

This brief introduces the *Active Transportation Value Framework* as a tool for assessing the value of active transportation intervention strategies for childhood obesity prevention.

Active transportation: These strategies include policy, practice, or environmental changes focused on the public right-of-way (e.g., sidewalks, streets) to increase walking, biking, and use of public transit.

What is a value framework?

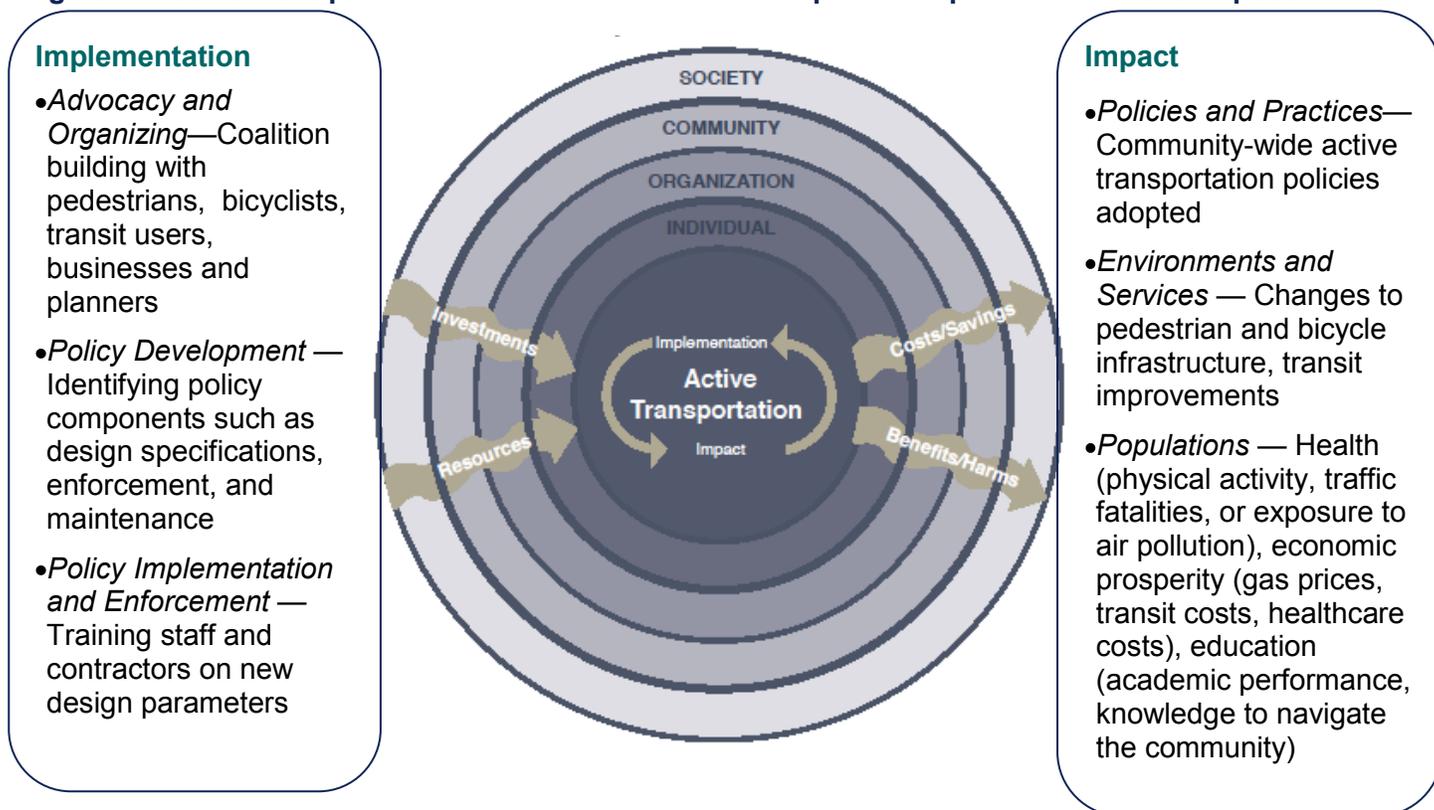
Value frameworks illustrate the complex system of implementation steps necessary to produce a range of impacts across four ecological levels of influence (individual, organizational, community, and society). These frameworks identify the investments and resources required to plan, implement, and maintain intervention strategies (inputs), as well as the associated costs, savings, benefits, or harms (outcomes).

Investments/Resources: Monetary and non-monetary inputs that support the planning, implementation, or maintenance of active transportation strategies.

Costs/Savings: Monetized outputs resulting from the planning, implementation, or maintenance of active transportation strategies.

Benefits/Harms: Actual or potential favorable and adverse consequences that may result from implementation and maintenance of active transportation strategies.

Figure 1: Active Transportation Value Framework—Examples of Implementation and Impact



How do you use the value frameworks in your community?

- 1) *Customize the value framework with information from your community:* The framework can guide comprehensive community assessments to identify indicators for measurement and analysis.
- 2) *Weigh investments and resources versus potential costs, savings, benefits, and harms:* The framework provides community leaders with an evidence-based approach to local decision-making.
- 3) *Design your active transportation initiative:* The framework offers activities for advocacy and organizing; policy development, implementation, and enforcement; and build out and maintenance of environments.
- 4) *Evaluate the effectiveness of your initiative:* The framework points to a range of evaluation outcomes to demonstrate the collective impact of your active transportation initiative.

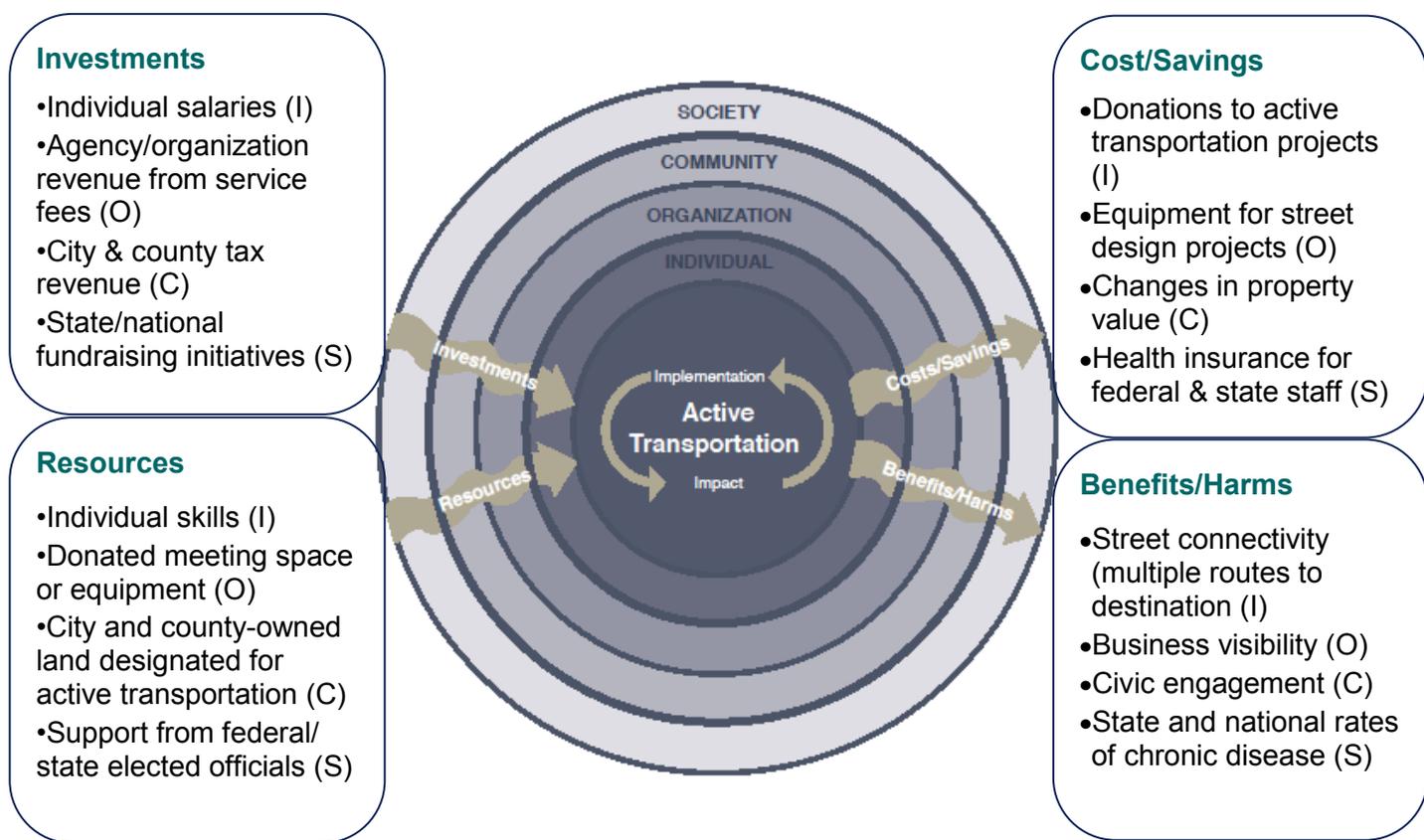
Complete Streets Policy Example

A complete streets policy is designed to improve pedestrian and bicyclist access to destinations in the community alongside transit users and drivers of automobiles. Successful planning, implementation, and maintenance of this policy requires multiple investments and resources (inputs) to minimize costs, maximize savings, increase benefits, and reduce harms (outputs).

Organizing cross-sector, multi-disciplinary partnerships with active community engagement and mobilization to conduct the planning, implementation, and maintenance activities is likely to generate buy-in and support to increase the sustainability of these efforts.

Figure 2 shows examples of these inputs and outputs at the individual (I), organizational (O), community (C), and societal (S) levels. These examples illustrate the complexity inherent in implementing active transportation systems that serve multiple interests in the community as well as the political, social, environmental, economic, and health impacts.

Figure 2: Sample Active Transportation Value Framework—Inputs and Outputs



The value frameworks were created as part of the *Evaluation of Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities* to document and share lessons learned related to the value of childhood obesity prevention interventions implemented across 49 *Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities* partnerships funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

A complementary Value Framework Manual was developed to provide a detailed review of six primary strategies, including: active transportation, parks and play spaces, child care physical activity standards, child care nutrition standards, corner stores, and farmers' markets. For more information, see the manual (www.transtria.com/hkhc.php).