

The Opportunity Project: Federal Agency Sprint
Problem Statements and Use Cases

U.S. Department of Transportation

Policy Priority: The Department of Transportation is focused on increasing safety and mobility across the country so that people can be connected to key resources like jobs, healthcare and education.

Problem: Community advocates often have a difficult time synthesizing/disseminating complete information about issues their neighborhoods are facing. Without good data, these advocates have a hard time effectively engaging with their local governments to drive meaningful change in their community.

Use Case:

- Anthony lives in an area of town that is cut off from opportunity. Transportation options are limited. It's difficult to access jobs, training, and even healthcare. His community is diverse – it's a mix of English-speaking, established residents as well as New Americans who are less proficient English and with engaging their government. Anthony and his neighbors would benefit from tools that make it easier to talk about how their community is disconnected from opportunity, so they can help their local officials understand the “whole picture” about opportunity in his community. As a leader in his community, he's involved with a number of volunteer groups that are helping their neighbors get around and make their community safer. He's heard about transportation projects that are being proposed by his government, but he and his neighbors don't have data to bring to the table when they're meeting with their government officials. For him, it's not just about access to jobs, training, and healthcare. There are safety issues in his community – his neighbors feel like the streets are too dangerous for getting around, and crime is prevalent. Plus, his neighbors are concerned about their environment. There's a lot of industrial traffic that cuts through his community, not to mention potentially dangerous infrastructure like pipelines – neighbors are concerned about their safety. Anthony knows that these safety issues are barriers to accessing opportunity, too.