

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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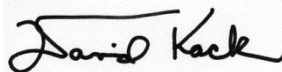
Recipient Organization: Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717

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

Reporting Period End Date: March 31, 2016

Report Term: PPPR #5

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 fifth six month period of the project:

- Work continued 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 continued 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 continued on the fourth SURLC project: *Evaluation Study of Bike Share Program in Fargo, North Dakota*, which is investigating what happens when a small urban community provides more transportation choices. This project is following the bike share program in Fargo for three years. More information on this project can be found at <http://www.ugpti.org/research/projects.php?view=238>
- Work continued on a fifth SURLC project: *Mobility Mindset of Millennials in Small Urban and Rural Areas*, which looks at mode choice preferences by Millennials in small urban and rural areas.
- Work continued on the *Wyoming Intercity Bus Services Study*. This project will investigate intercity bus services in that state. This project is 100% funded by the Wyoming DOT.
- Work continued on a project titled *Analysis of the Intercity Travel Network for Creating Livable Small Urban and Rural Communities* that examines the number of cities and towns in each of the 48 contiguous states that have intercity bus service.
- Work continued on a project entitled *A Systematic Pedestrian Safety Planning Tool for Small Urban and Rural Areas* that will create a tool to help determine safety countermeasures for high pedestrian/vehicle crash areas.
- Work continued on a project entitled *Rural Livability and Transit: Case Studies*. This project, conducted by SURLC partner NDSU, is in cooperation with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI), and follows on work undertaken by TTI and the University

of South Florida in examining transit's role in effecting livability in rural communities. This project will develop case studies that highlight transit's impact on a community's livability.

- Work continues on an on-going project (100% match funds) whereby a SURLC staff member acts as the Coordinator for the Big Sky Transportation District, which operates the Skyline public transit system in Big Sky, Montana.
- Work began on a project entitled *Analyzing Transportation Choices for Park County, Wyoming* which is investigating how to provide more transportation choices within, and between the communities of Cody and Powell (Wyoming).
- Work began on a project entitled *Montana State University Bicycle Task Force*, which includes working with partners to create a more bicycle friendly University.
- The Small Urban and Rural Livability Center has a new website, www.surlec.org

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

- Six staff members traveled to Washington D.C. for the TRB Annual Meeting. Three of the staff participated in the CUTC banquet, and the UTC and CUTC meetings. As noted in the next section, one staff member presented research related to the Millennials project at TRB.
- Two staff attended the New Partners for Smart Growth conference in Portland, Oregon.
- 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.surlec.org/training/topics.php?id=34>
- SURLC sponsored two webinars through the Community Builders organization. The webinars were *Community Partnerships: Examples from Downtown Durango*, and *Cities Building Community Wealth*.

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

- Results have been disseminated through project reports (on the SURLC and SURTC websites), and through presentations at conferences (see Section 2. Products).
- 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.

- The *ND Oil Boom Impact on Livability Study* was completed, and the paper will be presented in June (2016) at the ASCE International Conference on Transportation in Houston.
- A presentation of the results to date of the *Evaluation Study of Bike Share Program in Fargo, ND* will be presented at the Canadian Transportation Research Forum in Toronto, Canada (May 2016).
- It is likely that an article about winter bike sharing will be included in the next edition of the Journal of Public Transportation.
- It is likely that the results of several projects, *Rural Livability Case Studies*, and the *Wyoming Intercity Bus Services Study* will be presented at the 22nd National Conference on Rural Public & Intercity Bus Transportation (October 2016).

2. Products

Publications, conference papers and presentations

Information on “*Health and Transportation*” was presented at the Montana State University Global Health 291 class, March 29, 2016.

Two staff members participated in the Building Active Communities Institute, March 22-24, 2016, Great Falls, MT. Staff attended workshops on livable communities and tactical urbanism, and helped facilitate discussions with Montana communities on livability and active transportation.

Rebecca Gleason, a SURLC staff member, was a speaker at the National Bike Summit, Washington, DC, and presented “*Moab’s Multimodal Network to Support Active Transportation*” as part of a panel session *Bicycling to and through America’s Treasured Landscapes*. March 8, 2016.

Ms. Gleason was a Guest Lecturer and gave a presentation on “*Active Transportation*” for a Montana State University Engineering Senior Design Class, February 23, 2016.

Rebecca Gleason was a speaker at the Winter Cycling Congress in Minneapolis, MN, and gave a presentation entitled “*Supporting and Designing Active Communities in Small Towns and Rural Regions.*” February 2, 2016.

Natalie Villwock-Witte presented at the University of New Mexico Paving & Transportation Conference (January 4-5, 2016) on the research to date on the *Mobility Mindset of Millennials in Small Urban and Rural Areas* project.

Ms. Villwock-Witte presented on the research to date on the *Mobility Mindset of Millennials in Small Urban and Rural Areas* project at the TRB Annual Meeting in Washington D.C., (January 10-14, 2016).

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 for the *Incorporating Livability and the Urban Form into Travel Demand Forecasting Models in High Growth Rural and Small Urban Communities* project.

WTI is partnering with the Minnesota, Montana, Washington and Wisconsin Departments of Transportation on the *Mobility Mindset of Millennials in Small Urban and Rural Areas* project.

As noted earlier, SURLC partnered with the Community Builders organization to conduct a webinar through their Community Builders webinar series. Further, SURLC is working with the Wyoming Department of Transportation in regards to the *Wyoming Intercity Bus Services Study*. SURLC is working with communities of Cody and Powell (WY) on the *Analyzing Transportation Choices for Park County Wyoming* project.

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 Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) and 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.

4. Impact

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

The main goal of SURLC is to show how livability and the livability principles are integrated into our lives. How we design a community, where we site a school, where we build our parks, all have an impact on livability. Through our research and other activities, we work to show how individuals, families and communities can benefit from increasing livability.

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)

Nothing to Report

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