

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

Program Director: David Kack
Email: dkack@coe.montana.edu; Phone: 406-994-7526

Submission Date: April 27, 2015

DUNS Number: 6254479820000

EIN Number: 81-6010045

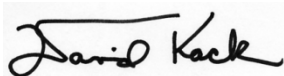
Recipient Organization: Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717

Project Grant Period: September 30, 2013 – September 30, 2018

Reporting Period End Date: March 31, 2015

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 third six month period 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* (information on the project can be found on the SURLC website)
- 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.
- Work began on the fourth SURLC project: *Evaluation Study of Bike Share Program in Fargo, North Dakota*, which will research what happens when a small urban community provides more transportation choices.
- Work began on a fifth SURLC project: *Mobility Mindset of Millennials in Small Urban and Rural Areas*, which will look at mode choice preferences by Millennials in small urban and rural areas.
- Work began on a sixth SURLC project: the *Rural Transit Fact Book*, which was one of the proposed projects identified in the 2013 UTC SURLC proposal.
- A project (100% local funds-matching funds) entitled *City of Bozeman Main Street Commercial Truck Route Modification Project* was completed. This project examined the impact of large trucks (tractor-trailer vehicles) on small urban and rural communities whose main streets are also State or U.S. highways and provided information on alternate routes.
- A project draft was developed for research on making cycling options safer in small urban and rural areas: *Active Warning Systems to Alert Motorists to the Presence of Bicyclists*
- A Scope of Work and budget was submitted to the Wyoming DOT for funding to investigate intercity bus services in that state.

- SURLC sponsored three webinars in the Community Builders Webinar Series, administered by the Sonoran Institute. These webinars showcase the stories of people in the business of building stronger communities and feature developers, planners, and community leaders who are at work creating complete neighborhoods, growing diverse economies, and protecting natural assets. The three webinars that were sponsored are: *Building Better Cities: The Ogden Story* (106 Registered, 62 attended, 9 views of the recording); *Creative Approaches to Economic Development* (209 Registered, 135 attended, 41 views of the recording); and *Urban Renewal as a Catalyst for Private Investment* (172 registered, 97 attended, 34 views of the recording). More information can be found by going to <http://communitybuilders.net/webinars/>
- SURLC sponsored and participated in the 2015 Building Active Communities Initiative Action Institute. The Action Institute brings teams together from Small Urban and Rural Communities in Montana to develop plans and/or policies, such as complete streets, that increase active transportation (physical activity) in their communities. Participants from this year included teams from Hardin, Havre, Red Lodge and Park County, Montana. More information is available at <http://www.umt.edu/sell/cps/baci/default.php>

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

- Five staff traveled to Monterey, CA to participate and present at the 21st Rural Public and Intercity Bus conference.
- Three staff traveled to Washington, DC to participate at the UTC & CUTC meetings held just prior to the 2015 TRB Annual Meeting (January 2015).
- Six staff traveled to Washington, DC to participate in the 2015 TRB Annual Meeting (January 2015).
- Jill Hough, SURLC Deputy Director, is a recently certified John Maxwell speaker, trainer, and coach and can offer seven Maxwell Leadership Trainings. More information is available at <http://www.surtc.org/training/topics.php?id=34>

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.
- Reports from completed projects will be put on the Livability Center's website, and presentations will be made at applicable conferences.

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

The following presentations were made at the 21st National Conference on Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation (Monterey, CA – October 2014):

- Cost Benefit Analysis of Rural and Small Urban Transit (Ranjit Godavarthy, NDSU)
- Emergency Management: An Opportunity for Collaborations and Partnerships for Rural Transit (Rob Lynch, NDSU)
- Ethics in the Workplace (Jill Hough, NDSU)
- Evaluating the State of Mobility Management and Human Service Transportation Coordination (Jeremy Mattson, NDSU)
- Funding Opportunities for Providing Access to Federal Lands (David Kack, MSU)
- Improving Veteran Mobility in the Northern Plains: Connecting Veterans in Minnesota, Montana and North Dakota to VA Health Care Centers (Del Peterson, NDSU)
- Inclusive Transit Planning in a Community With Limited Resources: Increasing Engagement and Participation in Helena, MT (David Kack, MSU)
- Livability and Transportation: Defining Montana’s Perspective (David Kack, MSU)

Two sessions at the 21st National Conference on Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation (Monterey, CA – October 2014) were moderated by SURLC staff. Jill Hough (NDSU) moderated the session *Enhancing Livability in Rural America: What It Means In Your State, Region and Community* and Del Peterson (NDSU) moderated the session *Communicating with Customers and Communities: Virtual BFFs*. It should be noted that some of the NDSU projects presented at the 21st National Conference on Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation were completed in conjunction with the University of South Florida.

The following presentations were made at the 2015 TRB Annual Meeting (note: some of these projects were completed in conjunction with the University of South Florida).

- Cost-Benefit Analysis of U.S. Rural and Small Urban Transit (Ranjit Godavarthy, NDSU)
- Evaluating the State of Mobility Management and Human Service Transportation Coordination (Poster Session – Jeremy Mattson, NDSU)
- Improving Veterans' Mobility in Small Urban and Rural Areas (Del Peterson, NDSU)
- Mobility Management, Cost-Benefit Analyses, and Demand-Response Level of Service: Recent Research from SURTC (Jeremy Mattson, NDSU)
- Relative Desired Mobility of Elderly Women Living in Rural and Small Urban Locations in North Dakota (Jill Hough, NDSU)

Jill Hough from NDSU also presided over Session 442 – Transportation Planning Applications: Tips and Tools.

David Kack from MSU gave a presentation at the 2015 Building Active Communities Initiative Action Institute entitled *Livability and Transit in Rural Communities*.

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. The City of Bozeman (MT) is a partner on both the *City of Bozeman Main Street Commercial Truck Route Modification* project and the *Incorporating Livability and the Urban Form into Travel Demand Forecasting Models in High Growth Rural and Small Urban Communities* project.

As noted earlier, SURLC partnered with the Sonoran Institute to support their Community Builders webinar series, and the University of Montana and the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) are partners in the Building Active Communities Initiative, and it's Action Institute. Some of the projects that have been conducted by the Small Urban & Rural Transit Center at North Dakota State University are in collaboration with the University of South Florida.

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 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 an impact as it showed the five students and three instructors who participated in 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 West Region Surface Transportation Workforce Center (WRTWC) was established by the Federal Highway Administration to bring together transportation organizations, workforce advocates, and educational institutions to develop partnerships that apply knowledge, experience, and resources to strategically build a strong transportation workforce for the future. The WRTWC, housed at the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University in partnership with the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute at North Dakota State University, serves a ten-state Western region: Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and Hawaii. WRTWC will focus on topics/issues that include transportation and livability.

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 has not 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