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1 message

The PBIC Messenger
E-News from the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center

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Announcements

- **America Walks Launches Interactive Walkability Tool**
- **FHWA Updates Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities Table**

News

- **Street Design, Not Posted Speed Limits, Slows Driver**
- **More Parents Riding Cargo Bikes**
- **Hawaii: State DOT Launches Priority Multimodal Network**
- **Lancaster, CA: Walkable Gathering Space Transformed Main Street**
- **Amherst, MA: Study Finds Driver Confusion at Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons**
- **New York City, NY: 450 More Intersections to Get Automated Red-Light Cameras**
- **Howard County, MD: 50 Percent Drop in School Bus Violations with AI-Assisted Cameras**
- **Utah: Statewide Trail Freeway System for Bikes**
- **San Antonio, TX: Adopts Bike Network Plan**
- **Boise, ID: Reduces Shared E-Scooter and E-Bike Speed Limits**

Resources

- **What is the Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment and How Can You Use It?**
- **Tackling Challenge of Reducing Traffic Fatalities for All Users**
- **Ending the Pedestrian Safety Crisis Begins with How We Talk About It**
- **Map Highlights Mode Choice and Factors Influencing Car Use**
- **Launch of New Alliance to Expand Mobility Options**
- **Top 10 Ways to Reinforce Local Vision Zero Commitment**
- **Census Data Field Guide for Transportation Applications**
- **Transport Truths: Planning Methods and Ethics for Global Futures**
- **Emerging Practice Briefing on Accommodating People with Disabilities at Island Platform Bus Stops**
- **Safer Than You Think! Revising the Transit Safety Narrative**

Research

- **Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Research at TRB Annual Meeting**
- **Development and Reliability Testing of the Winter Walkability Audit Tool**

Announcements

America Walks Launches Interactive Walkability Tool

A new interactive **Walkable Land Use by Region, Population, and Demographics Index** from America Walks shows how walkability varies across the United States. The index cross-references the Environmental Protection Agency's National Walkability Index with the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey to measure walkable areas by State, county, and city. Index data show that few residents live in highly walkable areas, with most in communities rated not sufficiently walkable. The tool helps establish a national baseline and highlights the importance of improving both street design and land use policies to expand neighborhoods that support walking.

FHWA Updates Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities Table

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) updated its **Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities Table**, which highlights eligibility for pedestrian and bicycle activities and projects across USDOT surface transportation programs. The table provides notes and program requirements to help project sponsors identify funding administered through the FHWA, Federal Lands, Office of the Secretary, Federal Transit Administration, and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Communities can also use the **DOT Navigator** to learn more about funding requirements.

News

Street Design, Not Posted Speed Limits, Slows Drivers (Bloomberg CityLab)
Reports that the physical design of streets has a stronger influence on driver speed than signage alone. A **study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Senseable City Lab** found that narrow, enclosed streets with higher building density tend to slow traffic, while wide, open roads with long sightlines encourage faster driving.

More Parents Riding Cargo Bikes (National Public Radio)
Reports that more parents are choosing cargo bikes to carry their children. Advances in e-bike technology, growing networks of protected bike lanes, and the visibility of other families riding cargo bikes have contributed to the trend.

Hawaii: State DOT Launches Priority Multimodal Network (State of Hawaii)
Introduces 113 State highway projects to improve walking, biking, and transit connections across the islands. The $360 million plan will provide transportation options and improve connections between communities.

Lancaster, CA: Walkable Gathering Space Transformed Main Street (Governing)

Highlights how Lancaster, CA, converted a five-lane thoroughfare into an inviting public space by replacing the center lanes with tree-lined pedestrian promenades. The $11.5 million redesign spurred more than $270 million in economic output, $130 million in new investment, and hundreds of new jobs and housing units within four years.

Amherst, MA: Study Finds Driver Confusion at Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (University of Massachusetts Amherst)
Highlights a study published in **Transportation Research Record** finding that nearly one-quarter of Massachusetts drivers drove through solid red lights and 65 percent proceeded on flashing red regardless of pedestrian presence at pedestrian hybrid beacons. Notes that compliance was lowest on four-lane roads and highest on urban two-lane streets.

New York City, NY: 450 More Intersections to Get Automated Red-Light Cameras (Smart Cities Dive)
Announces that New York City will expand its automated red-light camera program to 450 additional signalized intersections. The city reports that the cameras have been highly effective in reducing speeding, red-light running, and other unsafe driving behaviors.

Howard County, MD: 50 Percent Drop in School Bus Violations with AI-Assisted Cameras (WMAR)
Describes how Howard County schools use AI-assisted cameras on buses to ticket drivers who fail to stop for students. The program is funded by citation revenue and has cut violations by half over the past four years.

Utah: Statewide Trail Freeway System for Bikes (The Salt Lake Tribune)
Announces the Utah Trail Network, a planned 3,100-mile system of multiuse trails separated from motor traffic to connect communities across the State. Backed by $90 million in State funding, the network aims to expand travel options and reduce congestion, ultimately linking 95 percent of Utah residents to a trail within one mile of their home.

San Antonio, TX: Adopts Bike Network Plan (StreetsBlog USA)
Describes San Antonio's newly adopted **Bike Network Plan**, which calls for 1,740 miles of new or upgraded bike facilities citywide. The plan also recommends decriminalizing sidewalk riding and lowering speed limits to 20–25 mph to improve safety for all users.

Boise, ID: Reduces Shared E-Scooter and E-Bike Speed Limits (City of Boise)
Announces that, in partnership with Lime, Boise lowered speed limits for shared e-scooters and e-bikes on the Greenbelt and downtown areas. Notes that the city will educate private e-scooter and e-bike users, whose devices can exceed 30 mph, and continue Greenbelt safety patrols and outreach.

Resources

What is the Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment and How Can You Use It? (Vision Zero Cities Journal)
Describes the Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment (VRUSA) that reviews each State's **performance and plans** for protecting people who walk, bike, and roll. Explains how communities can use the findings to inform local leaders, compare results, share observations, and suggest policy and infrastructure changes within their State DOTs.

Tackling Challenge of Reducing Traffic Fatalities for All Users (Smart Cities Dive)
Compiles reporting on how cities, States, and Federal agencies are addressing roadway deaths through approaches such as AI-based traffic signals, leading pedestrian intervals, and Complete Streets policies.

Ending the Pedestrian Safety Crisis Begins with How We Talk About It (Smart Growth America)
Examines how language and media coverage shape public understanding of roadway safety and influence policy decisions. Encourages consistent,

contextual reporting on crashes and attention to proven design and policy solutions.

Map Highlights Mode Choice and Factors Influencing Car Use (Natural Resources Defense Council)
Presents a national dashboard that maps where people drive less or do not regularly use a car and highlights factors that shape mode choice, including cost, vehicle availability, age, location, and more. Notes that about 36 percent of people over age 10 do not or cannot rely on a personal vehicle and encourages use of the tool to broaden transportation options.

Launch of New Alliance to Expand Mobility Options (Nondrivers Alliance)
Announces the launch of a new project focused on expanding transportation choices and supporting the one-third of U.S. residents who do not regularly drive. The Nondrivers Alliance, with its partners America Walks and Disability Rights Washington, will continue coordinating the annual Week Without Driving initiative and support community-led efforts to broaden mobility options.

Top 10 Ways to Reinforce Local Vision Zero Commitments (Vision Zero Network)
Highlights 10 focus areas for advancing meaningful Vision Zero progress, including maintaining active task forces, incorporating vehicle safety, measuring contributing factors such as speed, improving safety on State-owned roads, and aligning land use with Safe System principles. Encourages communities to celebrate small wins, elevate crash victim voices, and integrate safety into transportation investments.

Census Data Field Guide for Transportation Applications (National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP))
Presents a guide to using census data in transportation analysis, with explanations of Census Transportation Planning Products and the American Community Survey, and includes code and worksheets for tasks like survey weighting, travel-time snapshots, and model validation.

Transport Truths: Planning Methods and Ethics for Global Futures (Bristol University Press)
Explores new approaches to transportation planning through a mix of qualitative and quantitative research. Uses case studies to show how and why a transdisciplinary approach can result in more effective planning decisions.

Emerging Practice Briefing on Accommodating People with Disabilities at Island Platform Bus Stops (Transportation Association of Canada)
Examines how island platform bus stops, designed to separate cyclists from traffic, can create challenges for pedestrians with disabilities, particularly those with sight loss. Outlines ways to reduce conflicts between pedestrians and bicyclists, profiles accessible designs, and presents case studies from Canadian cities to inform future testing and evaluation.

Safer Than You Think! Revising the Transit Safety Narrative (Victoria Transport Policy Institute)
Counters misconceptions that public transit is unsafe and shows that it has far lower crash and crime rates than driving. Explains how improving and using transit can enhance overall community safety, reduce traffic deaths, and strengthen public confidence through better communication, design, and planning practices.

Research

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Research at TRB Annual Meeting (Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety)
Highlights presentations and workshops at the 2026 Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting featuring research from the Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety (CPBS) and related projects. Topics include street design, micromobility, speed management, new approaches to safety data and analysis, and many more. Sessions span workshops, posters, and meetings from January 11 - 15, 2026, in Washington, D.C.

[**Development and Reliability Testing of the Winter Walkability Audit Tool**](#)
(Journal of Transport & Health)
Introduces and evaluates a new tool for assessing pedestrian conditions during winter months. Finds that it can help researchers and planners identify how design and maintenance practices influence walking activity in colder months.

[**Analyzing Pedestrian Fatalities in the United States: A Comparative Study Across Pandemic Periods**](#) (Journal of Safety Research)
Examines changes in pedestrian fatality risks across pandemic periods using national crash and census tract data. Finds shifts related to age, impairment, and population density, with higher fatality rates in urban and lower-income areas. Recommends safety campaigns, infrastructure upgrades, and behavior-focused interventions.

[**Pedestrian Fatalities Associated with Halloween in the United States**](#)
(JAMA Pediatrics)
Examines 42 years of National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data to determine whether Halloween is linked to higher pedestrian fatality rates. Finds that pedestrian fatality risk was 43 percent higher on Halloween than on comparable nights, with the greatest increase among children ages 4 to 8, who faced a tenfold higher risk of being killed while walking.

[**An Analysis of Pedestrian Safety at Bus Stops Using FARS Data**](#) (Journal of Safety Research)
Analyzes fatal pedestrian crashes near transit bus stops and finds that crashes involving pedestrians waiting roadside are unique to bus stops and occur most often at midblock locations. Recommends improved crossings and speed reductions to protect transit riders and other pedestrians.

[**Nighttime Safety Improved with Pedestrian Detection**](#) (AAA Newsroom)
Evaluates pedestrian automatic emergency braking (PAEB) systems in four vehicle models and finds nighttime crash avoidance improved from 0 percent in 2019 to 60 percent in 2025. Notes that high-visibility clothing produced mixed results, with some systems improving detection and others failing to respond, highlighting the need for further refinement and testing under nighttime conditions.

[**Investigating Pedestrian Crash Injury Patterns: A Comparative Study of Children and Non-Children**](#) (Accident Analysis & Prevention)
Compares factors influencing injury severity for child and adult pedestrians in U.S. crashes using six years of national data. Finds roadway, environmental, and pedestrian factors play a larger role for children, while driver-related factors are more influential for adults. Demonstrates that combining machine learning with statistical models improves understanding of pedestrian injury patterns.

[**Evaluating the Impact of Access Management Practices on Urban Arterial Crashes**](#) (Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives)
Analyzes crashes on arterial segments in Albuquerque, NM, to test how driveway and intersection density relate to crash patterns. Finds more crashes on high-access corridors and higher rates of vulnerable road user crashes where driveway and intersection density is greatest.

[**The Promise of Universal Basic Mobility**](#) (Transport Reviews)
Reviews social policy and transportation literature to assess Universal Basic Mobility, a mode-agnostic approach to meeting daily travel needs. Identifies three pillars: recognize mobility as essential to well-being; direct resources to people with limited travel options; and pair demand-side subsidies with supply-side services so people can use options that fit their trips.

[**Comparing E-Scooter and Bicycle Rider Behavior**](#) (Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour)
Analyzes e-scooter and bicycle movements at three locations in Berlin, Germany, to compare how riders use streets and pedestrian areas. Finds that e-scooter riders were more likely than cyclists to travel on pedestrian infrastructure or in the wrong direction, suggesting a need for clearer rules for effective guidance and safety policies.

Webinars

Upcoming Webinars

- **Road Safey Champion Program: Intersections between Traffic Safety and Health Culture** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
  November 19, 2025, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Partnering for Grants Greatness - State-Level Bike-Ped Innovations** (APBP)
  November 19, 2025, 3:00 pm ET, fees apply
- **The Power of the Pop-Up: Collaborating with State Departments of Transportation** (Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety)
  November 19, 2025, 3:00 pm ET, free
- **Understanding Trail Aggregates: Foundation for Performance** (American Trails)
  November 20, 2025, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **Innovative State Legislative Approaches: Addressing a Challenging Environment** (Rails to Trails Conservancy)
  November 20, 2025, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Road Safey Champion Program: Overview of Data and Tools for Safety** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
  December 2, 2025, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Prioritizing People at Signalized Intersections** (NACTO)
  December 3, 2025, 3:00 pm ET, staff at NACTO member agencies only.
  Follow-Up Workshops are also available.
- **Introducing Street Scanner for traffic safety: A new dashboard helping small cities & counties act fast** (StreetLight)
  December 9, 2025, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Road Safey Champion Program: Pursuing Transportation and Positive Health Outcomes for Everyone** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
  December 10, 2025, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Workshop: Safe Streets and Roads for All** (Local Infrastructure Hub)
  December 11, 2025, 12:00 pm ET, free
- **Moab Trail Ambassador Program: Education and Promotion of Responsible Recreation** (American Trails)
  December 11, 2025, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **Road Safey Champion Program: Systemic Safety Project Selection Tool** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
  December 16, 2025, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Building Capacity and Engagement Through Community Transportation Academies** (APBP)
  December 17, 2025, 3:00 pm ET, fees apply
- **Center Pier Wilderness Bridge Construction** (American Trails)
  December 18, 2025, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **Aggregate Trail Surfacing: From Fundamentals to Field Application** (American Trails)
  January 8, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **Designing Events that Engage Your Community in 2026** (American Trails)
  January 15, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **Pressure Treated Wood for Trail Structures** (American Trails)
  January 29, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated

Archived and Recorded Webinars

Call for Proposals, Presentations, Abstracts

Call for Expression of Interest: **2026 Sandbox Competition: People-Centered Mobility in Transportation** (Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE))
Deadline: November 21, 2025

Call for Presenters: **2026 Canadian Trail Summit** (Trans Canada Trail), June 16 - 19, 2026, Winnipeg, Canada
Deadline: November 28, 2025

Call for Conference Proposals: **National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Annual Conference**, September 29 - October 1, 2026, Philadelphia, PA
Deadline: November 30, 2025

Call for Applications: **National Recreation Trail Designation**
Deadline: December 1, 2025

Call for Applications: **APBP 2026 Peer Exchange Program** (Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals)
Deadline: December 2, 2025

Call for Applications: **Vision Zero for Youth U.S. Leadership Award**
Deadline: December 15, 2025

Call for Photo Contest Submissions: **National Recreation Trail Photos** (American Trails)
Deadline: December 15, 2025

Call for Proposals: **NCHRP 15-90 Designing Cycling Facilities for Older Cyclists and Cyclists with Disabilities** (Transportation Research Board Cooperative Research Programs)
Deadline: January 9, 2026

Call for Applications: **Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund** (FHWA)
Deadline: January 15, 2026

Call for Applications: **Riding for Focus (R4F)** (Outride)
Deadline: February 28, 2026

Call for Papers: **Injury Prevention**; focus on emerging strategies to prevent and reduce road traffic injuries and fatalities
Deadline: March 15, 2026

Upcoming Events

- **TransportationCamp DC** (Transportation for America and Smart Growth America)
  January 10, 2026, Washington, DC
- **Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting**
  January 11 - 15, 2026, Washington, DC
- **Micromobility America 2026**
  January 14 - 15, 2026, San Francisco, CA
- **2026 Bicycle Leadership Conference** (PeopleForBikes)
  March 17 - 20, 2026, Dana Point, CA
- **National Bike Summit** (League of American Bicyclists)
  March 24 - 26, 2026, Washington, DC
- **2026 Sustainable Trails Conference** (Professional TrailBuilders Association)
  April 14 - 16, 2026, Boise, ID
- **2026 Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety**
  April 19 - 21, 2026, Baltimore, MD
- **2026 National Outdoor Recreation Conference** (Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals)
  May 11 - 14, 2026, Duluth, MN
- **Designing Cities Conference** (NACTO)
  May 12 -15, 2026, Minneapolis, MN
- **ITE Canada District 2026 Annual Conference**
  May 31 - June 3, 2026, Victoria, Canada
- **Velo-city 2026** (European Cyclists' Federation)
  June 16 - 19, 2026, Rimini, Italy
- **5th International Placemaking Week** (Project for Public Spaces)
  June 24 - 26, 2026, Detroit, MI
- **ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibition** (Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE))
  July 19 - 22, 2026, Detroit, MI
- **Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) Conference**
  August 10 - 12, 2026, Pittsburgh, PA

- **National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Annual Conference**
  September 29 - October 1, 2026, Philadelphia, PA
- **2026 Safe Routes to School National Conference** (Safe Routes Partnership)
  October 20 - 22, 2026, Minneapolis, MN

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