



PBIC Messenger September 2025

1 message

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The PBIC Messenger

E-News from the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center



Monthly Newsletter — September 24, 2025



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Announcements

- [FHWA Updates Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities Table](#)
- [Register Today for Walk & Roll to School Day](#)
- [APBP Now Accepting Proposals for 2026 Webinar Series](#)

News

- [More Localities Look at Speed from a Pedestrian's Point of View](#)
- [In Defense of Vision Zero — a Traffic Engineer's Perspective](#)
- [Evolving Complete Streets Framework](#)
- [Cities Test AI Vision Sensors for Traffic and Pedestrian Safety](#)
- [Maryland: New Statewide Transportation Trails Strategic Plan](#)
- [Hawaii: \\$8 Million Push to Get Kids Walking Safely to School](#)
- [Springfield, VA: Launches 15 MPH 'Slow Streets' Pilot](#)
- [Albuquerque, NM: Plans to Add More Speed Cameras](#)
- [San Francisco, CA: Looks to a New Approach to Traffic Safety](#)

- [Chicago, IL: Pilot to Keep Bike and Bus Lanes Clear without Police](#)

[Resources](#)

- [A Systemic Safety Study of Pedestrians in Tribal Areas](#)
- [People and Transportation Project Report](#)
- [Concept of Operations: Active Transportation and Travel Information System](#)
- [Seattle, WA: Age-Friendly Street Design Toolkit](#)
- [Docked Bikeshare Trips – August 2025](#)
- [Trails Technology and Data Hub](#)
- [Walk2Connect Movement Leader Program](#)
- [The Hidden Costs of One-Way Streets](#)
- [How AI Is Quietly Transforming Urban Cycling](#)
- [Guide for Designating Cycle Route Networks](#)

[Research](#)

- [Year 1 Research Reports from the Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety](#)
- [How Much Pedestrian Harm Can We Attribute to Larger Vehicles in the Fleet?](#)
- [A Context-Sensitive Street Classification Framework for Speed Limit Setting](#)
- [Exploring the Role of Arterial Roads' Characteristics on Pedestrian and Cyclist Crashes](#)
- [A Comparison of Recent Crash Fatality Trends in Canada and the United States](#)
- [Countrywide Natural Experiment Links Built Environment to Physical Activity](#)
- [Urban Intersections and Pedestrian Injury Analysis](#)
- [Nighttime Driver Behavior at Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons](#)
- [Pedestrian Behaviors of Older Adults with and without Cognitive Impairment](#)
- [Neighborhood Peer Effects in Active Transportation Use](#)
- [Evaluation of User Interactions and Preferences of Shared Bicycle and Pedestrian Transit Platforms](#)

[Webinars](#)

[Call for Proposals, Presentations, Abstracts, and More](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

Announcements

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 explore and cross-reference funding opportunities and learn more about funding requirements.

Register Today for Walk & Roll to School Day

The 29th annual [National Walk & Roll to School Day](#) will take place on October 8, 2025. Thousands of schools and communities across the U.S. will host events to support an active commute, highlight the need for safe routes to school, and have fun. The Walk & Roll to School Day website houses the [official event registration](#), [Getting Started Guide](#) with nine steps to plan an event, [Talking Points](#) to help share information with the community, and many other resources to promote events and engage students. Communities are welcome to celebrate on October 8 or any day in October that best fits their schedules.

APBP Now Accepting Proposals for 2026 Webinar Series

The Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) is now [accepting proposals](#) for its 2026 [monthly webinar series](#). The webinars highlight a wide range of active transportation topics and provide a platform for sharing research, community stories, and professional experience. Proposals should focus on evidence-based approaches and innovative strategies that achieve measurable results. Submissions are due by October 2, 2025.

News

[More Localities Look at Speed from a Pedestrian's Point of View](#)

(Insurance Institute for Highway Safety)

Highlights how States and communities are increasingly considering the needs of people walking when setting speed limits. Notes the shift away from the 85th percentile speed policy toward approaches that consider context or allow exemptions.

[In Defense of Vision Zero — a Traffic Engineer's Perspective](#) (Planetizen)

Describes challenges facing Vision Zero programs in meeting their intended outcomes, the continued commitment of traffic engineers to Vision Zero principles, and the engineering tools available to slow traffic.

[Evolving Complete Streets Framework](#) (Smart Growth America)

Announces that the National Complete Streets Coalition will review its policy framework to strengthen standards for accountability and implementation, develop a self-scoring tool, and list only policies that achieve higher scores.

[Cities Test AI Vision Sensors for Traffic and Pedestrian Safety](#)

(SmartCitiesDive)

Reports that cities are piloting AI vision sensors to improve pedestrian safety and traffic management. Notes that San Jose, CA aims to use AI for detecting pedestrians at night, tracking traffic, and identifying infrastructure needs, while NC DOT has deployed 2,500 AI-based traffic signals statewide.

[Maryland: New Statewide Transportation Trails Strategic Plan](#) (MD DOT)

Announces the release of the [Maryland Statewide Transportation Trails](#)

Strategic Plan to create a safe and connected trail network. The plan includes three toolkits on project support, funding, and operations and maintenance.

Hawaii: \$8 Million Push to Get Kids Walking Safely to School (Governing) Reports that Hawaii will fund more than a dozen infrastructure improvement projects through its Safe Routes to School program. The \$8 million investment seeks to improve safety for students walking and biking to school and encourage more families to choose active travel for the school commute.

Springfield, VA: Launches 15 MPH 'Slow Streets' Pilot (WUSA9) Outlines a pilot project lowering the speed limit from 25 to 15 miles per hour on a busy Springfield roadway. The demonstration also adds signage, planters, and other temporary features to alert drivers that they are in a shared space.

Albuquerque, NM: Plans to Add More Speed Cameras (KOAT 7 Action News) Notes that the city's 20 speed cameras have reduced speeding by up to 89 percent and cut traffic fatalities by about 20 percent. Albuquerque plans to install eight additional cameras.

San Francisco, CA: Looks to a New Approach to Traffic Safety (KQED) Reports that San Francisco is considering the **Street Safety Act** to build on its expired Vision Zero plan. The Act would set goals for multiple agencies, require coordination, and establish timelines for action through next year.

Chicago, IL: Pilot to Keep Bike and Bus Lanes Clear without Police (StreetsBlog Chicago) Explains that Chicago will shift all 911 parking enforcement requests for vehicles blocking bus or bike lanes from police officers to new Rapid Response Parking Enforcement Aides.

Resources

A Systemic Safety Study of Pedestrians in Tribal Areas (FHWA) Identifies key risk factors for pedestrian crashes in Tribal areas and develops tools and strategies for improving safety.

People and Transportation Project Report (MassDOT) Presents findings from a MassDOT participatory project documenting the transportation experiences of more than 2,000 residents in the Springfield region. Describes how survey and focus group methods provide insight into future project planning.

Concept of Operations: Active Transportation and Travel Information System (MnDOT) Describes plans to integrate active transportation facilities into the Minnesota DOT (MnDOT) 511 Traveler Information System to improve information for people walking, biking, using wheelchairs, or micromobility. Explains how the system will function and the benefits it will provide.

Seattle, WA: Age-Friendly Street Design Toolkit (City of Seattle)

Provides a pedestrian-focused toolkit for designing age-friendly streets and public spaces. Features an Age-Friendly Needs Score map, design standards, resources, and funding sources.

Docked Bikeshare Trips – August 2025 (Bureau of Transportation Statistics)

Reports that docked bikeshare trips across six major U.S. systems grew 11.4 percent from August 2024 to August 2025. The largest increases were in San Francisco (31.1 percent), Washington, DC (11.8 percent), and New York City (11.4 percent). BTS provides data for **additional systems and interactive charts**.

Trails Technology and Data Hub (American Trails)

Offers a centralized portal for trail data and GIS tools to support planning, mapping, and stewardship. Includes a webinar archive, guides, and a searchable resource library to help managers and communities share and use trail information more effectively.

Walk2Connect Movement Leader Program (America Walks)

Offers tools and skills to help develop Walking Movement Leaders and organize community walking and rolling events.

The Hidden Costs of One-Way Streets (Next City)

Highlights a video that explains how U.S. cities converted downtown streets to one-way systems in the mid-20th century and why many are now reconsidering those conversions.

How AI Is Quietly Transforming Urban Cycling (Momentum Mag)

Explains how artificial intelligence is being applied to cycling through traffic signals, bike-share systems, route planners, and even helmets, making cycling safer and more responsive.

Guide for Designating Cycle Route Networks (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)

Outlines a nine-step guide for designating bicycle route networks at any geographic or administrative level.

Research

Year 1 Research Reports from the Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety (University Transportation Center, USDOT)

Presents Year 1 reports with new findings and actionable recommendations. CPBS is a USDOT University Transportation Center with a research program that covers both technical and applied work applicable to local and national conditions. The next three items highlight selected studies, while the full project list includes all published research.

How Much Pedestrian Harm Can We Attribute to Larger Vehicles in the Fleet? (Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety)

Explores how vehicle characteristics such as speed, size, weight, and design affect pedestrian injury outcomes. Finds that higher speed limits, vehicle

weights, and vehicle heights correlate with greater crash severity and fatality risk.

A Context-Sensitive Street Classification Framework for Speed Limit

Setting (Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety)

Develops a roadway classification framework that considers surrounding land use and road function to guide speed limit setting. Demonstrates the feasibility of an objective, context-sensitive system in the U.S. and offers insights for developing new speed-limit guidance aligned with the Safe System framework.

Exploring the Role of Arterial Roads' Characteristics on Pedestrian and Cyclist Crashes

(Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety)

Examines roadway and built environment factors associated with crashes on arterial roads in central New Mexico. Highlights the role of access management and identifies critical roadway features and other factors contributing to pedestrian and bicyclist crashes.

A Comparison of Recent Crash Fatality Trends in Canada and the United States

(Insurance Institute for Highway Safety)

Analyzes fatality trends from 2007 to 2021, showing U.S. fatalities rose after 2011 while Canada's declined. Attributes differences partly to vehicle miles traveled, but also to stronger Canadian laws on driver distraction, seat belt use, and speed safety cameras.

Countrywide Natural Experiment Links Built Environment to Physical Activity

(Nature)

Analyzes data from more than 2.1 million smartphone users who relocated across 1,600 U.S. cities to measure changes in walking activity. Finds that moving to more walkable environments increased daily steps by about 1,100 on average, offering strong evidence that walkability directly supports physical activity.

Urban Intersections and Pedestrian Injury Analysis

(Transportation Research Record)

Examines factors contributing to pedestrian injury frequency and severity at urban intersections in Oregon. Finds that income-related measures, built environment characteristics, and speed limits contribute to crash outcomes, and suggests that exposure surrogates may be useful where pedestrian count data are unavailable.

Nighttime Driver Behavior at Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons

(Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behavior)

Analyzes video data from four pedestrian hybrid beacon sites in Arizona to examine nighttime compliance and driver interactions. Finds that while most drivers stopped during steady red phases, compliance dropped to about half during flashing red, and many following drivers mimicked vehicles that violated the signal, underscoring challenges for pedestrian safety at night.

Pedestrian Behaviors of Older Adults with and without Cognitive

Impairment (Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behavior)

Reviews 40 studies to map 11 pedestrian behaviors into three stages of roadway crossing: approach, step-off, and crossing. Finds that older adults are

more cautious when approaching but less safe at step-off and crossing, with those experiencing cognitive impairment showing poorer safety across all stages of crossing.

Neighborhood Peer Effects in Active Transportation Use (Journal of Transport & Health)

Analyzes data from 32,000 Californians to examine whether people are more likely to walk or bike when neighbors also engage in active transportation. Finds strong peer effects, suggesting that neighborhood travel behaviors influence individual choices.

Evaluation of User Interactions and Preferences of Shared Bicycle and Pedestrian Transit Platforms (Transportation Research Record)

Assesses interactions at shared bicycle and bus platforms in Portland, OR, and finds limited conflicts between bicyclists, micromobility users, and transit riders. Observations suggest that users managed potential conflicts by slowing or adjusting their behavior. The study also examined how well the platforms are working for people with visual impairments.

Webinars

Upcoming Webinars

- **Natural Surface Trails as Transportation** (American Trails)
September 25, 2025, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **Protect Railbanking Trails and Corridors** (Rails to Trails Conservancy)
September 25, 2025, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **San Francisco: Transformation of JFK Promenade and Sunset Dunes** (Cities for Everyone with Gil)
September 30, 2025, 11:00 am ET, free
- **Road to Zero Grantee Showcase: Hofstra University, Ohio State University, Families for Safe Streets** (National Safety Council)
September 30, 2025, 1:00 pm ET, free
- **TrADE Talk: Transportation Alternative Trends and Transformative Impact** (Rails to Trails Conservancy)
September 30, 2025, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Road Safety Champion Program: Safety Analysis Process** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
September 30, 2025, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Community Crafted, Eco-Engineered Trail System: India's First Women-Led Trail** (American Trails)
October 2, 2025, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **National Recreation Trails: FAQs for Designating Your Trail** (American Trails)
October 7, 2025, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **Road to Zero Grantee Showcase: America Walks, Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition/Livable Streets Alliance, University of Miami** (National Safety Council)
October 7, 2025, 1:00 pm ET, free

- **Road Safety Champion Program: Maintaining a Safer Roadway** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
October 7, 2025, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Forging the Future for Trail Technicians** (American Trails)
October 9, 2025, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **Responding to Policy Changes and Preparing for Reauthorization** (Eno Center for Transportation)
October 10, 2025, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Lessons from Ontario: Engaging People with Disabilities in Micromobility Projects** (APBP)
October 15, 2025, 3:00 pm ET, fees apply
- **Trail Design in an Animate World** (American Trails)
October 16, 2025, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **Conversations with Colleagues** (Active Transportation + Data Working Group)
October 21, 2025, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Using Data to Improve Outdoor Access** (Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals)
October 22, 2025, 3:00 pm ET, free
- **Building a Career in Placemaking** (Project for Public Spaces)
October 23, 2025, 12:00 pm ET, free
- **Mapping What Matters: Building Safer Transportation Systems with Pedestrian Asset Data** (Vision Zero Network)
October 23, 2025, 1:00 pm ET, free
- **A Guide to Adaptive Mountain Bike Trailbuilding** (American Trails)
October 30, 2025, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **Road Safety Champion Program: Countermeasures for Road Safety** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
November 4, 2025, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Road Safety Champion Program: Integrating Public Health and Transportation to Enhance Road User Safety** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
November 5, 2025, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Superior Hiking Trail Visitor Count Process and Methodology** (Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals)
November 5, 2025, 3:00 pm ET, free
- **Road Safety Champion Program: Public Health Data to Inform Injury Analysis and Monitoring** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
November 12, 2025, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Outdoor Tech for Good** (American Trails)
November 13, 2025, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **Road Safety Champion Program: Overview of Local Road Safety Plans** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
November 18, 2025, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Road Safety 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

- [Understanding Trail Aggregates: Foundation for Performance](#) (American Trails)

November 20, 2025, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated

[Archived and Recorded Webinars](#)

Call for Proposals, Presentations, Abstracts

Call for Proposals: [2026 Webinar Series](#) (Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP))

Deadline: October 2, 2025

Call for Applications: [TrailNation Accelerator Program](#) (Rails to Trails Conservancy)

Deadline: October 3, 2025

Call for Proposals: [2026 National Outdoor Recreation Conference](#) (Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals) May 11 - 14, 2026, Duluth, MN

Deadline: October 20, 2025

Call for Applications: [Bicycle Friendly Business](#) (League of American Bicyclists)

Deadline: October 30, 2025

Call for Photo Contest Submissions: [National Recreation Trail Photos](#) (American Trails)

Deadline: December 15, 2025

Upcoming Events

- [APBP Virtual Summit](#) (Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals)
September 25 - 26, 2025, Online
- [Week Without Driving](#)
September 29 - October 5, 2025
- [Pedestrian Safety Month](#) (NHTSA)
October 1 - 31, 2025
- [National Walk & Roll to School Day](#) (National Center for Safe Routes to School)
October 8, 2025
- [Pittsburgh Vision Zero Summit](#) (BikePGH and the City of Pittsburgh)
October 17, 2025, Pittsburgh, PA
- [2025 National Trails Lands Summit and Training](#) (Partnership for the National Trails System)
October 19 - 23, 2025, San Antonio, TX
- [2025 Minnesota Towards Zero Deaths Conference](#) (Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths Program)
October 21 - 22, 2025, Prior Lake, MN

- [TrailNation Summit 2025](#) (Rails to Trails Conservancy)
October 27 - 29, 2025, Cleveland, OH
- [2025 Moving Together Conference](#) (MassDOT and UMass Amherst)
October 28, 2025, Boston, MA
- [AASHTO Safety Summit and Peer Exchange](#) (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials)
October 28 - 30, 2025, New Orleans, LA
- [2025 Safe Routes to School Virtual Summit](#) (Safe Routes Partnership)
October 28 - 30, 2025, Online
- [Vision Zero Cities 2025](#) (Transportation Alternatives)
October 28 - 30, 2025, New York City, NY
- [Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day](#)
November 14, 2025
- [World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in the U.S.](#)
November 16, 2025
- [AASHTO Annual Meeting](#) (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials)
November 17 - 20, 2025, Salt Lake City, UT
- [Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting](#)
January 11 - 15, 2026, Washington, DC
- [Micromobility America 2026](#)
January 14 - 15, 2026, San Francisco, CA
- [2026 Sustainable Trails Conference](#) (Professional TrailBuilders Association)
April 14 - 16, 2026, Boise, ID
- [2026 National Outdoor Recreation Conference](#) (Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals)
May 11 - 14, 2026, Duluth, MN
- [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

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which has been supported by the [Project for Public Spaces](#).



Since its inception in 1999, PBIC's mission has been to improve the quality of life in communities through the increase of safe walking and bicycling as a viable means of transportation and physical activity. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center is maintained by the University of North Carolina Highway

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