

WHO ARE WE?

EcoPlan is a small, Vancouver-based firm specializing in values-based planning and design. We have been engaged with healthy communities planning for almost 10 years including planning for active transportation, healthy built environments, and health impact assessments.

We have produced nationally disseminated fact sheets, led workshops and webinars, and produced resource guides on the topic, including our recent guidebook and companion toolkit, *Health Impact Assessment of Transportation and Land Use Planning Activities*. We have applied a health lens to all of our community planning work, and our Strategic Health Impact Assessment of TransLink's regional transportation plan is one of the few such projects undertaken in Canada.



HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT



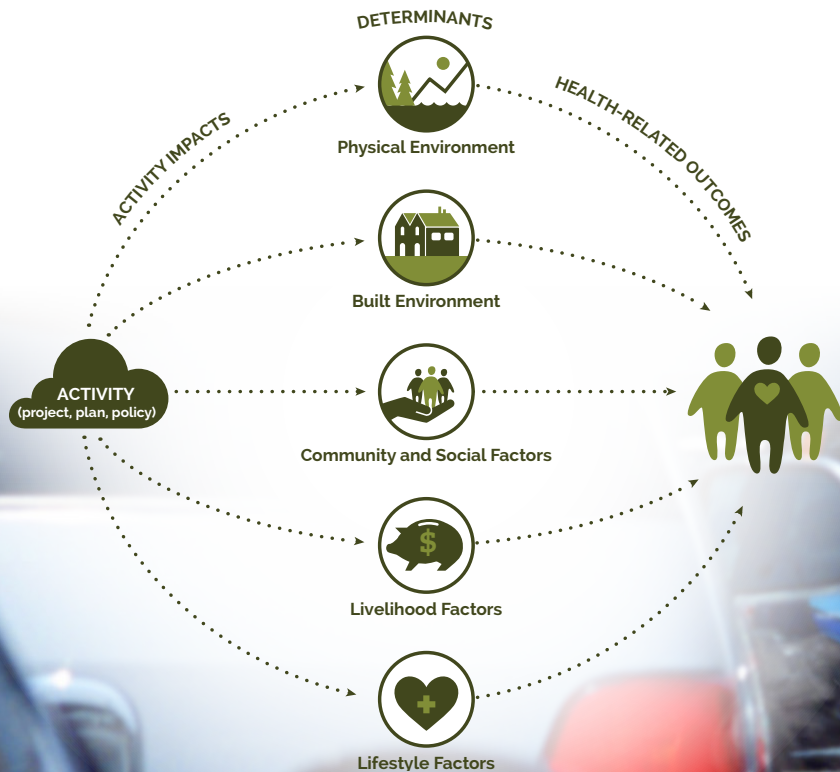
HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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A growing body of research clearly shows that planning, land use, and transportation decisions have public health consequences. If potential public health impacts are identified early on in the planning process, unintended negative consequences from these activities can be avoided or mitigated, while positive impacts can be leveraged.

As illustrated, an activity (i.e., a project, plan, or policy) can impact health determinants — the wider social and environmental factors that help shape health outcomes.

Health-related outcomes include injuries, mortalities, diseases and the behaviours that contribute to them. Planning, land use, and transportation decisions can result in both positive and negative public health outcomes.



WHY DO IT?

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) provides planners and policy-makers with a structured approach to objectively evaluate the potential health-related outcomes of an activity before it has been implemented. It can be applied in a wide range of municipal, transportation, development, and policy planning processes.

Research in Canada, the US, and abroad clearly demonstrates that HIAs contribute to the decision-making process and help achieve measurably better outcomes for community health and wellbeing by:



Identifying the linkages between how we build and design our cities and the health people living in them



Engaging community stakeholders in the decision-making process and improving public awareness of the healthier city planning



Identifying healthier options that maximize the positive impacts and minimize the negative impacts of an activity



Making better, more transparent decisions on land use, planning and transportation projects