

Recommendations to improve Transportation

Otero County Healthcare Services Department

Full report available at: <https://www.co.tero.nm.us/374/Community-Health-Assessment>



Transportation

- Access to safe, affordable and reliable transportation – especially public transportation – is a complex issue, especially in regions with both urban and rural communities
- Strong public transportation systems and well-designed street, sidewalk, and trail systems promote individual health, social mobility, and community well-being

Community-level strategies to improve transportation

- Recommended *community-level strategies* to *improve transportation systems, active transit* (e.g., walking or biking), *and access* include:
 - Expanding transportation options that are available to the public and run on a scheduled timetable
 - Investing in transportation services for areas with low population densities using publicly funded buses and vans on a set schedule, dial-a-ride transit, volunteer ridesharing, etc.
 - Enhancing streetscapes with greater sidewalk coverage and walkway connectivity, street crossing safety features, traffic calming measures, and other design elements



Recommendations based on evidence, community input, and priorities

- Increase *funding and support for public transportation*, especially in Chaparral and mountain communities
- Incentivize *use of public transportation* through free or discounted fares and/or support for employers who incentivize use of public transportation
- Prioritize *infrastructure projects* that enhance walkability, sidewalk connectivity, bicycle use, and park access

For more information on what works to improve health, including transit systems: [What works for Health¹](#) and [What works? Strategies to Improve Rural Health²](#)

Sources:

¹Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF): *What Works for Health?*; ²Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF): *What works? Strategies to Improve Rural Health*