

Program Progress Performance Report for University Transportation Centers

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

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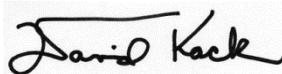
Recipient Organization: Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717

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

Reporting Period End Date: September 30, 2016

Report Term: PPPR #6

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 sixth six month period (end of the third year) of the Center:

- 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 was nearly finalized 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 was completed on the fifth SURLC project: *Mobility Mindset of Millennials in Small Urban and Rural Areas*, which looked at mode choice preferences by Millennials in small urban and rural areas.
- Work was completed on the *Wyoming Intercity Bus Services Study*. This project investigated intercity bus services in that state. This project was 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.
- The Final Report was completed for the *Rural Livability and Transit: Case Studies* project, conducted by SURLC partner NDSU, in cooperation with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute. This project developed 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 was completed on a project entitled *Analyzing Transportation Choices for Park County, Wyoming*, which investigated how to provide more transportation choices within, and between the communities of Cody and Powell (Wyoming).
- Work was nearly completed on a project entitled *Montana State University Bicycle Task Force*, which is developing a Bike Master Plan for Montana State University with an emphasis on creating a more bicycle friendly campus and community.
- Work began on a project named *Dynamic Warning System to Alert Motorists to Cyclists*. This project will show how technology can be used to warn motorists of the presence of cyclists on rural roads that do not have separated facilities. This technology has the potential to increase the use of cycling in rural areas by increasing safety for both motorists and cyclists.
- Work just began on a project named the *Bozeman Area Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Initiative*. Through this project, SURLC will work with Montana State University and the City of Bozeman to implement and increase transportation choices to affect the rate of growth of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the area, and ensure that Bozeman remains a livable community. In fact, the City of Bozeman calls itself “The Most Livable Place” (see www.bozeman.net).
- A report entitled *Workforce Development and Succession Planning to Prepare the Rural Transit Industry for the Future* was completed. This report notes that there is an increased need to invest in workforce development to combat the impending retirement tsunami, which is especially true within the small urban and rural transit industry.
- Work began on the annual update to the *Rural Transit Fact Book*.
- Work began on a project named *Senior Livability and Aging in Place*. The objective of this research is to quantify the cost of providing transit to senior citizens living in rural and small urban areas as an alternative to having the seniors relocating to larger communities.
- Work began on the *Last Mile Commercial Package Delivery as a Revenue Generation Tool for Rural Public Transportation Systems in Wyoming* project. This project will research how rural transit systems may be able to generate revenue by acting as a package delivery system.

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

- One staff member attended the American Public Transit Association (APTA) 2016 Public Transportation & Universities Conference (April; Grand Rapids, MI).
- One staff member attended the Montana Transit Association Spring Meeting (April; Helena, MT).

- Two staff members attended the Bike-Walk Summit in Montana (April; Missoula, MT).
- One staff member attended the National Safe Routes to School Conference (April; Columbus, OH).
- One staff member attended the International Conference on Transportation & Development (June; Houston, TX).
- Two staff members attended the National Working Summit on Transportation in Rural America (September; Denver, CO).
- Two staff members attended the Tools of the Trade Conference (September; Charleston, SC).
- Two staff members attended the ProWalk ProBike ProPlace Conference (September; Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada).
- One staff member attended the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Annual Meeting (September; Los Angeles, CA).
- Two staff members attended the Dakota Transit Association conference (September; Spearfish, SD).

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 regard to project updates, and input on any new project ideas.
- 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

- A presentation on how universities and communities can increase livability by working together to provide more transportation choices was provided at the American Public Transit Association (APTA) 2016 Public Transportation & Universities Conference in April.
- Two presentations were provided at the Bike-Walk Summit in Montana (April). The first presentation was *The Bike/Walk Effect – Linking Active Lifestyles to Development and Design*, and the second presentation was on the *Small Town and Rural (STAR) Guidebook for Cycling and Pedestrian Infrastructure*.
- A presentation on the *Small Town and Rural (STAR) Guidebook for Cycling and Pedestrian Infrastructure* was provided at the National Safe Routes to School Conference (April).
- The International Conference on Transportation & Development in June provided the opportunity for a staff member to present on *The Impact of North Dakota's Oil Boom on Transit Livability* project.
- At the National Working Summit on Transportation in Rural America in September, a staff member facilitated a discussion on how livability can also increase safety on rural roads.
- At the Tools of the Trade Conference (September), which is sponsored by the Transportation Research Board Committee ADA30 and focuses on transportation planning in small & medium sized communities, one staff member presented on *Understanding Commercial Truck Traffic Through Downtown Bozeman*, which helps communities understand the impacts when their Main Street is a State or Federal highway.
- In August and September, SURLC staff from Montana State University (MSU) provided lectures on bicycle commuting (MSU Wellness); and bicycle safety (Driver's Ed Class, Manhattan, MT; Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) Youth Program, Bozeman, MT).
- In September, a staff member gave a presentation as part of a webinar by the National Center on Safe Routes to School (SRTS) entitled *SRTS in Small Rural Communities: Challenges and Strategies to Accessing Funding*.
- In September two staff members gave a lecture on Sustainable Transportation to an MSU Sustainability Class.

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

SURLC worked with the Wyoming Department of Transportation for the Wyoming Intercity Bus Services Study, and is working with WYDOT on the *Last Mile Commercial Package Delivery as a Revenue Generation Tool for Rural Public Transportation Systems in Wyoming* project. SURLC worked with the 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, who 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.

The Small Urban and Rural Transit Center (SURTC), a partner in the Small Urban and Rural Livability Center, is launching the Advanced Transit Professional Certificate.

As noted earlier, the report *Workforce Development and Succession Planning to Prepare the Rural Transit Industry for the Future* was completed, which highlights the fact that as America's transportation workforce continues to age, there is an increased need to invest in workforce development to combat the impending retirement tsunami. This is especially true within the small urban and rural transit industry. A national survey of rural transit managers was conducted to determine current workforce development practices as well as succession planning procedures.

SURTC is finalizing a draft of the proceedings from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Workforce Development Summit. The purpose of the Summit was to discuss the recruitment and training necessary to ensure that FTA can carry out its mission for the foreseeable future.

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