

>> SPEAKER: Hello, the time is 11:00 a.m. Pacific 2:00 p.m. Eastern I am - engaging people with disabilities and designing safe and accessible transportation systems. My name is Ian Thomas, state and local program director with America walks and running when our technology is my colleague communication the development manager Kelsey Card. We would like to start by damaging the land we now consider to be the united states of America was inhabited and cared for by indigenous people for thousands of years before European colonists arrived. I live in the modern state of Missouri which was home to the auto, IOA, Illini, Osage and Chickasaw tribes I encourage you to research the images history of the land where you live this webinar is made possible through the generous support of our sponsors. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and prevention and their active people healthy nation program. The Association of bicycle professionals, MIG, better health and the everybody walk collaborative. We also have a special sponsor today, the National Center on health, physical activity and disability. Earlier this year, they awarded America walks a partnership for inclusive health innovation grant whose goal is to improve his ability and safety in tribal communities through more inclusive engagement with people with disabilities. Before entering today's program, I want let you know that close captioning is available under the tab marked questions in your go to webinar panel. If you have questions or comments for the panelists, please type them into the box in that same area. We will address as many questions as we can during the Q&A portion of the webinar then post the responses on the webpage with the recording. In this webinar, you're going to explore the topic of inclusive planning in tribal communities, engaging people with disabilities in designing safe and accessible transportation systems. We have a panel of five experts in this fields. Hoskie Benally is a native American community liaison and serves on the Navajo nation advisory Council on disabilities. Sheri Bozic is the planning development and presentation director in New Mexico. Kelly Buckland is the executive director of the national Council on Independent living. Emily Shuman is a director of the Rocky Mountain ADA Center and Claire Stanley is beginning a new position as a public policy analyst with national stability rights network having recently served as the advocacy and outreach specialist at the American Council of alliance. Before we get to the panel discussion, Yamelith Aguilar will present an overview of the white paper which she researched and authored for this project. Yamelith Aguilar is a culturally responsive evaluator and researcher who is passionate about addressing social inequities through evidence-based efforts. At the U.S. CDC she developed evaluation efforts to measure the outcomes of emergency preparedness training and she's worked on active transmission projects throughout the state of California. Yamelith Aguilar's white paper titled inclusive planning in tribal communities: engaging people with disabilities in designing safe and accessible transmission systems was published yesterday in America walks website you should have received this morning to that publication. You are also a 2016 fellow and it's great to welcome you back to America walks for this webinar. Please go ahead and take the screen share and tell us about your research and recommendations regarding inclusive planning in tribal communities.

>> YAMELITH AGUILAR: Absolutely, thanks so much Ian. I think you all for being here today. We really appreciate you joining us.

The purpose of this project is to advance inclusion of people with disabilities and transportation planning for tribal communities. Those entering the lift despite - bring about changes in tribal government policy planning and design processes which lead to improvements in excess ability of the environment. Before I begin I also mentioned that the images used today for national aging and disability translation center gallery. Today I will be going over the project background, the methods we use and highlight a few of the findings from our paper as well as recommendations based on those findings. We will begin the background. To begin, it's important to understand cultural views of disability in tribal communities. There are 574 recognized tribes in the United States according to the Federal Register. Each of which has its own customs, cultures and traditions. The word disability does not have a literal translation in tribal languages and the closest meaning depend on the cultural context of each community. For example, the hokey people from Northern Arizona leave any type of on wellness is brought on through disharmony in the body, mind or spirit. Alternatively the Dakota tribe of South Dakota means - research is necessary for all people regardless of their differences. Physical and know that until this abilities are widely understood in a way that aligns with the social model of disability to which the owners of the problems on society rather than the individual who has disability or the family. Which is different than the medical model of disability which state disability is on you and it's an individual problem. Regardless of the weight abilities conceived, data indicates American Indians and Alaska natives of the highest prevalence of disability of all racial and ethnic groups in the United States. About 30% shown here in this paragraph. Next I would like to acknowledge the theft of native land. Present conditions are always connected with history. Since 1492 when Christopher Columbus arrived in America's, indigenous people have suffered countless acts of violence and extreme injustice at the hands of European colonists including genocide, forced migration and theft of land. The passage of the Indian removal act led to the trail of tears. Over a 20 year period united states government forcibly relocated about 60,000 Native Americans from their ancestral homelands and the southeastern United States to areas west of the Mississippi River that have been designated as Indian territory. In addition to murdering tribal members, European sellers occupy land that did not belong to them. Land theft and force removal occurred throughout the United States. At this point I would also like to acknowledge I reside in Los Angeles California and am currently on a native land of the Tonga tribe. Between - 1640 - livestock balance of the region and force them to settle around omissions. This community still thrives today despite continuing waves of cultural invasions with people from all over the world. I just want to point out that if you do not know what land you are currently on right now, this website here is actually really great in putting together this GIS map of tribal land in the United States as well as other countries. I highly recommend visiting this website to learn more about tribal land. Now I will talk about the methods of this project but first up in the study was a literature review which is designed to identify articles addressing our research questions and our research questions were around existing resources related to active transportation and accessibility for people with disabilities in tribal communities, finding existing walk ability advocacy efforts

and - what are the characteristics of typical disability advocacy groups and typical translation planning processes in tribal communities, gaps and resources and pathways for inclusive engagement and we want to find current opportunities for developing more accessible places. We also formed a product advisory board that we have it today with us of subject matter experts to assist in the planning and invitation of this project. Members of the product advisory board of professionals and advocates and accessibility, disability rights as well as experts in tribal community, health, planning, transportation and safety. We then conduct interviews with all members of the product advisory board as well as five other experts in the areas of disability, disability rights, inclusive practices, travel community health, accreditation and safety. Patient comfortable to review with the 11 subject matter experts, a number of themes emerged in response to the research questions. Today I will go over a few of the key findings in the paper, you can find a more extensive list on the white paper available now on the America walks website. First we will talk about disability in tribal communities. The first thing was around the fact that may travel community locked lacked basic instructor for walking, biking and rolling. Many tribal communities are in rural lands which include high-speed highways cutting through communities, lack of safe sidewalks and limited lighting. Many of the private document reviewed explained how community members of all ages and ability are walking, biking and rolling often long distances to reach their schools, clinics and other destinations. It was often mentioned this has led to many pedestrian fatalities and injuries. Native people are more likely to be killed while walking than any other racial ethnic group with a per capita pedestrian fatality rate more than 4.5 times the national average. Next we found the Americans with disability act in 1990 is not consistently enforced on tribal communities. Federal law recommends sovereign authority of - govern themselves. Most situations state and federal courts do not have the jurisdiction to carry private lawsuits against Native American tribes. It is largely been assumed that Congress specifically excluded Native American tribes from the ADA, however title III of the ADA which prohibited discrimination of people with a disability from any place of public accommodations gives the U.S. Attorney General the power to file a civil lawsuit to protect clients with the regulation. In addition, state governments do but to follow the ADA even if the road is on tribal lands. The law does apply to transportation highways and other projects seeking federal funding. We largely found the petition for people with disabilities varies from community to community. For example, the Navajo nation passed the Civil Rights Act in 2018 that mirrors the ADA be requiring that Navajo people should not be discounted against and should be given every opportunity to display politically, economically and socially in the Navajo nation. We also found other legislation that may apply to self communities like section 504 of the tribulation act of 1974 which states that no individual should be excluded from persuading any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance or by any program or activity conducted by any executive agency or by the Postal Service. We also found individuals educational and disability act in every student succeeds at which the expert tribal members with disabilities and educational facilities. Accesible funding does not prioritize safety fracture travel. The part of the advisory board explained that funding for

safety accessibility project specifically to acquire most federal translation grants are provided in construction and expansion of roads. When funds are set aside for bicycle improvements, the cost of maintenance often becomes an unexpected unplanned financial burden as the quality of the trail services or roadways degrades and deteriorates over time. We will now talk about inclusive engagement with people with disabilities. Our first finding here was that intentional outreach efforts to engage people with disabilities in planning processes are rare. Outreach and engagement people is an opponent of a safe environment however, members of the product advisory board reported lack of intentional community engagement effort - tribal communities. Similarly few - project planning was found in the literature. Despite the comments of document research review process. I want to mention this is not necessarily mean that organizations are not including people with disabilities in their engagement efforts however, is not intentionally reported on or shared on public reports about engagement efforts. Alas, finding today public health data and research into transportation needs for people with disabilities are lacking. There is a lack of available data of American Indians and mobility needs. It was mentioned by our subject matter experts as well as literature how all of the public health and tribal communities. Additionally is widely believed that native people are severely undercounted in public health surveillance systems. Now I will move on to recommendations from our white paper. He will begin with regulations about community assessment. Our first recommendation is to organize mobility audits, an excellent starting point for starters and people with disability advocates is to organize a program of mobility audits. As a specialized walk ability audit which focuses on people with disabilities. It is recommended a small group including one person with the disability plan to meet them ability audit. We recommend using already existing audits like the AARP and adjusted to fit the tribal community who are working with. Our next recommendation is to conduct more research with people with needed disability. Travel planners need - public facilities in the community. Unfortunately as mentioned earlier there is a lack of available data among American Indians and Alaska natives. It's recommended that planning and public professionals conduct systematic investigations of the prevalence of specific needs of people with disabilities in tribal communities. Epidemiological studies of the entire spectrum of physical - valuable information indicating people with disabilities. Our last recognition to incorporate local data into state and federal funding applications. One of the best practices shared by subject matter experts what to include local data into grant funding opportunities. Opportunities for federal and state grants should include local data suggest crash statistics, fatality reports and road usage as available. Fatality data should be found in the fatality analysis reporting system and also recommend to engage volunteers to just community members or local college students and pedestrian wheelchair users and cyclists. Our next bucket recommendation is under advocacy planning and policy. Our first recommendation is to build a local advocacy movement. People with disabilities and advocates like people with disabilities and travel community organized to encourage improvements to better meet disability needs. A local advocacy movement can be launched by confederation between interested individuals, community groups and travel government programs such as housing, public health, ugly

service, vocational revocation and social services in college as well. We recommend designing an inclusive and accessible public engagement process which uses a variety of strategies. Public engagement is an essential component of planning activities and travel communities and elsewhere. If the engagement process is not intentionally designed to be inclusive and accessible and other marginalized groups are likely to be excluded. Community engagement efforts must be developed understanding of all the different types of disabilities. There is no one-size-fits-all approach. People experience disabilities related to cognition, mobility, hearing, vision, independent living and self-care among others. For example, project webpages to be accessible to screen readers and have easily assessable font sizes, contrast and brightness while - sign language temptation whenever possible. Finally support to incorporate the native language or languages are conducting any community engagement activity. Although English is widely spoken in many tribal communities, key project documents should be developed in a dual language - participate whenever possible. We recommend developing a built-in - partnership for me with his abilities. After concluding an inclusive engagement they should work with advocates and people disabilities develop built environment ability. Using - needs assessment people disabilities based on the information gathered identified a few projects which have the most beneficial impacts. - Develop a corrective plan for both environment improvements which one you people with disabilities to navigate independently. The last bucket is around engineering design. We recommend ensuring - DISABILITIES and should this is - improve accessibility for example audible session signals are very important for people with visual disabilities and enhancements relating with vehicle related deaths. The latter condition we have for you all today is to incorporate elements into assignability projects. The design of mobility and documentation should include the voices and opinions of title 11 as well as people with disabilities. Naturalist and artist contribute potential improvements for trails and other industry projects. That's the recognition we have for you. At this moment I would encourage all to take a moment and read through the white paper developed as a part of this project and that's available on the America Mark's website right now. Now I will turn it over to the panel discussion.

>> IAN: Thank you so much for the presentation and please stick around and come back only to the question-and-answer phase toward the end of this webinar. I like to now invite our panelists to switcher cameras on so that everyone can see you and we can have our panel discussion. For the audience, just a reminder that if you have a question or a comment then go to the questions tab in the webinar control window to the right of your screen and type it in their naturally finish our panel discussion we will address many of those questions as we can. I do want to welcome Emily, Kelly, Sheri Bozic, Hoskie Benally and hopefully Claire will be able to join us in the minutes. These are the moments the project advisory board and one member of the board was not able to be with us today but we want to acknowledge and thank for her work is sharing a house in. I want to start the panel discussion ladies and gentlemen asking each of you to introduce yourself and briefly discuss your work and the intersection of that work with this project around inclusive planning and tribal communities. Kelly and they were busy fellow will have the lead for the end of this

money go to you first. He was the executive director on independent living, tell us about independent living and how your work relates to this project.

>> KELLY BUCKLAND: Thanks Ian. I am the executive director, we go by nickel. We are a membership organization for centers for independent living and state why independent living councils. There are about 715 locations across the country. There are private not-for-profit nonresidential organizations that provide services to people with his abilities. There is an array of services but I won't go into that because we don't have the time. State why councils are gubernatorial and pointed bodies. There are 56 of those, 50 states and six territories. They are a planning body and assigns with a network of hundreds looks like. We serve people with disabilities and we are staffed and the boards are made up of a majority people with disabilities. We are kind of like organizations run by people with disabilities, staffed with people disabilities and serve people with disabilities. Like I said there are seven locations and a number of those are adjacent to native lands to provide outreach and services to tribal land and do work with travel government. This intersects well with us. We have seen a lot of the problems that were outlined in the report so it's good to see the recommendations that came out of this and are wholeheartedly - I am sorry Ian I have to go to another presentation but I'm sorry I cannot stick around but I wish you all luck and I look forward to working with you further.

>> IAN THOMAS: Thank you so much Kelly, we appreciate your work on the project and the white paper. Let's move to Emily Shuman. Emily, your director with the Rocky Mountain ADA center. Tell us about the ADA and the work of and the national network of ADA centers.

>> EMILY SHUMAN: Sure, thank you very much for having me and thank you everyone for being here. The ADA is a conference of civil rights law the Americans with disabilities act that protects people with disabilities from discrimination in areas of public life so places of public accommodation, employment, state and local government and things like that. The Rocky Mountain ADA Center is one of 10 ADA centers in the country that provides information training and guidance on the Americans with disabilities act. All 10 centers put together referred to as the ADA National network. The Rocky Mountain Center serves region eight which is Colorado, South Dakota and Utah. Our region has a large population and that's why you have an interest in this project and why we find a large intersection there. Some of the services we provide are training to individuals and governments on their rights and response abilities. A large part of what we do is provide technical assistance and answers to questions so folks who have questions on the ADA, what their rights as possibilities are can give us a call and our team of experts can answer the questions and help point them in the right direction if they need to take further action. We do a significant amount of research are self. We do research into how the ADA applies to certain areas like vacation rental properties, the ADA on tribal lands things like that. I will wrap it up there and pass it on.

>> IAN THOMAS: Thanks so much Emily, let's go to Sheri Bozic you with a planning director tell us about the community and the work there be sent my department we are responsible for seeing the structure projects. The Pueblo humus is located in northwestern New Mexico on 9000 acres of 19 as parcels of land, the population

of just under 4000. Currently our department is designing a 2 mile trail pedestrian trail project so that's how some of my work intersects with this project. We are working with engineers and communities to design a fully compliant ADA compliant trail with some challenges involved there are steep slopes and things like that we're going to do with it would take a little extra work. It is meaningful and make sure everyone community can use this trail because it connects all the services. We designing and constructing parking lot projects on steep slopes especially parking lots surrounding a local clinic so all tribal community members can have easy access into the clinic. A bridge that will be replaced over one of the rivers so in all of our projects we are working to be including everyone in our community and designing new of the structures that everyone can use.

>> IAN THOMAS: Thanks either pleasure of visiting last year and saw some of the challenges people have getting on the community but tremendous leadership in the community to win this grant and build this trail and lots of other projects going on so congratulations. I would now introduce Hoskie Benally. You bridge these two different areas of advocacy on the one hand and tribal community leadership and action on the other hand. Please take a moment or two to tell us about your work with various organizations that respect in.

>> HOSKIE BENALLY: The literal translation is everything is good. My name is Hoskie Benally Junior, I am a Navajo recently impaired - with the Native American disability Law Center in New Mexico. The law Center I work at provide services to individuals with disabilities which is Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico. We provide community education, referral and free legal services ensuring that those with disabilities are not discriminated against. - Counsel within to make sure that the government does not discriminate against Navajo with disabilities. I'm also involved with the Native American concourse. That is who I am and thank you.

>> IAN THOMAS: Thank you so much. Our fifth panelist is Claire Stanley, BS and technical challenges with her connection but clear, are you on audio right now? I'm not hearing Claire and the microphone symbol does not seem to be lit up.

>> CLAIRE STANLEY: Can you hear me now?

>> IAN THOMAS: Wonderful! We're just doing introductions and tell us about your work with your previous position with the American Council and with the national disability rights network.

>> CLAIRE STANLEY: Thank you so much Ian and I apologize for the technical glitches. Like Ian said I currently work for the American Council of - vision impaired as well as others. All across North America we advocate for the rights people who are blind or vision impaired. We are consciously trying to reach out to greater communities including persons who live within the Indian nation so it's a great opportunity for us to be involved with this. We do two main things, we bring together people who are visually impaired to build communities to support each other, to advocate for each other, to support each other and also do a lot of work at the Congressional, legal and administrative level. We are always advocating for the rights of persons who are blind and visually impaired. I'm doing similar work with the disability network but on a bigger basis advocating again I will be a public policy analyst 's advocating at an administrative or congressional level to make sure that persons with disabilities I thought about when

making the policy and working with federal agencies.

>> IAN THOMAS: Great, thank you very much Claire. I want to jump to our discussion and Hoskie Benally I'll start with you, I like to know little more about cultural views. As a person with a disability for most of your life and tribal member and devoted her career to advocacy, what is your understanding of cultural views disability within your community?

>> HOSKIE BENALLY: All tribes have their own teachings and concepts of disability. As far as Navajo we believe that Navajo with disability or special people and that goes back to one of our stories in which they call - at one time he took care of a number of young people with disabilities because the parents put them in one place and told him they were a burden. Eventually the children were taken back when it falters. People because they were not being taken care of. The teaching there was all people should have individuals disabilities (Indiscernible by captioner) rescue children with disabilities. The Navajo nation as far as how we look at people with disabilities.

>> IAN THOMAS: We seem to have some audio interference. Thank you so much for sharing the story. Sheri Bozic, you are a tribal member, anything to add?

>> SHERI BOZIC: I'm actually not tribal member. I work here is staff but from what I have observed there is concern that leadership to address some of the infrastructure to accommodate more of the folks with disabilities. Culturally I cannot speak from that perspective exam not tribal member but I know that the leadership they are supportive and advocating for considering the people with his abilities more and thinking about them and we are planning future development at the Pueblo.

>> IAN THOMAS: Thank you for that. Emily or Claire, as you worked through this project working with others have you noticed any distinctions or maybe observations and cultural attitudes to disability that may be relevant for this project?

>> EMILY SHUMAN: I can just say that I think that the understanding that disability is more of a social responsibility, that sort of belief among tribal people is quite different than I would say people in the states typically believe. That probably has a big impact if they can assess ability and evaluate their needs.

>> IAN THOMAS: The social model versus the medical model. Let me go to Claire now. I like to move on if you're talking about the Americans with disabilities act and the rehabilitation act. Can you give us an overview of those pieces of legislation and how they may or may not apply in Indian country?

>> CLAIRE STANLEY: I apologize, can you hear me now Ian?

>> IAN THOMAS: Yes we can hear you.

>> CLAIRE STANLEY: The Americans with disabilities act is a federal piece of legislation as well as the rebuild patient act and they are truly similar for the differences the rehab act came before the ADA, came 1973 and only applies to things that receive federal funding. Then in 1990 the Americans with disabilities act came along and also require accommodations for persons with disabilities at the state and local level. It's important for us to talk about that because it applies to state and local entities as well as the federal government if you're talking about the rehab act. In tribal nations the ADA does necessarily apply. I know start developer earlier with Yamelith Aguilar and Hoskie Benally and a few people that there are exceptions is not completely blanket rule by the loud circumstances it does not apply so it is made



interesting with these discussions because they want to use the same types of ideals and policies and procedures but the ADA does not apply we don't quite have the same stick we have so we have to use the carrots. One important thing for this work is I believe Yamelith Aguilar talked about for under department reputation we had a federal highway or things of that nature, the rehab is apply even if you're going to a tribal nation. It gets a little bit messy when a lot of times people think the ADA applies everywhere. That's not the case. You have to look into where laws do and do not apply.

>> IAN THOMAS: Thanks Claire and Sheri were in the process of developing with federal funding, if you want to add to what Claire said and how does that apply to you?

>> SHERI BOZIC: All of our large projects are very expensive usually \$1 million a mile to construct a roadway. Without fail project that's a \$5.5 million project including planning and design and construction. All of the large projects are funded federally. It's a non-gaming tribe so there are no casino funds or gaming funds being used for this project. Yes we are mandated to move and we want to as well there is no pushback to that. All of my projects in the transportation side of things will always meet ADA due to their funding source. When we do other projects in the future with other funds if we get them, other grant funds we will always make an effort to meet ADA compliance and install features that are promoting mobility of disabled people.

>> IAN THOMAS: Thanks. Never leave the Navajo nation has developed its own legislation or guidance, tell us about that.

>> HOSKIE BENALLY: Yes we have called the civil rights for disability act of 2018 and basically although ADA does not apply on the Navajo nation, this piece of legislation follows perimeter the guidelines of ADA but we do not say it's ADA. For example nondiscrimination in housing services, even accommodations for Navajo with disability that are incarcerated. Prior to that law, they had a similar law but the law did not have consequences or legal consequences for noncompliance by departments or divisions and other public entities on the Navajo nation. It was also a big part put in their was that there will be legal consequences for not complying and discriminate against Navajo with disabilities. The law center I work for provides legal consultation and assistance through the Navajo nation account for disabilities. It was a joint effort we continue to work on.

>> IAN THOMAS: Let's talk about inclusion. Emily I'll start with you if I may, just outline what you consider to be best practices in terms of inclusive engagement with people with disabilities.

>> EMILY SHUMAN: Sure. Something that come to mind especially in the short of new world, the virtual meetings and zoom and webinars all of that is really making sure that effective communication is in place and making sure people with visual disabilities who are deaf and hard of hearing have been taken into consideration and accommodated. That's everything from providing captioning on webinar or community meetings for example, providing a transcript after the fact. There are all kind of technology that could be put in place during community engagement meetings in order to make sure everyone can be included.

>> IAN THOMAS: Yes thanks and clear as some of the visual discipline yourself, anything you want to add to that around inclusion?

>> CLAIRE STANLEY: So sorry horrible at our meeting myself. One of

the things that first came to mind when you first started talking about this idea of including appraisal here a lot in the disability community is nothing about us without us meaning anything title policies are being developed a new project or whatever it is impacting the disability community, us meaning those of us with disabilities need to be a part of it because we are developing ideas even with the best intentions but you don't include somebody with a disability to give you feedback you will miss things and is not for malicious reasons, just because you don't know. It would be the same thing if we are trying to do something for women, no offense I am we want the women involved in the discussion. Is this idea as we are making plans we make sure that people with disabilities are in the room whether it be literally or virtually now because of COVID that we have a voice and can get our two cents so I think you misunderstood we can say that's a great idea but it might not work because of A, B or C or give her own perspective.

>> IAN THOMAS: Sheri Bozic, as petitioner on the ground tell us what you been doing in terms of including people disabilities and new ideas you are planning to try.

>> SHERI BOZIC: For the trail project we are currently in design on now, we reach out to other tribal departments to obtain information about the tribal members here who do have this ability so we can personally reach out to them and include them in the design process. We are now assembling a list of people that we can contact either via phone. We are not doing the door-to-door thing as planned to pandemic. We will probably reach out via phone or community meeting specifically. Another good advocate we have is our librarian, she is disabled and she is an awesome person and know some people in the community. Our housing department installs a lot of ramps and handlebars and restroom facilities for people disabilities so they have been a great resource to find out who our constituents are we can personally reach out to and include in the process. We also are sure to offer our information during planning and design via multiple avenues. We do in person community meetings which we cannot do right now, we do virtual meetings, we also do surveys anonymous surveys. We usually hand out flyers, this year after the pandemic we started a Facebook page and Instagram severe on social media as well. We're trying to reach the whole community but specifically with disabled members of this community we are working with the other tribal programs. Public health and social services, housing department, our awesome librarians. That is a good way to find out who it is you want to personally reach out to to get input from them on the design of our trail project.

>> IAN THOMAS: Staying with you, how is the data on people's abilities in your community? Is there room for improvement there?

>> SHERI BOZIC: Definitely. When I reached out to the programs initially, the housing department is one of the only programs that have a copy of list is just assistance from them. I think we can do better in developing a database of the folks that need to be reaching out. David is slim for sure.

>> IAN THOMAS: Great. I appreciate all the questions that have come in and I like to invite Yamelith Aguilar to switch your camera on and join the panel as we moved to some of the audience questions. The first one is for you actually, any surprises in the research you conducted?

>> YAMELITH AGUILAR: Yes, the most surprising thing for me was around the public health data and the prevalence of disabilities in

American Indian and Alaska natives and find people in to the data I saw American Indians and Alaska natives still have the highest prevalence of disabilities and the most pedestrian fatality rates studies have found that Native Americans are vastly more likely to be killed while walking than any other racial group. That to me was really alarming. It emphasizes the importance of inclusive active transportation in the environment in general.

>> IAN THOMAS: Here's a question about community engagement. Could you speak more about community engagement for example with amputees? Is a two-part question and also challenges for folks that are rural and without Internet. Maybe Claire would like to take that one first?

>> CLAIRE STANLEY: To touch on the second part, as far as rural areas that's an issue that impacts the disability community. Transportation is very lacking. It is hard for people to get from point A to point B which is hard for everybody in rural areas only add on a disability and presents even more challenges because if you have a disability probably cannot drive so if you can't drive and there is no public transportation is difficult situation. That's an issue that talked about continuously in the disability advocacy world and how can we better accommodate this community. I wish there was a magic answer but there is not. And something that is continually discussed and trying to find ways because oftentimes people think if you have a disability you will move the city. In fact I grew up in a suburban but I had it here I want to move to a bigger city so I moved to D.C. so you have better options. Should not have to do that if you want stay in a rural area or a tribal nation area because you like that you should not be forced to move to an urban area just to receive accommodations so that's why this is a great program and project that will start because need to find ways people can remain in rural areas that's what they so choose to find ways to accommodate people with disabilities at the same time.

>> IAN THOMAS: Thank you Claire. Sheri community is in a rural area. Issues with Internet connectivity?

>> SHERI BOZIC: Soon to be solved I hope. We have been installing fiber optics since June and should be done by the end of December. We also the community Wi-Fi cell tower infrastructure. It is up and we are just this month going to be installing all the equipment so the community will have access to Wi-Fi. We do have some challenges there but we are hoping all the households that want them will be receiving a router so they can have access to that community Wi-Fi. - Shuttle buses were weekend bring people to communities and out to coronation between our department or the shuttle service. I appreciate that question and will definitely have been on my radar to have the shuttle service available when we get to have community meetings again.

>> IAN THOMAS: As an advocate, have you worked amputees and other particular challenges or solutions to share with that population?

>> HOSKIE BENALLY: Not really, not amputees per se. Of course a lot of people end up in wheelchairs for one reason or another and one of the biggest problems we have on the Navajo nation is they have a transit system and even working with that department because they want wheelchairs on the buses. Now they're telling us 80% of the buses are wheelchair equipped. Also New Mexico, Arizona and Utah State Department Transportation Department donated shelters so we can put a longer bus route and those still have not gone up due to right-of-way issues still being worked out. Our parking lot are such that we try to access the building to seek services for rocky,

sandy incliment weather in its real money. I want to hire the parking lot services, ramps are an issue. Getting into the doors because they are too heavy, people who are in wheelchairs with spinal cord injuries can open the doorways. They have to have the C-shaped beverages. All these issues they're still addressing and has an impact on their ability to access services.

>> IAN THOMAS: Thank you. Quick question for you Emily, mobility audit. What are they and how does somebody perform on them?

>> EMILY SHUMAN: Is a little different for me exam speaking under the lens of the Americans with his ability act so a mobility audit basically would be a walking or rolling audit of your public rights-of-way. Aneurysm is going to be pedestrian access, auditing whether those are accessible and in the lens of the American disabilities act without the component of what we call a self evaluation and transmission plan which is a way that a community, business, government can kind of take a look at itself, find the challenges our and were that bad and accessible areas are and develop a plan to remediate those things and be able to prioritize based on what other areas impact people the most.

>> IAN THOMAS: That another tragedy to include with disabilities and engage the lived experiences into the planning process. I want to go around the rest of you and asked for some ideas on specific strategies on small projects that could be fomented. Yamelith Aguilar, what would you say? You are muted.

>> YAMELITH AGUILAR: All right. I think a good idea would be too conduct mobility audits, gathering as many people after Covid or when there is more safety to assess the environment making sure that people with disabilities during your audit is always really important to make sure those perspectives and experiences are also incorporated into the audit.

>> IAN THOMAS: Clear, what is your suggestion?

>> CLAIRE STANLEY: I think my ideal project would be too start with working with real people so getting a room with people disabilities together after Covid literally the same rooms they can talk about their wishes and the obstacles they face so they can have real life ideas, put that on paper so to speak and go from there.

>> IAN THOMAS: Hoskie Benally, a small project you would like to see people start doing to address this challenge?

>> HOSKIE BENALLY: Individual disabilities a lot of them are seeking services. I would suggest a disability guide for individual disabilities and the disability guide is to compile all the disability services available, the contact information, what you provide for people with disabilities so they know where to go for specific kinds of services. The other thing is focus groups or surveys. A lot of fun people thinking of the needs and issues of people with disabilities but I think focus groups is one way to really find out what is the needs and issues in a more constructive way of addressing disability of our needs.

>> IAN THOMAS: Sheri Bozic you have the last word.

>> SHERI BOZIC: For project that have already conducted focus groups or community meetings or surveys, you can do something like signage for your project for a small project, purchased signage for a project about to begin.

>> IAN THOMAS: I asked that question because we have opportunities for the audience to dissipate an invitation going forward. Kelsey if you could give me the screen share back and I will put my final slides up. There we go. The next step in this project which we have been working on for over six months now having published a

white paper which is available at the America walks website and everybody in this webinar should have received a link to that will also be featured in our next newsletter later this month. Early in January we will hold a national stakeholders meeting to start to develop an invitation plan for the recommendations outlined in Yamelith Aguilar's white paper. We will also have details of a rapid response mini grant program at that meeting. We do have budget to award to the mini grant of \$2500 each on a competitive basis to implement small projects in two communities. The applicants could be a community, could be an organization, could be an informal group that comes together. We will have details of the process. It will be a rapid response process and help before the end of January we will award those mini grants. We are sending invitations to the national sticklers meetings out at the present time from our list of advocates for disabilities, professionals and empathy instability, professionals and travel planning and design in public health and tribal leaders and advocates in those communities. If you're interested in being part of the national stakeholders meeting and are not already on a invitation list, please email me their at [Ian@America\\_walks.org](mailto:Ian@America_walks.org) we will add to the list. It's a two hour meeting. We will be brainstorming in small groups how to move this initiative forward and then providing details of the mini grants program and everybody on that call will be eligible to apply. We will have a rapid response process and award those who mini grants by the end of January. So without we are sadly out of time and I do want to again thank our sponsors, the CDC, the actor people have the nation program, AP BP, MIG, better help, everybody walked collaborative and NCHPAD. To the final call before we wrap up, America Walks is a nonprofit organization and survive on grants and donations. We provide this webinar series three at the point of delivery with the support of our sponsors but we do ask everyone to consider making a year-end contribution to America Walks to help us support our programs. Thanks very much everybody for the panel, Yamelith Aguilar the presenter and you are live audience for spitting in this. I look forward to keeping the conversation around inclusive planning going into the future.