

**Community Engagement Through Coalition Building to Enhance Public Transportation and Promote Health**

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Increased access to public transportation has been identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a high impact policy for improved public health. Community coalitions have been found to be an effective strategy to promote policy change. The Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) of the Wake Forest Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), comprised of more than 40 lay community members and representatives from community-based organizations and Wake Forest School of Medicine (WFSM) in Winston-Salem, NC, advises the CTSI on community needs, priorities, and assets and assists in translating research into improved public health. The SAC prioritized public transportation as a critical policy issue and established the Transportation Coalition. The Coalition has convened monthly for the past year. Coalition meeting attendance averages 18 people per meeting who represent broad constituencies, including Winston-Salem residents, community-based organizations, local universities, the local transportation authority, local government, and WFSM. Coalition members identified short-term policy objectives and strategized action steps. For example, by participating in City Council meetings, Coalition members presented local and national data linking access to transportation with economic and health outcomes and advocated for extended bus services into local communities that had been previously isolated. The Coalition also helped the local transportation authority to craft recommendations submitted to City Council that included greater service during nights and weekends. Although short-term successes have been made, the Coalition has also developed long-term policy objectives and is developing action steps to further promote community health through increased access to public transportation.