrounding community
- Review preliminary assessment maps and move the DE HIA from the scoping phase to the assessment phase

Participants:

Trainers:

Kristin Raab, MLA, MPH, MN Climate & Health Program Director, Minnesota Department of Health
Kelly Muellman, MURP, MN Climate & Health Program Planner, Minnesota Department of Health

HIA Advisory Committee Members:

Kevin Coyle, Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Helen Arthur, Division of Public Health
Bill Brockenbrough, Dept. of Transportation
Connie Holland, Office of State Planning Coordination (Co-Chair of DE HEAL E&P Committee)
Andrea Trabelsi, Delaware Greenways (Co-Chair of DE HEAL E&P Committee and HIA project manager)
Phil Franz, AIA Delaware
John Mateyko, AIA Delaware, Northeast Sustainable Energy Association
Herb Inden, Office of State Planning
Dan Lacombe, Dept. of Transportation
Heather Dunigan, Wilmington Area Planning Council
BJ DeCoursey, Institute for Public Administration, University of Delaware

Other Participants:

David Edgell, Office of State Planning
Jonathan Kirch, American Heart Association
Jeremy Rothwell, Institute for Public Administration, University of Delaware
Andrew Homsey, Institute for Public Administration, University of Delaware
Tirzah Spencer, Nemours Health and Prevention

Notes:

These notes were part of the HIA training session and while many ideas were generated for the assessment phase of the Fort DuPont HIA, not all ideas will necessarily be addressed in the assessment and final HIA report. These decisions will be made by the HIA advisory committee.

As suggested by the trainers, we will move forward with our assessment focusing on the two master plan alternatives we currently have. Although we anticipate at least one more update from the consultants, in order for us to be able to move forward we will hold the current versions of the master plans (“Baseline” and “Beyond the Baseline”) as the scenarios we assess. Doing so is important for efficiency and consistency in our process and will enable us to note positive or negative changes (with regard to health) that are made over the course of the updates of the MP as well as for logistical practicality.

Timeline Update:

- Scoping phase is complete
- We have kicked off assessment phase with the work initiated during this Day 2 training/work session
- Remaining phases are:
 - Assessment (March/April)
 - data collection
 - committee meeting to review progress (week of March 18)
 - committee meeting to review assessment draft report and prepare recommendations
 - Recommendations and Reporting (April/May)
 - Public Meeting/Forum—presentation to public of findings, recommendations and gathering public feedback; this will be an opportunity to confirm or identify needed changes in the work

conducted by the HIA Advisory Committee (this will be separate from the Fort DuPont Master Plan project's third public meeting anticipated in April)

- development of report executive summary and other public awareness materials
- dissemination of materials
- Advisory Committee continues to meet with responsible parties as development continues over the longer term (e.g. via DE HEAL E&P Committee's future efforts)
- Evaluation/Monitoring (April+)
 - survey at public meeting/interview
 - ongoing monitoring

Data to add to Maps:

- DE City community garden(s)
- fire station
- post office
- other common destinations/services
- Library at Community Center

Data to collect:

- age of population and population distribution
- access for non-driving populations and older populations to community destinations (look at transit, sidewalks and infrastructure, location of destinations)
- location of common community destinations (e.g. bank, post office, pharmacy) & accessibility of those locations
- Childcare
- Infant mortality
- BRFSS data on health conditions at the zip code level
- Community Gardens
- Housing market (vacancy rate, real estate sales data, housing affordability)
- How to make this a vibrant community?
- Community assets (likely will require an indicator based on qualitative assessment—interviews, survey, etc.; may be able to factor this into the public meeting; create listing of community organizations, active churches, etc as proxy—this may be found in the DE Transportation Plan published by WILMAPCO)
- Desirability to live here
- Air quality
- try to extend the inquiry we initiated on Fortdupontideas.com regarding community health priorities to get more feedback(e.g. survey, interviews, or part of the public meeting)

Data sources:

- DE City Transportation Plan (WILMAPCO, 2009)
- DE City Comprehensive Plan (2009)
- Other HIA reports (for navigating lit review)

Notes from “pathways exercises”:

Existing Conditions

ISSUE AREA	NOTES
Access to Physical Activity	Conditions Noted and Issues to explore further: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of connectivity (both motorized and non-motorized) • only one bridge (Route 9) between existing community of DE City and Fort DuPont site; bridge is limiting for motorized and non-motorized traffic (sidewalks in poor condition and narrow) • high levels of recreational and open space • Washington Street is wide and likely there are higher safety (accident) concerns there (?) • block sizes on Ft. DuPont site are larger, fewer sidewalks than in DE City

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are many water, trail, active, and passive recreational resources; how accessible are they? • safety of the potential recreational areas from an environmental quality perspective • How do the accident rates in the area compare to the rest of the region/state? (frequency? severity of accidents? rates? traffic volumes of roads) • what is access like for subpopulations? (older, disabled, non-drivers)
Access to Food Choices	<p>Conditions Noted and Issues to explore further:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No grocery stores in the community; nearest grocery store is likely more than 4 miles away (not sure travel time / access by SOV vs. transit) • What is the nearest transit option from DE City to a grocery store (time, distance) • 1 seasonal farmers market exists, which began in the last few years; neither SNAP nor EBT are accepted (find out more details about this FM--hours, etc.) • No community gardens currently on Fort DuPont site, but a lot of space land for that potential use or use for site of other food source (e.g. Dollar General, which do locate in small communities and, therefore, may be more likely to be able to establish a store in an area with smaller market demand) • Any community gardens currently in Delaware City? • What is the link between social cohesion in the community and access to food choices? (e.g. is DE City a close-knit community where residents rely on each other for carpooling to the grocery store?)
Access to Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No general practitioners or dental care exists currently in Delaware City; Governor Bacon health center only currently offers services to specific populations (i.e. senior, long-term care) • Governor Bacon center receives 5 star rating for care. • the paratransit program offers drastically subsidized travel for certain pop's • transit travels to DE City and is an option for people to get to medical care outside the community • What are conditions like for emergency services? What is the service capacity during severe weather/emergencies with regard to ingress and egress? (Delaware City Fire Co. is the first responder service)

Phase 1 "Baseline Master Plan"

ISSUE AREA	NOTES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Access to Physical Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (+) streetscapes, tree canopy, and landscapes enhanced • (-) block sizes remain large • (-) still disconnected from DE City (only 1 connection, via Route 9 Bridge) • (+) reuse of historic bldgs creates additional destinations and draw for pedestrian activity; possible resources for bike, ped, and recreational activity • (+) expanded wharf (a draw for bike/ped activity as a new destination of interest) • (+) more pedestrians creates a more inviting environment drawing additional ped/bike visitors • (+) revitalized trails and natural areas that create more recreational space • (+) C&D Canal Trail expansions completed • (-) potential isolation of users—safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expand sidewalks on existing Rt. 9 Bridge for initial improvement in pedestrian access between Fort DuPont and De City • Encourage development along Route 9 to attract more activity) • Pedestrian Bridge across the Branch Canal for safety and for an initial step in next phase of developing full auto and pedestrian bridge; without this connection, many people will either not cross between the two sites (Delaware City and Fort DuPont) or they will drive • Hold and promote social activities along the waterfront to encourage use and activity • Bike Patrol and lighting for safety • Develop trail to and around the

	<p>concern?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more sports fields • (+/-) additional people could mean both an increase in social appeal and crime • parking at Fort DuPont site might draw people from Delaware City and reduce economic development/revenues/activity in Delaware City; Will visitors to Fort DuPont also patronize Delaware City? • More destinations and activity along Rt. 9 (e.g. Bayshore, Byway, Trails, etc.) • Increased access to nature (translating to increased mental, physical, social well-being) 	<p>promenade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host historic walking tours to encourage physical activity • better signage and way-finding
Access to Food Choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change from Existing Conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community garden at Fort DuPont site • Attract food retailers (e.g. Dollar General) • encourage the existing convenience store to offer healthy alternatives (see Delaware Urban Farm Coalition, Philly Food Trust for resources)
Access to Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor Bacon Center remains as it was in Existing Conditions • No change in access to health care expected (possible rehab of some of the buildings may mean increase in Gov. Bacon center residential population) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Phase 2 “Beyond the Baseline Master Plan” (includes all four “anchor tenant” options (Marina, Recreational Facility, Health Hub, Corporate/Education Center)

ISSUE AREA	NOTES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Access to Physical Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition of Marina attracts more activity and more opportunities for physical activity • Addition of Recreational Facilities attracts more activity and provides more opportunities for physical activity • More activity increasing family activities, social cohesion and mental health (in addition to physical health) • Better trail connectivity increases opportunities for physical activity • more activity may increase or decrease crime • Decrease in block sizes at Fort DuPont site promote more walking/bicycling • Addition of Bridge at 2nd street improves connectivity between Delaware City and Fort DuPont site, which is likely to have positive and negative effects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ + more likely pedestrian and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create neighborhood/ community oriented sites to the south of the new pedestrian bridge (in the location where the rehab housing had been) • Develop a bike rental or share site near the marina on the fort DuPont site • Golf cart rental for alternative mode of transit that has smaller impact than car travel •

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ bicycle travel ○ – more opportunity for bike/ped/motor vehicle accidents (though severity likely to be low b/c of slow travel speeds) ○ +promotion of economic activity for local community ○ –potential for more air pollution 	
Access to Food Choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● addition of bridge produces new access points to food options existing in Delaware City and any new options added to the Fort DuPont site ● increase in population and activity in the area may draw interest for grocer or expansion of food options offered through other retailers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attract food destinations, groceries, farm markets to the area (assuming market now exists)
Access to Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enhancement/expansion of Governor Bacon may mean opportunities for general practices and dental open to wider public ● Additional jobs that come to the area through the redevelopment will promote better access to healthcare through increased insurance coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● open health center cafeteria to the public ● attract more specialists who serve part or full time at the health hub and cater to the existing Delaware city population ● establish a walk in clinic, primary care center, and pharmacy ● expand existing senior living and facilitated care ● Offer better transit to the health hub and to other outside health facilities ● provide shared office/treatment space for doctors who have part time hours ● offer and promote other wellness opportunities, such as yoga, tai-chi, massage, and other preventive services ● Joint-use agreement for hospital space? ● Nutrition classes

Info for consideration as we prepare recommendations, report, and communications plan:

- Kevin reported that the Master Plan produced by Sasaki will be turned over to the Division of Parks and Recreation (site owner/manager) once completed later this spring. It's expected that eventually a redevelopment authority (act of general assembly) will need to be created to implement the Master Plan.
- While our HIA targets to inform the final plans coming out of the Master Plan process, we anticipate many additional decision points at which the information gathered through the HIA will be informative and valuable.