

## STARS Safety, Health, and Equity Credits

STARS (Sustainable Transportation Analysis and Rating System) is an integrated set of sustainability tools for transportation plans, projects, and programs. STARS is being developed by the North American Sustainable Transportation Council (STC) and the City of Portland's Bureau of Transportation. Through a partnership with the Multnomah County Health Department and Upstream Public Health, STC has developed a set of Safety, Health, and Equity Credits for STARS.

The STARS Safety, Health, and Equity Credits help integrate safety, health, and equity considerations into transportation projects. It is intended to help transportation managers, decision-makers, and those concerned with public health and equity to address these issues early enough to make a difference in transportation decision-making.

Transportation systems affect the health and safety of people traveling by all modes. In particular, automobile-oriented transportation and land use planning negatively affects community health by “reducing opportunities for physical activity, ...increasing the likelihood of traffic incidents, and exacerbating poverty and inequity”.<sup>1</sup>

The Safety, Health, and Equity Credits described in this document will be used as a stand-alone tool to help users develop transportation projects that improve health, safety, and equity for those impacted by the project.

Additionally, the Safety, Health, and Equity Credits will be integrated into the existing STARS-Project framework; people using the STARS framework for their transportation projects will be expected to incorporate these credits into their planning process. Credits for Safety, Health, and Equity are also being developed for STARS-Plan, the framework for integrating sustainability into transportation plans (regional transportation plans and transportation system plans).



<sup>1</sup> American Public Health Association. (2009). At the [Intersection of Public Health and Transportation](#). Washington, DC: American Public Health Association.

**STARS Safety, Health, and Equity Credits (Draft)**

Credit	Goal	Objective	Measure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Safety</b>	Improve perceived and actual safety for all project users, especially for those most vulnerable to injury or death.	To decrease fatalities and injuries for all travel modes.	Improvements to number of areas with fatalities and injuries	
		To achieve traffic speeds compatible with land use context and safety for all modes	Speed suitability (qualitative)	
		To demonstrate that the project addresses perceived safety issues identified in the user survey or public meetings per the Integrated Process credit.	User survey (qualitative)	
<b>Health</b>	Improve health by increasing physical activity by people using the transportation system.	To increase the percentage of walking, bicycling, and transit trips.	Mode share	
	Improve air quality.	TBD	TBD	
<b>Equity</b>	Ensure equitable benefit of healthy, safe access for transportation-disadvantaged populations.	To improve transit travel time and travel time reliability between key origins and destinations for transportation-disadvantaged populations.	Average travel time, travel time reliability	
		To demonstrate that Safety and Health Credit measures show that transportation-disadvantaged populations benefit at least as much as the remaining population.	Improvements to number of areas with fatalities and injuries; speed suitability; user survey; mode share	
		To demonstrate that the project addresses perceived equity issues identified in the user survey or public meetings per the Integrated Process credit.	User survey (qualitative)	
	Demonstrate that transportation investments do not disproportionately impact transportation-disadvantaged populations during the construction or operation of the project.	To demonstrate that transportation-disadvantaged populations will not experience disproportionate exposure to traffic noise or air pollution.	Traffic noise exposure	
		To minimize gentrification.	Qualitative	