



The USVI Walkability Institute Summit 2022

Agenda

July 19-20, 2022
9:00 a.m.

University of the Virgin Islands

Goals of Summit

1. Convene a broad coalition of territorial and community leaders, agency officials and staff, community advocates and other stakeholders who recognize and wish to advance the myriad of *economic, environmental, social, and public health* benefits of a more walkable territory.
2. Collectively develop a set of *strategic priorities* to improve walkability and increase active transportation – walking, bicycling, and transit use – across the territory, not just for visitors but especially for the residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands.
3. Collectively begin to identify key *specific actions* that will advance the identified strategic priorities. It is hoped that these action items will be the foundation of a Strategic Action Plan that guides the CDC-funded walkability initiative in the territory for the next several years.



Detailed Agenda

July 19, 2022

Session 1 – Where We Were (9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.)

Administration and Conference Center; Orville E. Kean St. Thomas campus

The Need to Embrace Walkability and Active Transportation.

9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.

LaVerne E. Ragster, Ph. D.

President Emerita

University of the Virgin Islands

Welcome

9:05 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Dr. Camille A. McKayle

Provost

University of the Virgin Islands

University initiatives in support of walkability; Pedestrian improvements across campuses

9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

The Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor

Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands

The Economic Impact of Walkability in The Territory: How has local government recognized walkability in the territory, and the significance of active transportation to economic vibrancy

LEADERSHIP Panels: The Health Imperative (9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.)

Moderator: President Emerita LaVerne E. Ragster, Ph. D, UVI's Fourth President (2002-2009)

9:30 a.m. -9:35 a.m.

LaVerne E. Ragster, PhD

Introductions

9:35 a.m. – 9:42 a.m.

Dr. Noreen Michael

University of the Virgin Islands Caribbean Exploratory Research Center for Excellence

Public Health and Transportation: Chronic Illnesses, Inequity in Chronic (and Infectious) Disease Outcomes; the Importance of Transportation and Land Developments.

9:42 a.m. – 9:49 a.m.

Justa “Tita” Encarnacion, RN, BSN, MBA/HCM,

Commissioner



USVI Department of Health

“Availability of Street-Level Supports for Walking- U.S. Virgin Islands, 2016” And the USVI Walkability Institute’s Islands’ Demonstration Projects.

9:49 a.m. – 9:56 a.m.

Derek Gabriel

Commissioner

USVI Department of Public Works

Role of the Department of Public Works in Building a More Walkable Community in the Territory

9:56 a.m. – 10:03 a.m.

Christina Dahlstrom

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC Projects in the Territory to Increase Physical Activity; Active People, Healthy Nation

10:03 am – 10:30 am.

Discussion moderated by LaVerne E. Ragster, PhD.

***** 15-minute BREAK*****

10:45 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

LaVerne E. Ragster, PhD

Introductions

10:50 a.m.- 10:58 a.m.

Karma Harris, MSPH

National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

Who We Are, Vision for The US Virgin Islands?

10:58 a.m. – 11:06 a.m.

Mark Fenton

Adjunct Professor, Tufts University; National Public Health, Planning, and Transportation consultant

Brief overview of the Walkability initiative to date, followed by comments from panelists and a moderated discussion.

11:06 a.m.– 11:14 a.m.

Donna Frett-Gregory

Senate President

Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands

Build Back Better Plan: Infrastructure Plan for the US Virgin Islands and Walkability’s Impact



Complete Streets Policy in The U.S. Virgin Islands and Its Implications on Public Health

11:14 a.m. – 11:22 a.m.

Troy A. De Chabert-Schuster
President; AARP of the US Virgin Islands
Complete Street Legislation for the U.S. Virgin Islands

11:22 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Robert Graham
Executive Director; US Virgin Islands Housing Authority
Summary or visual presentation on the ULI report on towns in the territory

11:30 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.

Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster
Discussion moderator

11:55 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Mark Fenton
Working sessions Brief: Tuesday afternoon & Wednesday morning

*****Lunch Break: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.*****

Strategic Priority Setting work-sessions

(Tuesday July 19; 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

Description: Five breakout sessions focused on developing strategic goals for the walkability initiative, in five broad areas.

Session goal: Develop **one to three strategic priorities** in support of improving walkability and increasing active transportation (walking, bicycling, & transit) related to your topic area

Strategic Priority Settings Sessions (1:00 p.m. -2:15 p.m.)

Session I. Pressing Health Concerns

Moderator: Dr. Lyña Fredericks, USVI Department of Health

Recorder: Christina Dahlstrom, Senior Advisor, CDC

CONFIRMED Participants

1. LaVerne Ragster, President Emerita, University of the Virgin Islands
2. Justa “Tita” Encarnacion, Commissioner, VI Department of Health
3. Janney Ferrol- Hawley, Head Nurse, Department of Health
4. Lisa Ekpo, Epidemiologist, USVI Department of Health
5. David Delgado, Program Manager, Department of Health



6. Cherell Lindo, Community Health Worker, Division of Chronic Diseases
7. Janet Turnbull-Krigger, Senior Advisor, UVI, HMRP
8. Berlina Wallace-Berube, Director, Primary Care Office, U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health
9. Bosede A. Bruce, Commissioner, Department of Finance
10. Julia Sheen, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
11. Thora, Disability Integration Advisor, DHS/FEMA
12. Denyce E. Singleton, Concerned Citizen, Retired

Session II. Development Pressures

Moderator: Julien Henley, ADA Coordinator, USVI Office of the Governor

Recorder: Karma Harris, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

CONFIRMED Participants:

1. Miguel Quinones, Regenerative Practitioner
2. Valerie Mac, Senior Epidemiologist, USVI DOH/ CDC Foundation
3. Noreen Michael, Interim Director, CERC, University of the Virgin Islands
4. Joan Jean-Baptiste, Deputy Commissioner, HR/LR, V.I. Department of Health
5. Jeannette Karina Guzmán, Preparedness Specialist, V.I. Department of Health
6. Piotr Gajewski, Design Program Manager, VI Department of Public Works
7. Sherilyn Pogson, Senior Operations Specialist, AARP Virgin Islands,
8. Alma Winkfield, VP VI Trail Alliance
9. Michelle Richardson, Concerned citizen
10. Walter Bostwick, Mr., Healthy Habit Sports
11. Aymee Santana, Hazard Mitigation Disaster Program Project Specialist, VITEMA

Session III. Social Justice & Outreach

Moderator: USVI Office of Highway Safety, Danielle Cranston

Recorder: Mark Fenton, CDC SME

CONFIRMED Participants:

1. Leone Williams-Rohr, Disability Integration Advisor, FEMA
2. Karen Hunt, Executive Director, V.I. Partners for Healthy Communities
3. Suzanne Darrow-Magras, Director, UVI CELL, University of the Virgin Islands
4. Camille McKayle, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of the Virgin Islands
5. Virginia Clairmont, Founder & President, Clean Sweep Frederiksted
6. Daryl D. Jaschen, Director, Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency
7. Suzette Lettsome, Assistant Professor, University of the Virgin Islands
8. Danielle Cranston, Law Enforcement Liaison, VI Office of Highway Safety
9. Jahnesta Ritter, Program Manager, VIDOH
10. John Orr, Project Manager, Virgin Islands Department of Health
11. Barbara Walsh, Executive Committee, Virgin Islands Trail Alliance, Inc.



12. Ariel Stolz, University of the Virgin Islands
13. Deanna J. James, President, St. Croix Foundation for Community Development
14. Janella John, Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Samuel Carrion
15. Janis Valmond, Deputy Commissioner, VI Department of Health
16. Lauren Fleming, Disability Integration Advisor, FEMA

2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.: Focused sharing of top **strategic priorities**

**** 30-minute break ****

Strategic Priority Setting Workshops (3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

Session IV. Increasing Resilience Concerns

Moderator: Dr. Gregory Guannel; Director, Caribbean Green Technology Center (CGTC); University of the Virgin Islands

Recorder: Mark Fenton, CDC SME

Panelists

1. Donna Frett-Gregory, Senate President, 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
2. Leone Williams-Rohr, Disability Integration Advisor, FEMA
3. Karen Hunt, Executive Director, V.I. Partners for Healthy Communities
4. Justa “Tita” Encarnacion, Commissioner, VI Department of Health
5. Daryl D. Jaschen, Director, Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency
6. Alma Winkfield, VP VI Trail Alliance, VI Trail Alliance
7. Janet Turnbull- Krigger, Senior Advisor, UVI, HMRP
8. Michelle Richardson, Concerned citizen
9. Walter Bostwick, Mr., Healthy Habit Sports
10. Aymee Santana, Hazard Mitigation Disaster Program Project Specialist, VITEMA
11. Jeannette Karina Guzmán, Preparedness Specialist, US Virgin Islands Department of Health
12. Denyce E. Singleton, Concerned Citizen, Retired

Session V. Community Engagement & Demonstration Projects

Moderator A: Iffat Walker, Executive Director, Community Action NOW

Recorder A: Karma Harris, NACDD

Moderator B: Camille McKayle, University of the Virgin Islands

Recorder B: Christina Dahlstrom, CDC



Panelists – These will be broken into group A & B for convenience; each group can share **only their top two strategic priorities**.

Group A:

1. Miguel Quinones, Regenerative Practitioner
2. LaVerne Ragster, President Emerita, University of the Virgin Islands
3. Piotr Gajewski, Design Program Manager, USVI Department of Public Works
4. Ariel Stolz, University of the Virgin Islands
5. Sherilyn Pogson, Senior Operations Specialist, AARP Virgin Islands
6. Virginia Clairmont, Founder & President, Clean Sweep Frederiksted
7. Suzette Lettsome, Assistant Professor, University of the Virgin Islands
8. Janney Ferrol-Hawley, Head Nurse, Department of Health
9. Danielle Cranston, Law Enforcement Liaison, VI Office of Highway Safety
10. Lisa Ekpo, Epidemiologist, USVI Department of Health
11. Valerie Mac, Senior Epidemiologist, USVI DOH/ CDC Foundation
12. Jahnesta Ritter, Program Manager, VIDOH
13. David Delgado, Program Manager, Department of Health
14. Cherell Lindo, Community Health Worker, Division of Chronic Diseases

Group B:

15. John Orr, Project Manager, Virgin Islands Department of Health
16. Lyña Fredericks, Territorial Director of Chronic Disease, V.I. Department of Health
17. Barbara Walsh, Executive Committee, Virgin Islands Trail Alliance, Inc.
18. Suzanne Darrow-Magras, Director, UVI CELL, University of the Virgin Islands
19. Deanna J. James, President, St. Croix Foundation for Community Development
20. Noreen Michael, Interim Director, CERC, University of the Virgin Islands
21. Janella John, Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Samuel Carrion
22. Janis Valmond, Deputy Commissioner, VI Department of Health
23. Lauren Fleming, Disability Integration Advisor, FEMA
24. Joan Jean-Baptiste, Deputy Commissioner, HR/LR, Virgin Islands Department of Health
25. Berlina Wallace-Berube, Director, Primary Care Office, U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health
26. Bosede A. Bruce, Commissioner, Department of Finance
27. Julia Sheen, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
28. Thora, Disability Integration Advisor, DHS/FEMA

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Focused sharing of top **strategic priorities**



Action Planning work sessions

(Wednesday July 20; 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

Description: Five breakout sessions focused on developing *specific action steps* that partners will undertake to advance the strategic goals, particularly in these five priority areas.

Session goal: Develop **two to four specific action steps**

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **Topic 1: Education and Youth Engagement**

Facilitators: University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) Caribbean Green Technology Center, UVI Caribbean Exploratory Research Center for Excellence (CERC)

Recorder: Mark Fenton, CDC SME

Participants

1. Donna Frett-Gregory, Senate President, 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
2. Suzanne Darrow-Magras, Director, UVI CELL, University of the Virgin Islands
3. Justa Tita Encarnacion, Commissioner, VI Department of Health
4. Virginia Clairmont, Founder & President, Clean Sweep Frederiksted
5. Lisa Ekpo, Epidemiologist, USVI Department of Health
6. Jahnesta Ritter, Program Manager, VIDOH
7. David Delgado, Program Manager, Department of Health
8. Cherell Lindo, Community Health Worker, Division of Chronic Diseases
9. Lyña Fredericks, Territorial Director of Chronic Disease, V.I. Department of Health
10. Janella John, Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Samuel Carrion
11. Joan Jean-Baptiste, Deputy Commissioner, HR/LR, Virgin Islands Department of Health
12. Bosede A. Bruce, Commissioner, Department of Finance

- **Topic 2: USVI Complete Streets Policy Implementation**

Facilitator: Troy De Chabert-Schuster/Pamela Toussaint, AARP of the US Virgin Islands,

Co-Facilitator: Piotr Gajewski, USVI Department of Public Works

Recorder: Karma Harris, NACDD

Participants

1. Leone Williams-Rohr, Disability Integration Advisor, FEMA
2. Piotr Gajewski, Design Program Manager, VI Department of Public Works



3. Camille McKayle, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of the Virgin Islands
4. Sherilyn Pogson, Senior Operations Specialist, AARP Virgin Islands
5. Daryl D. Jaschen, Director, Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency
6. Suzette Lettsome, Assistant Professor, University of the Virgin Islands
7. Danielle Cranston, Law Enforcement Liaison, VI Office of Highway Safety
8. John Orr, Project Manager, Virgin Islands Department of Health
9. Alma Winkfield, VP VI Trail Alliance, VI Trail Alliance
10. Ariel Stolz, Ms., University of the Virgin Islands
11. Noreen Michael, Interim Director, CERC, University of the Virgin Islands
12. Janis Valmond, Deputy Commissioner, VI Department of Health
13. Walter Bostwick, Mr., Healthy Habit Sports
14. Lauren Fleming, Disability Integration Advisor, FEMA
15. Berlina Wallace-Berube, Director, Primary Care Office, U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health
16. Julia Sheen, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
17. Thora, Disability Integration Advisor, DHS/FEMA

- **Topic 3: USVI Land and Water Plan**

Facilitators: Keith Richards, Asst. Commissioner, Dept. of Planning and Natural Resources

Co-Facilitator: Aymee Santana, VITEMA

Recorder: Christina Dahlstrom, CDC

Participants

1. Miguel Quinones, Regenerative Practitioner
2. Karen Hunt, Executive Director, V.I. Partners for Healthy Communities
3. LaVerne Ragster, President Emerita, University of the Virgin Islands
4. Janney Ferrol Hawley, Head Nurse, Department of Health
5. Valerie Mac, Senior Epidemiologist, USVI DOH/ CDC Foundation
6. Barbara Walsh, Executive Committee, Virgin Islands Trail Alliance, Inc.
7. Janet Turnbull- Krigger, Senior Advisor, UVI, HMRP
8. Michelle Richardson, Concerned citizen
9. Deanna J. James, President, St. Croix Foundation for Community Development
10. Aymee Santana, Hazard Mitigation Disaster Program Project Specialist, VITEMA
11. Jeannette Karina Guzmán, Preparedness Specialist, US Virgin Islands Department of Health
12. Denyce E. Singleton, Concerned Citizen, Retired

***** 30 Minute BREAK *****



11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

- **Topic 4: Healthy Community Design**

Facilitator Group A: Piotr Gajewski; USVI Department of Public Works

Recorder: Karma Harris, NACDD

Facilitator Group B: Alma Winkfield, VP VI Trail Alliance, VI Trail Alliance

Recorder: Mark Fenton, CDC SME

Participants

Group A:

1. Leone Williams-Rohr, Disability Integration Advisor, FEMA
2. LaVerne Ragster, President Emerita, University of the Virgin Islands
3. Camille McKayle, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of the Virgin Islands
4. Justa Tita Encarnacion, Commissioner, VI Department of Health
5. Virginia Clairmont, Founder & President, Clean Sweep Frederiksted
6. Suzette Lettsome, Assistant Professor, University of the Virgin Islands
7. Janney Ferrol- Hawley, Head Nurse, Department of Health
8. Lisa Ekpo, Epidemiologist, USVI Department of Health
9. Jahnesta Ritter, Program Manager, VIDOH
10. David Delgado, Program Manager, Department of Health
11. Cherell Lindo, Community Health Worker, Division of Chronic Diseases

Group B:

12. Lyña Fredericks, Territorial Director of Chronic Disease, V.I. Department of Health
13. Michelle Richardson, Concerned Citizen
14. Deanna J. James, President, St. Croix Foundation for Community Development
15. Noreen Michael, Interim Director, CERC, University of the Virgin Islands
16. Janis Valmond, Deputy Commissioner, VI Department of Health
17. Walter Bostwick, Healthy Habit Sports
18. Lauren Fleming, Disability Integration Advisor, FEMA
19. Joan Jean-Baptiste, Deputy Commissioner, HR/LR, Virgin Islands Department of Health
20. Berlina Wallace-Berube, Director, Primary Care Office, U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health
21. Julia Sheen, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor

- **Topic 5: Resiliency and Sustainability**

Facilitator: Greg Guannel; University of the Virgin Islands Caribbean Green Technology Center, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD)

Co- Facilitator: Deanna James, St. Croix Community Foundation for Economic Development

Recorder: Christina Dahlstrom, CDC

Participants



1. Miguel Quinones, Regenerative Practitioner
2. Donna Frett-Gregory, Senate President, 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
3. Karen Hunt, Executive Director, V.I. Partners for Healthy Communities
4. Suzanne Darrow-Magras, Director, UVI CELL, University of the Virgin Islands
5. Sherilyn Pogson, Senior Operations Specialist, AARP Virgin Islands
6. Daryl D. Jaschen, Director, Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency
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16. Jeannette Karina Guzmán, Preparedness Specialist, US Virgin Islands Department of Health
17. Thora, Disability Integration Advisor, DHS/FEMA
18. Denyce E. Singleton, Concerned Citizen, Retired

****** 1-hour LUNCH BREAK ******

Action Planning: Summary discussion from work groups (report out)

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Facilitators: Karma Harris, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
Dr. Noreen Michael, Caribbean Exploratory Research Center (CERC)

Each group presents in eight minutes no more than three priority actions for consideration of the large group. 20 minutes allotted for questions, discussion, and refinement. Collectively group will look for cross-disciplinary and cross-topical opportunities.

Closing Plenary: Call to Action

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Noreen Michael, Center for Excellence in Research Center (CERC)

- Take-Aways from Working groups
- Next steps

