

RJWF GRANT ACTIVITIES DRAFT WORKING DOCUMENT

RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR, EXECUTE, ACKNOWLEDGE, IMPLEMENT AND DELIVER ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE FOR THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION GRANT: GLOBAL IDEAS FOR U.S. SOLUTIONS: CITIES TAKING ACTION TO ADDRESS HEALTH, EQUITY, AND CLIMATE

- This project will use Cape Town’s “[Talking Streets](#)” model to develop, from the ground up, a suite of city policies for the built environment to address climate mitigation and adaptation in ways that address current community health equity priorities. Specifically, the public engagement processes will shape city green ordinances and local transportation planning, with the possibility for additional policy change through coalition-building during the grant period.
- While the Talking Streets concept previously has been used to inform transportation actions only, we propose to expand it to inform neighborhood design and the built environment more broadly. Best practice in building community resilience to climate change is “hyper local” and community-driven adaptation action. Our ground-up approach does so.
- Our project will feature organized, resident-led “Street Walks” in up to 4 neighborhoods characterized by low income, disproportionate incidence of poor health outcomes (e.g., asthma, diabetes, obesity, COVID rates) and high reliance on public transportation, to highlight past environmental justice/equity issues, understand how residents currently perceive environmental and health conditions in their neighborhoods, and hear how they would like those to change.
- We anticipate conducting approx. 12 Street Walks per year -- 3 in each neighborhood – with 10-20 residents. The first would be more of an introductory “show us your neighborhood” walk, and the other two would be organized around themes that emerge in debriefs following the initial walks (e.g., heat, floods, vacant lots, traffic, asthma “hot spots,” safety, etc.)
- After the first round of walks, walk leaders, together with policymakers will form a “Street Lab” where desired policy changes will be discussed. This will generate ideas about potential changes in policy that will be presented along with recommendations about community engagement best practices learned through the project in Year 3 to city agencies (City Plan, Transportation, others)
- Community members will be hired as walk leaders. The first walk will be based on their research and they will be the ones to decide what to focus on, walk routes, and how to frame communication along the way. Walk participants will be asked to fill in surveys and share insights about the lived experience of their neighborhoods. This feedback will be organized in a database that will be later used to inform city policies.
- One project output will be an interactive, online map that compiles the rich data from the Talking Streets events. The map also will contain urban heat island mapping, FEMA flood maps, and sea level rise projections. [New Haven urban heat island mapping from Yale’s Xuhui Lee and/or CIRCA + resident data from individual air quality monitors or temperature monitors + people can suggest additions to website [like See Click Fix?]]

- The tentative project area is the Whalley Avenue/Elm St/Grand Ave corridor, from Westville to Fair Haven Heights. This corridor traverses neighborhoods, with variety in geography, demographics, and land use/zoning. This is linked the “[healthy corridor](#)” concept.
- Policy/planning focus:
 - Green ordinances that will be developed/updated through this process include: updating the [Reflective Heat Index Ordinance](#) to create a larger Heat Island Ordinance; City Wide Green Roof design guidelines and incentives; urban agriculture ordinance; and stormwater management provisions.
 - Under this project, a health equity lens will be applied to the development/update of these ordinances.
 - [\[Summary of the transportation policy change/ infrastructure change??\]](#)

Intersecting work stream	Activities	Short-term outcomes			Long-term outcomes		
		Equity	Health	Climate	Equity	Health	Climate
Community engagement	-Cyclovias -Street walks - Collaborate with existing festivals, Rock2Rock, etc	Activities focused on 3 corridors in lower income areas	Changes in behavior lead to greater social cohesion, physical activity, lower air pollution	Changes in behavior lead to lower GHG	Vibrant urban corridors equitably distributed across city; greater connectedness across communities in New Haven	Changes in behavior that lead to greater social cohesion, phys activity, lower air pollution	Changes in behavior to support lower GHG from transportation
Policy and planning	[2] Developing public participation strategies to utilize in work processes on the	Improve access to public meetings and participation in land policy and regulatory decisions.	Assure health is prioritized in planning policy, regulations and initiatives. - evaluation of comp plan implementation in its first	Introduces climate change as a priority in planning docs -Introducing the Green Ordinances to the public to collect feedback	Inclusive Public Participation in shaping the city's 2035 vision and work plans for the upcoming years: -Assures that the city plans reflect priorities of	Include a health component in the Green Ordinances Social cohesion, phys activity,	Changes in policies -support lower GHG from transportation and buildings sector. - Green Ordinances (open spaces, building sector) including

<p>next comp plan Health Impact Assessment Racial Equity Assessment - Green ordinances ECODISTRICT? [1] Green ordinances in the commercial corridors - continue to develop the GO via a public engagement process with three low-income neighborhoods and as part of neighborhood\community planning effort [2] Incorporate a public health component into the GO</p>	<p>Assure equity is prioritized in planning policy, regulations and initiatives. This will be achieved by engaging communities across the city in the evaluation of Comp plan implementation in its first five years (2015-2020). The public engagement will be focused on equity in planning processes and in planning outcomes.</p>	<p>five years (2015-2020) - focusing on public health as a planning goal both in the GO and the Comp Plan frameworks GO in the commercial corridors - focusing on immediate health benefits to low-income communities and city wide</p>	<p>-informing and discussing, stakeholders, and decision-makers the GO as a climate change mitigation tool -Encouraging the use of public spaces and public transportation after COVID-19 -Streets as public spaces - design exercise to reimagine main streets/commercial corridors as public space as opposed to traffic arteries</p>	<p>those often not included in planning processes. -The next comp plan will be finalized and approved in 2025, hence 2020-2023 is the suitable time period to rethink and develop inclusionary public participation methods to be used in the work on the 2025 comp plan</p>	<p>lower air pollution</p>	<p>public health component - -Climate adaptation policy change?</p>
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	<p>[3] Educating the public, stakeholders, and decision-makers regarding the GO as a climate change mitigation tool</p> <p>-Update to Transportation Plan - -BRT application?</p>						
Infrastructure change	<p>-\$ for Whalley -climate investments?</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	Prioritizes investment in LE corridors	Changes in infrastructure to support more active transportation (more physical activity,	Changes in infrastructure to support lower GHG from transportation