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| UTC Project Information | |
| Project Title | MPC-684 – The Impact of Transportation Service on Food Access Among Native Americans in North Dakota: A Case Study |
| University | North Dakota State University |
| Principal Investigator | Jill Hough, Ph.D. |
| PI Contact Information | Program Director, Small Urban and Rural Center on Mobility  Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute  North Dakota State University  Phone: (701) 793-1364  Email: jill.hough@ndsu.edu  ORCID: 0000-0001-7032-9221 |
| Funding Source(s) and Amounts Provided (by each agency or organization) | USDOT, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology $128,441  North Dakota State University  $78,441  National Rural Transit Assistance Program  $25,000  Community Transportation Association of America  $25,000 |
| Total Project Cost | $256,882 |
| Agency ID or Contract Number | 69A3551747108 |
| Start and End Dates | February 10, 2022 to July 31, 2024 |
| Brief Description of Research Project | Food insecurity is a persistent problem in the U.S, and it is disproportionately distributed across racial/ethnic groups. USDA-ERS identified the American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) tribes as the highest food insecurity ethnic groups in the U.S. at a rate of 23.5%. Most AIAN tribes live in rural areas and reservations. Transportation plays a role in the limited access to food. This study will focus on Native American tribes in ND. First, we will evaluate food access available in and off Native American reservations. Second, we will evaluate public transportation service and food access in and off the reservations; third, we will measure the effect of lack/low public transportation service on food insecurity and fourth, we will assess Native American households' status living in and off reservations before and after the COVID-19 pandemic to determine changes in food access due to the pandemic. |
| Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not implemented)  Place Any Photos Here | The information will be shared with decision makers who can address food insecurity issues for Native Americans living in North Dakota. |
| Impacts/Benefits of Implementation  (actual, not anticipated) | This research will help inform decision makers regarding the level of food insecurity among Native Americans living in North Dakota. Further, it illustrates the lack of transportation, as Native Americans in North Dakota have substantially less access to vehicles compared to national and state averages. Providing better access to healthy foods for Native Americans can address the health issues, such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity, that hinder this underserved population. |
| Web Links   * Reports * Project Website | * MPC Research Report – [The Association Between Tribal Transit and Food Insecurity Status Among Native Americans in North Dakota](https://www.ugpti.org/resources/reports/details.php?id=1144) |