MONTANA BUILDING ACTIVE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE (BACI)

RHI Webinar January 8th, 2018

Cathy Costakis, MSU, DPHHS-Nutrition and Physical Activity Program
Mark Fenton, Public Health, Planning and Transportation Consultant
Meg Traci, UM, DPHHS-Montana Disability and Health Program
Overview

- Overview of BACI project
- Specifics on the BACI Action Institute & application process
- Mark Fenton insights
- Meg Traci – Montana Disability and Health Program
- Q & A
Montana is a LARGE rural state
We need less of this...
...and more of this
TREES MATTER!

• Increase property values
• Reduce pollution runoff
• Provide shade and reduce heat
• Reduce vehicle speeds
• Clean the air
• Reduce stress
• Enhance sense of place
But there are always tradeoffs...

- Tree roots can damage sidewalks
- Limbs can impair power lines
- Leaves can clog sewer drains
Time for a poll!
Biking and Walking Potential in Rural Communities

• Small towns are ideally sized to maximize bicycling and walking potential

• Average walking trip in US = 1.2 miles (50% less than half mile)

• Average bicycling trip in US = 4 miles (60% less than 2 miles)
Challenges and Opportunities in a Rural Environment

Challenges
- Reduced capacity and expertise of local staff
- Car-oriented culture
- Funding
- Sparse development patterns
- City/County coordination

Opportunities
- Strong, close-knit leadership
- Smaller geographic size
- Low-cost creative ways to accomplish goals
- Good policies can create better community design with low cost
- Can do amazing things if a small group of committed individuals collaborate across jurisdictions!
Building Capacity

- 2004—CDC/DPHHS obesity prevention grant builds state level capacity
- 2008—CDC/DPHHS funds local health departments
  - National Complete Streets Coalition
- 2010—Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW)
  - Montana Complete Streets Toolkit for Cities, Small Towns and Tribal Communities
- 2012—Community Transformation Grant (CTG)
  - Building Active Communities Initiative
Building Active Communities Initiative AI

**Goal:** The overarching goal of the Action Institute is to provide communities the tools and technical assistance they need to develop policies, plans, and projects that support more safe, connected and walkable communities. This year’s Institute will also focus on access to healthy, affordable and local foods.
surgeongeneral.gov/StepItUp

- Walkable Communities
- Livable Communities
- Age-Friendly Communities
- Sustainable Economic Development
- Smart Growth
- TND Traditional Neighborhood Design
- CNU Congress for a New Urbanism

health.gov/paguidelines
The Triple Bottom Line...
Building Active Communities Initiative (BACI)

- Action Institute
- Resources
- Advisors
- Application process
Action Institutes
Action Institute Walk Audits
BACI Team Action Plans
Building Active Communities Workbook
# Building Active Communities: Resource Guide

## Montana

Building Active Communities Resource Guide

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Montana Complete Streets Toolkit

- BACI Resources
  - Complete Streets Toolkit for City/County/Town staff, elected officials and citizens
    - Planning Guidance
    - Case Studies
    - Design Guidance
- BACI Website
- BACI Thumb Drive
- BACI Listserv
- BACI E-News
BACI Advisors

- Montana Department of Commerce
  - Main Street Program
- Montana Department of Transportation
- Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
  - Recreational Trails Program
- Bike Walk Montana
BACI Advisors

- Western Transportation Institute
  - Small Urban and Rural Livability Center
- Montana Disability and Health Program
- Alta Planning + Design
- Future West
- Flathead County Public Health Department
- MSU Extension Community Development
BACI Community Outcomes

• Great Falls—Growth Policy and Transportation Plan updates (2014)
• Shelby—Safe and Accessible Streets policy (2014)
• Sidney—Safe and Accessible Streets policy (2014)
• Hamilton—Complete Streets Policy (2014)
• Belgrade—Safe and Usable Streets Policy (2014)
• Glendive—Safe and Accessible Streets policy (2015), Master Trails Plan (2014)
• Park County—Active Transportation Plan (2016)
• Red Lodge—Active Transportation Plan (2016)
• Whitefish—Connect Whitefish-Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2017)
BACI Community Outcomes

• Dawson County—Complete Streets Policy
• Ranked #3 by the National Complete Streets Coalition of over 70 policies adopted in 2014
Major BACI Goals

• Improving the health of the community through multi-sector collaboration
• Focus on policy, systems and environmental change
• Adapt evidence-based and practice-based strategies to a local context
• Enhance local efforts through better coordination at the state level
Application Process

• **Award recipients agree to:**
  • Convene a multi-sector Action Team
  • Prepare for the Action Institute by completing Pre-Work
  • Attend Action Institute and develop an Action Plan
  • Complete Action Institute evaluation and participate in quarterly follow-up technical assistance calls, occasional webinars (voluntary) and yearly site visits
Forming your BACI Team

- **Multi-sector teams of five people**
  - local government (elected official/planner/public works strongly encouraged)
  - health representative
  - school district
  - disability advocate
  - representative of the business community/economic dev
  - influential community advocate
  - non-profit organization representative.
Online Application due by February 9\textsuperscript{th}

- All Montana cities with a population of 20,000 or below (2010 Census) are eligible to apply
- 2018 BACI Action Institute will be held in Livingston, MT
- Applicants will be notified no later than Monday, February 26, 2018
- Five questions
- \url{https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/baciapp2018}
BACI-Lessons Learned

- Team lead and team make-up is critical to success
- Plan for inclusion from the start
- Focus on peer to peer learning as well as team building
- Connect to state resources
- Follow-up support is critical
- Share successes and challenges
- Have fun!
How the Montana Disability and Health Program can help?

• Recruiting a Disability Advisor to your community’s “multi-sector Action Team” for perspectives on:
  • Inclusive Walk audits in your community
  • Pre-work Placemapping exercise

• Community and public health data
  • [Link](http://mtdh.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/?page_id=6292)

• Disability resources and training
  • Disabilities Resources & Information on BACI website: [Link](http://www.umt.edu/sell/cps/baci/Disabilities%20Resources%20.php)
QUESTIONS
Cathy Costakis
costakis@montana.edu
http://www.umt.edu/sell/cps/baci/
406.994-5734 (o)
406.581-8650 (c)

Mark Fenton
rmfenton777@gmail.com
www.markfenton.com

Meg Ann Traci
meg.traci@mso.umt.edu
406.243-4956