

Program Progress Performance Report for University Transportation Centers

Submitted To: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Federal Grant Number: DTRT13-G-UTC46

Project Title: Tier 1 University Transportation Center
Small Urban and Rural Livability Center

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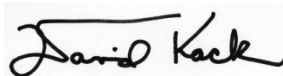
Recipient Organization: Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717

Project Grant Period: September 30, 2013 – September 30, 2017

Reporting Period End Date: September 30, 2014

Report Term: PPPR #2

Signature:



1. Accomplishments

What are the major goals and objectives of the program?

The major goals and objectives of the Small Urban and Rural Livability Center (SURLC) are to conduct research, and provide leadership, education, workforce development and technology transfer in all transportation related aspects of livability, focusing specifically on small urban and rural areas.

What was accomplished under these goals?

During the second six months of the project:

- Research continued on the first SURLC project: *The North Dakota Oil Boom's Impact on Livability in Western North Dakota (information on the project can be found on the SURLC website)*
- Work began on the second SURLC project: *Incorporating Livability and the Urban Form into Travel Demand Forecasting Models in High Growth Rural and small Urban Communities*
- Work began on the third SURLC project: *Small Town and Rural (STAR) Guidebook for Cycling and Pedestrian Infrastructure*. This guide will allow planners and other transportation officials in small urban and rural areas to see how various treatments can be applied to allow for safer movement by bicycles and walking.
- A project (100% local funds-matching funds) was completed entitled *A University Trip Exchange District Study*. This study looked at the impact fees charged to developments for transportation impacts based on their proximity to Montana State University. This relates to three of the livability principles: Expand location- and energy-efficient housing choices; Improve the economic competitiveness of neighborhoods; and Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities.
- A project (100% local funds-matching funds) began entitled *City of Bozeman Main Street Commercial Truck Route Modification Project*. This project looks at how large trucks (tractor-trailer vehicles) can impact small urban and rural communities whose main streets are also State or U.S. highways. The project will look at the impact of vehicles, and determine if alternate routes are possible.
- A Study Abroad Class was taught May 5-21, 2014 entitled *Active Transportation: Bicycling, transit and walking*. The class included four undergraduate students and one graduate student. The first week of class took place at Montana State University (MSU) in Bozeman, Montana followed by travel and two weeks of study in the Netherlands and Germany (Freiburg). The objectives of the course were: 1) recognize and explain the legitimacy of active transportation modes in creating balanced transportation systems, and 2) compare how differences in the built environment, policy, and culture affect active transportation modes in the Netherlands, Germany and the United States.

- Rebecca Gleason (SURLC staff at the Western Transportation Institute) is serving as a mentor to an engineering student researching sidewalk policy through an MSU Undergraduate Scholars Program. The intent of this research is to understand policy and funding methods in small urban and rural communities to create high quality walking networks where homeowners are not solely responsible for the repair and maintenance of sidewalks.
- A Scope of Work (project draft) was developed for a project that will research providing more transportation choices in a community: *Evaluation Study of Bike Share Program in Fargo, North Dakota*.
- A project draft was developed for a project that will research how to make cycling options safer in small urban and rural areas: *Active Warning Systems to Alert Motorists to the Presence of Bicyclists*
- A project draft was developed for a project that will look at mode choice preferences by Millennials in small urban and rural areas: *Mobility Mindset of Millennials in Small Urban and Rural Areas*.

What opportunities for training and professional development has the program provided?

- Two staff traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska to participate at the UTC & CUTC meetings held in June 2014.
- Two staff members attended the Pro Bike Pro Walk Conference (September 2014) in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.
- A staff member attended the Transportation Research Board's Tools of the Trade conference in Burlington, Vermont (July 2014).

How have the results been disseminated? If so, in what ways?

- Results from the various conferences have been shared in-house, and concepts are being incorporated into possible project ideas.

What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals and objectives?

- It is anticipated that additional projects will begin during the next reporting period.
- Communications will continue with the Advisory Board in regards to project updates, and input on any new project ideas.

2. Products

Publications, conference papers and presentations

- A presentation, *Livability and the Connection between Housing and Transportation*, was made at the Montana Housing Partnership Conference (May 2014).
- A webinar entitled *Livability and the Connection Between Housing and Transportation* was provided through the Western Rural Development Center in August 2014.

- A presentation, *Livability for Montana Transportation*, was presented at the TRB Tools of the Trade Conference in Burlington, Vermont (July 2014).

Website(s) and other Internet site(s)

- SURLC website (<http://www.westerntransportationinstitute.org/centers/small-urban-and-rural-livability-center/default.aspx>)
- TRB Research in Progress (RiP) (<http://rip.trb.org/view/2014/P/1322855>)

Technologies or techniques

Nothing to Report

Inventions, patent applications, and/or licenses

Nothing to Report

Other products, such as data or databases, physical collections, audio or video products

Nothing to Report

3. Participants & Collaborating Organizations

What organizations have been involved as partners?

North Dakota State University (Small Urban and Rural Transit Center – Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute) is the main partner to Montana State University in the Small Urban and Rural Livability Center. Alta Planning + Design is serving as a partner on the Small Town and Rural (STAR) Guidebook project.

Have other collaborators or contacts been involved?

Additional collaborators/contact include members of the Advisory Board, which represent the following organizations: American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Centers for Disease Control (CDC); Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA); Easter Seals Project Action (ESPA); Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Federal Transit Administration (FTA); National Association of Development Organizations (NADO); North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT); Transportation Research Board (TRB); and the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT).

Note: Members of the Advisory Board from FTA and USDOT act as technical and policy liaisons between the Center and FTA and USDOT. They provide guidance and recommendations on research projects, projects that link DOT priorities and initiatives with the direction of the Center, including information on the technical merits of the research projects that may be initiated by the Small Urban and Rural Livability Center. Advisory Board members are not be involved in any financial decisions, and will not be involved in any discussion of future UTC competitions.

Researchers from the Western Transportation Institute (SURLC) collaborated with staff from Montana State University and the City of Bozeman for the *University Trip Exchange District Study project*.

4. Impact

The development of the principal discipline(s) of the project

The Study Abroad Class *Active Transportation: Bicycling, transit and walking* had in impact as it showed those who took the class that other towns (countries) have been able to shift from an auto-centric transportation system to more active transportation systems that focus on other modes. This class highlighted the first livability principle of providing more transportation choices.

The Trip Exchange District highlighted different trip generation rates, and how building housing closer to educational opportunities (a University) can lead to people driving less. This project highlighted three of the livability principles including: Expand location efficient housing choices; improve the economic competitiveness of neighborhoods; and, enhance the unique characteristics of all communities.

Other disciplines

Nothing to Report

The development of human resources

The UTC supports efforts to enhance the pipeline of new entrants into the transportation field, particularly underrepresented populations in transportation. Three outreach programs were conducted for K-12 students during the reporting period by SURLC staff. Forty-eight middle school girls participated in an Expanding Your Horizons workshop on safety and driving simulators. Forty second graders at Irving Elementary School in Bozeman were introduced to transportation and engineering during a two-hour interactive and hands-on workshop. Irving has the most diverse student body of the Bozeman elementary schools. Fifteen high school students participated in the Summer Transportation Institute, a two-week residential summer camp at MSU that exposes students to all modes of transportation and a range of potential transportation careers.

Physical, institutional, and information resources at the university and/or other partner institution

Nothing to Report

Technology transfer (include transfer of results to entities in government or industry, adoption of new practices, or instances where research has led to the initiation of a startup company

The results of the Trip Exchange District project were shared with planners and other staff from the City of Bozeman and the Bozeman City Commission. While the vote hasn't occurred as of this report, it is likely that the City of Bozeman will reduce the impact fees for developments that occur closer to educational and employment opportunities, and other services.

Society beyond science and technology

Nothing to Report

5. Changes/Problems

Changes in approach and reasons for change

Nothing to Report

Actual or anticipated problems or delays and actions or plans to resolve them

Nothing to Report

Changes that have a significant impact on expenditures

Nothing to Report

Significant changes in use or care of human subjects, vertebrate animals, and/or biohazards

Nothing to Report

Change of primary performance site location from that originally proposed

Nothing to Report

6. Special Reporting Requirements

Not Applicable