



Cooperative Extension

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE &  
NATURAL RESOURCES



# **Route 9 Health Action Plan Progress and Updates April 2023**

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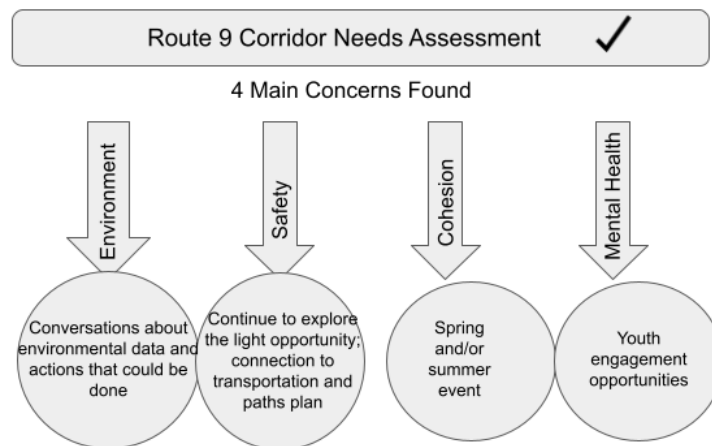
## Background

In Spring 2021, a community health needs assessment was administered to try to gather information on perceived needs impacting the health and wellness of residents along the Route 9 Corridor. This survey had 104 respondents representing the various neighborhoods. The responses were analyzed, themed, and presented to the Route 9 Health Subcommittee to use in the development of an action plan to address the needs. The four areas identified for intervention included: safety, environmental concerns, mental health and neighborhood cohesion. Considerations that were acknowledged by survey respondents included: racism still prevalent in the neighborhoods, some more than others; wanting to better understand health in the community, but needing to have “lay language”; and utilization of faith-based organizations as a trusted resource along the corridor. While it was not one of the three areas identified as opportunities to influence, respondents also noted the COVID-19 pandemic to consider when planning and implementing interventions aimed to increase health and well-being and overall quality of life.

## Action Plan

At the start of 2022, the group discussed how they might work to address the three areas of most concern in the community.

### ROUTE 9 CORRIDOR ACTION PLAN GRAPHIC



Throughout the 2022 year, the subcommittee worked to implement strategies that addressed the needs.

- Neighborhood Cohesion
  - Neighborhood Programs:
    - The NCC Prevention Coalition led many events in the Tri-Park area and

beyond throughout the year that included community resources, food, games for kids and adults, movies, and community gathering.

- Environment
  - Air Quality - Many conversations about air quality occurred throughout 2022. DNREC attended multiple meetings to provide an overview of the data that is available at the community level and how that aligns with regulatory requirements. DNREC also applied for a grant to increase the opportunity for monitoring that was unfortunately not funded; however, they noted a commitment to continuing the conversation with this group and looking for additional funding/resources to support a better understanding of the issue. In addition to DNREC, CRODA and Fuji Film attend committee meetings to listen to community concerns and provide progress reports about engagement activities between the sites and the community.
  - Lead - Toward the end of 2022, DOE attended a meeting to discuss a new initiative that is looking at lead in school buildings, including those that are serving children from the Rt. 9 Corridor
- Safety Interventions
  - Lighting - Wrote a letter to the county and while there wasn't an initial reaction from them, there has been some movement made with DeIDOT in Q3 - there could be a potential resolution if the county can change the hours of the park to not read dawn to dusk

The progress made in 2022 has really been a testament to the number of community members, local, and state organizations that continue to have conversations on a monthly basis about the key issues and where there are areas of opportunity to have a positive influence on long-term health of the community and its residents.

### **Looking ahead**

The progress made in 2022 sets the group up for continued work in 2023 in the areas of cohesion, environment and safety, as well as looking to tie in some of the other key priorities such as mental health, specifically related to the youth in the area.

At the last meeting of 2022, the group decided to continue to focus on the environment as a key issue. The conversations that have started, specifically with DeIDot and the industry partners are just the starting point for finding solutions that can have long-term impacts on air quality.

The group identified youth engagement as something that deserved more attention this year, and discussed that there may be an opportunity to engage youth in conversations about environmental justice and well-being, and that this could also tie in safety and some work that is being done under the paths plan. Other potential solutions for youth engagement included more youth programming to the area that is of interest to youth and also accessible.

**Environment:** Identify the cumulative impact on the Rt 9 corridor.  
**Safety:** Increase lighting on the corridor where appropriate.  
**Neighborhood Cohesion:** Increase programming for youth and teens

**Plan**

Area of Opportunity (Goal)	Q1 Activities	Q2 Activities	Q3 Activities	Q4 Activities
Environment (Increase air monitors on the Route 9 corridor)  <a href="https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/env-justice/">https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/env-justice/</a>	DNREC continues to attend meetings and have conversations about concerns	Group taking a look at how to interpret data that we have and how to use it effectively  Air monitors - Russ has monitors to still distribute if community is interested  Planning for environmental justice and youth project begins- Make connections with Wilmington group may have opportunity in the Rt. 9 area (DNS Trail Ambassadors) for the youth group idea - training and empowerment ( <b>Bill</b> )  DNREC continues to attend meetings and have conversations about	“Host” environmental justice and youth event  DNREC continues to attend meetings and have conversations about concerns	DNREC continues to attend meetings and have conversations about concerns  <b>Potential exercise:            Review data from air monitors</b>

		concerns		
Safety	Review paths plan to identify any solutions that may overlap - <b>Completed</b>	Potential to do a walking audit at night to observe and report problems - question is whether or not nighttime safety is taken into consideration during current audit process (for peds and bikes) - <b>(Gina, Cooper, Carlos, Bill)</b>		<b>Input for TAP project related to connectivity</b>
Neighborhood cohesion		Identify potential programs for expansion <b>(Gina)</b>  Walk + Roll club potential in the Surratte Park area - June/July <b>(Gina will share registration information)</b>	Implement new youth programming (if applicable)	Interview youth to determine success and challenges of new or updated programming

**Ongoing Activities:**

Monitor progress of lighting (no update as of 2.9.2023; waiting on letters; should have an update by next subcommittee meeting)

For additional lighting needs - request can be made through report an incident that can trigger a need at a specific location to do a light study and potentially add (Collins Park area specifically - Cherry Ln going south; Family Dollar is adding lights)

DeIDOT report an issue: <https://deldot.gov/Traffic/ReportRoadCondition/index.shtml>