



PBIC Messenger January 2026

1 message

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Monthly Newsletter — January 28, 2026



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Upcoming Events

Announcements

Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants Awarded to 521 Projects

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) **announced awards totaling nearly \$1 billion through the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program**, supporting 521 projects across 48 states, 18 Tribal communities, and Puerto Rico. The awards include both Planning and Demonstration Grants, which support the development or refinement of roadway safety action plans, and Implementation Grants, which fund projects aligned with existing plans. Funded efforts address a range of safety initiatives, including intersection

improvements, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, traffic calming, roundabouts, sidewalk upgrades, and improvements to emergency response and crash detection systems. The SS4A program supports local and regional strategies aimed at reducing serious injuries and fatalities for people walking, biking, rolling, and traveling on roadways. A [full list of awarded projects](#) is available from USDOT.

ITE Quick Bites Explore Safety, Health, and People-Centered Street Design

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) released a set of [Quick Bites](#) that examine approaches to improving transportation safety and community outcomes. The reports highlight how Vision Zero and Safe Routes to School can work together to support safer travel for students, outline methods and tools for estimating the health benefits of transportation investments such as walking and bicycling infrastructure, and describe the Movement and Place framework as a way to guide more people-centered street design and policy decisions. Each report offers insights and examples that transportation professionals can use to inform planning, design, and decision-making across a range of contexts.

Vision Zero for Youth Releases New Case Study on Pueblo of Jemez

Vision Zero for Youth released a [new case study highlighting efforts in the Pueblo of Jemez, New Mexico](#), one of two recipients of the 2025 Vision Zero for Youth U.S. Leadership Award. The case study documents community-led work to improve walking and biking safety for children through coordinated planning and partnerships. These efforts include infrastructure improvements, quick-build safety projects near schools, and programs that support safe travel for children and families. A [case study featuring the second 2025 award recipient, Minneapolis, Minnesota](#), is also available.

News

[Six U.S. Streets to Become Scenic Pedestrian Zones in 2026](#) (Fast Company)

Highlights six U.S. cities that are transforming select streets into pedestrian-oriented destinations by adding public spaces, landscaping, seating, and programming designed to support walking, local businesses, and community use. The projects reflect growing interest in street designs that balance mobility with comfort and activity in Houston, TX; Kansas City, MO; Bentonville, AR; San Jose, CA; Detroit, MI; and San Francisco, CA.

[Analysis Examines How Microtransit Can Support Transit Networks at Scale](#) (Via)

Shares findings from a new analysis on how microtransit can complement fixed-route transit by filling service gaps, supporting first- and last-mile connections, and improving access to jobs and destinations. Draws on

examples from multiple U.S. communities and highlights the use of data to guide service decisions within a broader transit network.

[Research Links Extreme Heat to Increased Risk for Pedestrians and Cyclists](#) (The Conversation)

Reports that multiple international studies have found higher crash and injury risk on hot days, with pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists experiencing the largest increases compared with people traveling in vehicles. The article summarizes findings from studies in Taiwan, Spain, and the U.S. showing that injury and fatal crash risk rises during heatwaves, particularly on higher-speed roads.

[New Jersey: State DOT Awards \\$47.4 Million for Pedestrian and Bicycle Projects Through Transportation Alternatives Program](#) (New Jersey DOT)

Announces that the New Jersey Department of Transportation has awarded 43 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside grants totaling \$47.4 million to municipalities across the State. The competitive grants will support community-based projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements, Safe Routes to School initiatives, and trail projects that enhance safety and mobility.

[Utah: Cities See Pedestrian Safety Gains After Speed Limit Reductions](#) (Utah Public Radio)

Reports that lower speed limits in Salt Lake City and Moab have coincided with declines in pedestrian fatalities, with Salt Lake City seeing fewer pedestrian deaths following the adoption of 20 mph limits in areas with high foot traffic. The story cites data and describes roadway redesigns and speed reductions as contributing factors.

[Montana: DOT Promotes Winter Safety for People Walking and Biking](#) (Montana DOT)

Shares practical guidance for winter walking and biking, including the use of lights and reflective gear, maintaining traction on snowy and icy surfaces, and navigating limited sight lines caused by snowbanks. The article highlights the State's "Safe Habits Don't Hibernate" campaign, which focuses on seasonal safety considerations for all road users.

[Washington, DC: Proposal to Eliminate Automated Traffic Camera Enforcement](#) (Politico)

Reports on a proposal to eliminate the use of automated speed, red light, and stop sign cameras in Washington, DC, as part of the upcoming surface transportation bill.

[Illinois: State Bill Proposes 15 mph Speed Limit on Shared-Use Paths](#) (My Journal Courier)

Reports that a bill introduced in the Illinois Legislature would establish a 15 mph speed limit on bicycle paths for e-bikes, mopeds, and other low-speed devices. The proposal would create a Statewide standard where no path speed limits currently exist, alongside existing design guidance from the Illinois DOT.

[Tennessee: New Law Requires Drivers' License Exams to Ask About Bicyclist Hand Signals](#) (WSMV)

Reports that a new Tennessee law requires driver license exams to include

questions on bicyclist hand signals for turning, slowing, and stopping. The change aims to improve driver awareness of how people bicycling communicate on the road.

[United Kingdom: Releases New National Road Safety Strategy](#) (Zag Daily)
Announces the United Kingdom's first national Road Safety Strategy in more than a decade, with targets to reduce road deaths and serious injuries by 65 percent by 2035, including a higher target reduction for children and youth. The strategy adopts a Safe System approach and outlines planned actions related to safer speeds, pedestrian and bicyclist safety, active travel investment, and updates to guidance.

Resources

[APBP Announces 2026 Webinar Topics and Call for Conference Proposals](#) (Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals)
Announces the **[2026 APBP monthly webinar schedule](#)**, featuring a wide range of bicycle and pedestrian topics that highlight real-world projects, practical examples, and lessons learned. APBP also invites practitioners to **[submit proposals for the 2026 APBP Conference](#)**, including in-person workshops, panels, and poster displays. Submit proposals by February 15, 2026.

[2026 Walking College Program Announced](#) (America Walks)
Announces the 2026 Walking College, an online fellowship that supports community champions working to advance walkable, safe, and vibrant places. The program includes guided learning, mentoring, and development of a local action plan. Applications are due by February 16, 2026.

[Top 10 Vision Zero Plan Elements](#) (Vision Zero Network)
Identifies key priorities for strengthening local Vision Zero efforts, with an emphasis on putting the Safe System Approach into practice. Highlights include breaking down agency silos, engaging partners, prioritizing speed management and project selection, tracking what works, and embedding Vision Zero into everyday policies and decision-making.

[AARP Updates Livability Index with New Scores and Features](#) (AARP)
Announces updated Livability Index scores, data sources, and site features as part of the tool's 10th anniversary. The interactive index helps communities assess how well they support people of all ages across categories, with transportation indicators focused on safety, convenience, travel options, and supportive policies.

[Thriving Communities Transportation Toolkit](#) (Main Street America)
Helps local leaders and community partners engage in transportation planning and project development. The resource offers step-by-step guidance, examples, and tools organized around identifying opportunities, building partnerships, developing projects, securing funding, and managing infrastructure to support transportation investments.

[Advancing Capital Investment Decision-Making](#) (Minnesota Department of Transportation)

Examines how transportation capital investment planning is defined, measured, and applied across Minnesota. The study informs three resources: a set of effective practices for investment decisions, a menu of quantitative and qualitative metrics to evaluate impacts, and a community engagement toolkit to support collaboration throughout the planning process.

[Youth Engagement Assessment Toolkit](#) (Urban Minds)

Describes an assessment tool for planners and engagement practitioners to evaluate how their teams work with youth. The tool supports structured reflection, gap identification, and next-step planning, with three flexible pathways based on team capacity.

[Google Earth Offers Insights on Specific City Infrastructure](#) (Smart Cities Dive)

Reports on a new [Ask Google Earth](#) feature that allows users to identify, locate, and review the condition of specific infrastructure assets within defined areas. By combining Street View imagery with Google's BigQuery analytics platform, the tool supports planning, asset management, and budgeting by helping cities understand where infrastructure needs attention.

[Foundations of Trails: A Trail from Start to Finish Online Course](#) (American Trails)

Offers a five-part online course that walks through the full lifecycle of trail planning, construction, and maintenance. The series covers core topics such as hydrology, trail structures, tools, tread, and alignment, with an introductory course available at no cost.

[2024 Traffic Safety Culture Index](#) (AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety)

Summarizes results from a nationally representative survey examining drivers' attitudes toward roadway safety, perceptions of risk, and self-reported driving behaviors. The report also tracks how patterns of risky driving have shifted over time, offering insight into changes in driver behavior and safety culture from 2019 to 2024.

Research

[Longitudinal Spatial Trends in U.S. Pedestrian and Bicyclist Fatalities](#) (University of New Mexico)

Analyzes two decades of national fatality data to examine where pedestrian and bicyclist deaths are occurring and how spatial and community characteristics relate to these trends. Using crash data alongside built environment indicators, the study finds that fatalities have increasingly shifted from dense urban areas to lower-density suburban locations and are more common in communities facing socioeconomic challenges.

[Virtual Reality Study Examines Pedestrian Stress and Street-Crossing Behavior](#) (TR News)

Reports on a [study by researchers at Toronto Metropolitan University](#) that

used immersive virtual reality and biometric sensors to examine pedestrian stress and decision-making during street crossings. Finds that design features such as medians can reduce stress during crossings and highlights how virtual scenarios can inform street design, pedestrian safety strategies, and preparation for interactions with automated vehicles.

Research Explores Tactile Wayfinding for Travelers Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired (TR News)

Summarizes findings from a **research report** published through the Transit Cooperative Research Program on the use of tactile walking surface indicators in transportation settings. The research examines how different tactile surfaces can support wayfinding, improve navigation safety in complex settings, and inform future design guidance and evaluation efforts.

Educational Video Can Improve Pedestrians' Appreciation of Nighttime Conspicuity Issues (Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour)

Examines whether a brief educational video can help people better understand how visible pedestrians are to drivers at night and which clothing features make the biggest difference. Finds that participants who watched the video made visibility and safety judgments that better matched established evidence, placing value on retroreflective elements arranged to highlight body movement.

Do Drivers Understand Cyclists' Communication Cues? (Accident Analysis & Prevention)

Reports findings from an experimental study examining how drivers interpret cyclists' intent using different communication cues. Finds that arm signals are the only cues that reliably support accurate predictions of a cyclist's actions, while head movement and road position do not improve understanding.

Vehicles with Big Blind Zones Spell Danger to Pedestrians During Left Turns (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety)

Describes a study finding that vehicles with large driver-side blind zones are associated with a higher risk of left-turn crashes involving pedestrians compared with vehicles with smaller blind zones. Links reduced visibility to design features such as thick or slanted A-pillars, bulky side mirrors, tall hoods, and narrower windshield fields of view, all of which can obscure pedestrians in crosswalks during turning movements.

Who Is Interested in Living Without a Personal Vehicle in the U.S.? Findings from a Nationwide Survey (Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice)

Examines interest among U.S. adults in living without owning a personal vehicle and the factors associated with that interest. Based on a nationally representative survey, the study finds that nearly one in five car-owning adults express strong interest in a vehicle-optional lifestyle, with many more open to the idea. Interest is linked to travel habits and prior experience using non-car modes rather than demographic characteristics.

Safety Zones Protect Older Adults from Traffic Crashes (Transport Policy)

Evaluates Seoul, South Korea's "Silver Zones" by comparing observed crash trends with estimated trends in the absence of the zones. Finds an overall

reduction of about 30 percent in pedestrian crashes, with the strongest effects occurring within designated safety areas and measurable benefits extending into nearby surrounding areas, particularly near parks and community facilities.

[Two Wheels, Better Years? Health-Related Quality of Life Outcomes in Older Cyclists](#) (Journal of Transport & Health)

Synthesizes findings from 28 studies across multiple countries to examine how cycling relates to health-related quality of life among adults age 65 and older. The review links later-life cycling with better physical functioning, balance, and selected mental well-being outcomes, while also identifying safety concerns and skill-related challenges that can affect participation.

Webinars

Upcoming Webinars

- **[Pressure Treated Wood for Trail Structures](#)** (American Trails)
January 29, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **[Speeding Up Strategies to Slow Speeds & Save Lives](#)** (Vision Zero Network)
January 29, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **[Frontiers of Technology: Attention Please! From Distraction Prevention to Attention Support with MIT's Bryan Reimer](#)** (NSC Road to Zero Webinars)
February 3, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free
- **[Road Safety Champion Program: Overview of the MUTCD](#)** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
February 3, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free
- **[Outreach Tabling Tips, Tricks, and Tools for Safe Routes Success!](#)** (Safe Routes Partnership)
February 4, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **[Demystifying Donor Advised Funds and Tapping into Them to Support Trails](#)** (American Trails)
February 5, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **[Outdoor Adventures for All: Accessible Outdoor Developed Areas](#)** (U.S. Access Board and National Park Service)
February 5, 2026, 2:30 pm ET, free
- **[Working Together for Safer Responses: Collaboration Strategies for EMS and Highway Safety Partners](#)** (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of EMS)
February 10, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free
- **[Road Safety Champion Program: Intersection of Transportation with Public Health and Law Enforcement](#)** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
February 10, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free
- **[IMBA's Trail Development Process: Building Community-Driven Trails](#)** (American Trails)
February 12, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated

- **[Daylighting in Austin: A Proactive, Data-Driven Approach to Safer Intersections](#)** (APBP)
February 18, 2026, 3:00 pm ET, fees apply
- **[Beyond the Banks: Leveraging Levees for Trails, Recreation, and Resilience](#)** (American Trails)
February 19, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **[Stonework for Trails](#)** (American Trails)
February 26, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **[Road Safety Champion Program: Countermeasures for Road Safety](#)** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
March 3, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free
- **[Bicycle Tourism Blueprint: A Community-Led Approach to Attracting Cyclists, Boosting Businesses, and Creating a Bicycle-Friendly Destination](#)** (The Harbinger Consultancy)
March 4, 2026, 12:30 pm ET, fees apply
- **[Road Safety Champion Program: Integrating Public Health and Transportation to Enhance Road User Safety](#)** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
March 4, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free
- **[Road Safety Champion Program: Public Health Data to Inform Injury Analysis and Monitoring](#)** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
March 11, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free
- **[Bridges and Boardwalks: Planning, Design, and Construction](#)** (American Trails)
March 12, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **[Road Safety Champion Program: Overview of Local Road Safety Plans](#)** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
March 17, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free
- **[Road Safety Champion Program: Intersections between Traffic Safety and Health Culture](#)** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
March 18, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free
- **[War for the Curb in the Age of Accessibility and Mobility](#)** (APBP)
March 18, 2026, 3:00 pm ET, fees apply
- **[Installation Excellence for Trail Aggregate: Tips, Tricks, and Common Pitfalls](#)** (American Trails)
March 19, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **[Road Safety Champion Program: Overview of Data and Tools for Safety](#)** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
March 24, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free
- **[Road Safety Champion Program: Partnerships for Safety Program Implementation](#)** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
March 25, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free
- **[Harnessing Communications to Educate and Engage Community of Trail Volunteers](#)** (American Trails)
March 26, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **[Road Safety Champion Program: Pursuing Transportation and Positive Health Outcomes for Everyone](#)** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
April 1, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free

- [**Moab Trail Ambassador Program: Education and Promotion of Responsible Recreation**](#) (American Trails)
April 2, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- [**Road Safety Champion Program: Systemic Safety Project Selection Tool**](#) (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
April 7, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free
- [**Road Safety Champion Program: Public Health Approaches to Population-Level Behavior Change**](#) (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
April 8, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free
- [**Trail Towns 101: Strategies, Tools, and Inspiration to Make Trails Work for Your Community**](#) (The Harbinger Consultancy)
April 14, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, fees apply
- [**Establishing Massachusetts Next Generation of Pedestrian and Bicycle Projects**](#) (APBP)
April 15, 2026, 3:00 pm ET, fees apply
- [**Road Safety Champion Program: Road Safety Audits**](#) (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
April 29, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free

[**Archived and Recorded Webinars**](#)

Call for Proposals, Presentations, Abstracts

Call for Applications: [**2026 Champions Institute**](#) (Smart Growth America)
Deadline: January 30, 2026

Call for Applications: [**Sustainable Transportation in Denmark Study Abroad**](#) (Initiative for Bicycle and Pedestrian Innovation Program at Portland State University), June 20 - July 6, 2026
Deadline: January 31, 2026

Call for Abstracts: [**International Society for Physical Activity and Health \(ISPAH\) Congress 2026**](#), October 5 - 8, 2026, Mérida, Mexico
Deadline: February 9, 2026

Call for Applications: [**Community Change Grants**](#) (America Walks)
Deadline: February 10, 2026

Call for Conference Proposals: [**2026 Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals Conference**](#), Pittsburgh, PA, August 10 - 12, 2026
Deadline: February 15, 2026

Call for Applications: [**National Walking College**](#) (America Walks)
Deadline: February 16, 2026

Call for Applications: [**Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development \(BUILD\) grant program**](#) (USDOT)
Deadline: February 24, 2026

Call for Applications: [**Vision Zero Recognition**](#) (Vision Zero Network)
Deadline: February 27, 2026

Call for Applications: [Riding for Focus \(R4F\)](#) (Outride)

Deadline: February 28, 2026

Call for Applications: [AARP Community Challenge Quick-Action Grants for Local Projects](#)

Deadline: March 4, 2026

Call for Proposals: [The Great Trails State 2026 Conference](#), August 10 - 12, 2026, Winston-Salem, NC

Deadline: March 6, 2026

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

Deadline: March 10, 2026

Call for Applications: [2026 Trails Accelerator Grants](#) (International Mountain Bicycling Association - IMBA)

Deadline: March 15, 2026

Call for Abstracts: [APHA 2026 Annual Meeting and Expo](#), November 1 - 4, 2026, San Antonio, TX

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Call for Films: [Great Trails State Film Festival](#), August 10, 2026, Winston-Salem, NC

Deadline: June 30, 2026

Upcoming Events

- [Program Zero Training](#) (Lösningar and Johns Hopkins University)
February 16 - 18, 2026, Washington, DC
- [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
- [Safe Mobility Conference](#)
March 30 - April 1, 2026, Seattle, WA
- [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
- [Celebrate Trails Day](#) (Rails to Trails Conservancy)
April 25, 2026
- [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
- [Sustainable Transportation in Denmark Study Abroad](#) (Initiative for Bicycle and Pedestrian Innovation Program at Portland State University)
June 20 - July 6, 2026
- [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
- [The Great Trails State 2026 Conference](#) (Great Trails State Coalition)
August 10 - 12, 2026, Winston-Salem, NC
- [National Recreation and Parks Association \(NRPA\) Annual Conference](#)
September 29 - October 1, 2026, Philadelphia, PA
- [International Society for Physical Activity and Health \(ISPAH\) Congress 2026](#)
October 5 - 8, 2026, Mérida, Mexico
- [2026 Safe Routes to School National Conference](#) (Safe Routes Partnership)
October 20 - 22, 2026, Minneapolis, MN

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