



PBIC Messenger February 2026

1 message

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Monthly Newsletter — February 25, 2026



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Upcoming Events

Announcements

FHWA Announces 2026 Rural Road Safety Webinar Series with February Kickoff

In 2023, 41 percent of roadway fatalities occurred in rural areas, despite only 20 percent of the population living in those areas. To help address this, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is launching a new Rural Road Safety Webinar Series featuring presentations and panels on innovative and effective practices that save lives on rural roads. The series will highlight strategies, tools, and technologies that help State, local, regional, and Tribal agencies accelerate delivery of safety projects and programs. The **first webinar, scheduled for February 26, 2026**, will spotlight successful use of modular

designs and materials to advance rural road safety. The [second webinar, scheduled for May 7, 2026](#), will focus on innovative funding processes. Additional sessions later in the year will explore coordination with emergency medical services and strategies for sustained cross-agency collaboration.

National Organizations Launch New Initiative Highlighting Walking and Biking Infrastructure

National trails, walking, and bicycling organizations have launched [Keep America Active](#), a collaborative initiative underscoring the role of walking and biking infrastructure in the nation's transportation system. The effort highlights the long-standing impact of the Transportation Alternatives program and emphasizes continued investment in safety and connected mobility options in communities of all sizes. More than 1,100 nonprofit organizations, businesses, and elected officials have joined the initiative to express support for maintaining Federal investments in active transportation. The initiative is led by the American Hiking Society, American Trails, PeopleForBikes, Rails to Trails Conservancy, the League of American Bicyclists, and the Safe Routes Partnership.

News

[House Panel Examines U.S. Surface Transportation Research](#) (U.S. House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology)

Frames surface transportation research as a national security priority, with members and witnesses calling for increased Federal investment to move proven ideas from pilots into deployment, particularly for AI-enabled operations and autonomous vehicles. Key takeaways include maintaining stable funding for University Transportation Centers, establishing an AV safety testing framework, and strengthening cyber and GPS resilience.

[E-Bike Industry Navigates Post-Pandemic Slowdown](#) (Bloomberg CityLab)

Examines how e-bike manufacturers are adjusting to slower sales, higher costs, and new tariff pressures following a pandemic-era surge in demand. Highlights long-term potential for e-bikes as a practical and popular mobility option despite slower sales and industry consolidation.

[Snowstorms Expose Barriers for People with Disabilities](#) (The Washington Post)

Reports on challenges faced by people with disabilities during recent snowstorms, including blocked curb ramps, narrowed sidewalks, and obstructed routes. Personal accounts describe how incomplete snow removal limits access to transit, work, and daily activities. Similar concerns have been reported by local news outlets across the country during recent winter storms.

[Maryland: Announces Next Round of Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Projects](#) (Maryland Department of Transportation)

Identifies five additional corridors across four counties for upgrades under the State's [Pedestrian Safety Action Plan](#). Projects will incorporate FHWA-

supported countermeasures and community input, bringing the Statewide total to 18 prioritized corridors.

Washington: Study Explores Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements on State Road (Kiro 7 News)

Covers proposed changes to a segment of State Road 99 in Snohomish County under the State's Complete Streets requirement, including enhanced crossings, lighting, speed management, and transit access. The study incorporates community input and outlines potential improvements such as landscaped medians and protected walking and biking space.

California: Allocates Nearly \$1 Billion for Transportation Improvements (Caltrans)

Reports that the California Transportation Commission approved \$989 million for highway safety upgrades, transit improvements, and projects supporting walkable and bikeable communities. Funded through State and Federal sources, the investments include new sidewalks and bike lanes, transit vehicle purchases, bridge repairs, and corridor safety enhancements.

New Jersey: Updates E-Bike Regulations with Registration and Licensing Requirements (WPVI)

Details new legislation establishing new standards for electric bicycles, including registration, insurance, and licensing requirements for riders. Supporters say the law aims to improve accountability and safety following recent crashes, while some advocates have raised concerns about its scope and impact on lower-speed e-bikes.

Alaska: Launches First-of-Its-Kind Smart Pedestrian Lighting Pilot Project (Alaska DOT&PF)

Announces a smart pedestrian lighting pilot in Kodiak that uses AI-driven, dynamic LED illumination to detect pedestrians and enhance nighttime visibility at crosswalks. The project aims to address seasonal increases in pedestrian crashes during Alaska's darker months and will be evaluated for potential expansion.

New Jersey: Releases Plan for 9-Mile Urban Greenway (NJ.com)

Announces a plan to convert an abandoned rail corridor into a nine-mile greenway linking eight municipalities across two counties. The project emphasizes ADA-compliant design and community gathering spaces, with construction already underway on an initial segment.

New Hampshire: Lawmakers Consider \$50 Annual Bike Registration Fee (New Hampshire Public Radio)

Reports that a proposed bill would require bicycle and e-bike owners to pay a \$50 annual registration fee to help address a highway funding gap, though the measure faces significant opposition ahead of its first public hearing. Public comments have raised concerns about implementation, enforcement, and potential impacts.

Washington, DC: Residential E-Bike Incentive Program Relaunch (AASHTO Journal)

Reopens the District's e-bike voucher program, offering eligible low-income

residents up to \$1,500 toward the purchase of an e-bike, helmet, and lock through authorized retailers. The initiative supports affordable mobility options and builds on prior efforts, including a pilot program testing e-bikes for app-based food delivery.

[Oakland, CA: Launches Low-Cost E-Bike Lending Program at Local Transit Station](#) (Bay Area Rapid Transit)

Introduces a new e-bike lending program that allows residents to borrow an e-bike for four weeks at a low cost, with additional discounts available for qualifying participants. The initiative builds on existing bike station services, including repairs and secure parking.

Resources

[Estimating Benefits of Closing Gaps in Active Transportation Networks: A Guide](#) (Transportation Research Board)

Provides practical methods for identifying gaps in trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, and other active transportation facilities and estimating the benefits of closing them. Explains how fragmented networks can limit walking, bicycling, and rolling, and offers data-driven approaches to analyze projects and communicate results to support investment decisions.

[Leading the Way 2025 Annual Report](#) (National Association of City Transportation Officials)

Highlights NACTO's 2025 accomplishments, including the release of the third edition of the **[Urban Bikeway Design Guide](#)**, expanded bike-focused trainings, and record shared micromobility ridership across member cities. Notes progress in Vision Zero efforts, peer exchange networks, and city leadership in advancing safer streets.

[Developing the Next AASHTO Pedestrian Guide](#) (Toole Design)

Describes the launch of the **[National Cooperative Highway Research Program \(NCHRP\) research study](#)** that will form the foundation for the next AASHTO Pedestrian Guide. Highlights the emphasis on rigorous research, coordination with existing standards, adaptability across different contexts, and implementable, context-sensitive guidance. The first interim report is expected in May 2026.

[Introduction to Active Transportation Planning and Design Course](#) (Active Transportation Research Center)

Offers a free online course introducing active transportation planning and design concepts for planners, engineers, public health practitioners, and community organizations with limited experience in the topic. Reviews how to evaluate whether streets work well for people walking and biking and provides an overview of basic pedestrian and bicycle planning standards and tools.

[Applying the Safe System Approach for Rural Mini-Conference Recordings](#) (National Center for Rural Road Safety)

Provides access to recordings and materials from a January 2026 virtual mini-conference focused on applying the Safe System Approach in rural contexts.

Sessions cover foundational Safe System principles, traffic safety culture and readiness, strategies for safer road users, and tools for improving rural road design and intersection safety.

79 Communities Earn or Renew Bicycle Friendly Status (League of American Bicyclists)

Recognizes 79 new and renewing Bicycle Friendly Communities nationwide for advancing policies, planning, and investments that support safer and more accessible bicycling. The awards span different levels and reflect continued local and regional efforts to strengthen bike-friendly infrastructure and programs.

Safe Routes Class of 2022-2025 Yearbook: Miles of Memories (Safe Routes Partnership)

Highlights successes from recent years and showcases projects, partnerships, and progress from communities across the country. Serves as both a celebration of impact and a practical toolkit to inspire and support ongoing Safe Routes to School efforts.

Effectiveness of Automated Speed Enforcement in School Zones and Guidance for Continuous Usage in Georgia (GA DOT)

Evaluates the impact of Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras on safety in school zones. Finds that ASE was associated with reductions in total crashes and speeding-related crashes, along with lower speeds and improved driver compliance at schools with cameras compared to similar schools without them. Overall, the findings support ASE as a tool for managing speeds and improving safety in school zones.

School Streets Video and Photo Resources from Cities Worldwide (Streetfilms)

Highlights videos and photo resources showcasing School Streets initiatives from cities around the world. Provides visual examples practitioners and advocates can use to support temporary street closures, traffic calming, and safer school travel.

Selecting Communication Channels to Deliver Traffic Safety Messaging: A Guide (Transportation Research Board)

Examines how different communication channels reach specific road user groups and influence behavior. Provides practical guidance for selecting, delivering, and evaluating traffic safety campaigns.

Research

The Benefits of Active Transportation Interventions: A Review of the Evidence (Journal of Transport and Land Use)

Reviews evidence on how walking and bicycling infrastructure and programs affect safety, travel behavior, health, and economic activity. Synthesizes findings from 236 studies and notes that effects vary by local context and existing conditions.

Land Use, Roadway, and Socioeconomic Factors in Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety (Journal of Transport Geography)

Compares fatal and serious-injury pedestrian and bicyclist crashes in Chicago across two time periods. Finds that severe crashes for both groups shifted away from the downtown core to lower-density areas, often near small commercial land uses and along collector and arterial roads, with distinct neighborhood patterns emerging for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Can Health Information Promote Active Transport? (Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice)

Conducts a randomized field experiment in Finland using a smartphone app that tracked travel and provided personalized feedback on the health benefits of walking and cycling. Finds that while the intervention increased app engagement and improved knowledge, it did not produce a statistically significant change in active travel behavior.

Spotting Danger: How Child and Adult Pedestrians Assess Distracted Drivers (Accident Analysis & Prevention)

Examines how children ages 6–10 and adults judge whether it is safe to cross when drivers appear distracted. Finds that while both groups perceive distracted drivers as less safe, children are less sensitive to driver cues unless prompted to focus on them, suggesting that training children to look for driver behavior could strengthen crossing safety skills.

High-Stress Paint-Only Bike Lanes in U.S. Cities: 2024 Prevalence and Geographic Patterns (Journal of Cycling and Micromobility Research)

Examines 442 U.S. cities to assess how often paint-only bike lanes are installed on higher-speed, multi-lane roads that may feel uncomfortable for many people biking. Finds that 61 percent of paint-only bike-lane mileage was classified as high stress, with wide variation by city and region, while lower-stress lanes were more common on slower, lower-volume streets.

Predicting Pedestrian Crash Risk Around Bus Stops (Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives)

Compares bus stop areas in three cities to identify built environment features associated with severe pedestrian crashes. Finds that considering a broader area around bus stops, rather than only the immediate stop location, better captures surrounding risk factors and can help agencies prioritize targeted safety improvements near busy stops.

Bus Lanes Make Busy Roads Work Better (State Smart Transportation Initiative)

Covers a study published in **Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice** finding that reallocating road space to dedicated bus and bicycle lanes can improve system performance when demand is high. Describes how allocating roughly 40 to 50 percent of road space to buses on busy corridors can reduce congestion, improve transit reliability, and create a positive cycle of increased ridership.

Machine Learning Study Identifies Crash Risk Patterns at Bus Stops (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Shares research that analyzed 17,736 bus stops in Massachusetts using

machine learning to identify 13 pedestrian-vehicle crash-related characteristics and classify stops into distinct risk types. Finds higher crash prevalence in dense urban cores and mixed-use arterial corridors and recommends context-specific countermeasures, including speed management and crossing improvements.

[An Evaluation of Light Vehicle Automatic Emergency Brake System Responses to 2-Wheeled Road Users](#) (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)

Evaluates four light vehicles' automatic emergency braking (AEB) performance when responding to motorcycle and bicycle surrogates in multiple test scenarios, including stopped, moving, and decelerating lead conditions. Reports that crash avoidance performance varied by vehicle and test condition, and that no vehicle avoided contact in every scenario tested, highlighting limitations in current AEB responses to two-wheeled road users.

Webinars

Upcoming Webinars

- **[Looking Ahead to 2026: Trails, Transportation, and the Midterm Elections](#)** (Rails to Trails Conservancy)
February 25, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free
- **[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
- **[How to Create a Simple, Streamlined Safe Routes Project Action Plan: Part 1](#)** (Safe Routes Partnership)
March 10, 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
- **[Opposition to Trails: Tools for Understanding and Transforming Conflict When There Is Resistance to Trail Projects](#)** (Rails to Trails Conservancy)
March 11, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free
- **[Right Turn on Red Maneuvers: Vulnerable Road User Safety Concerns](#)** (Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety)
March 11, 2026, 3:00 pm ET, free

- **[Bridges and Boardwalks: Planning, Design, and Construction](#)** (American Trails)
March 12, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **[HUD Thriving Communities Technical Assistance: Incorporating Housing into Transportation Planning](#)** (Transportation Research and Education Center, Portland State University)
March 12, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **[Road Safety Champion Program: Overview of Local Road Safety Plans](#)** (National Center for Rural Road Safety)
March 17, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free
- **[Safe Streets, Stronger Communities: Preparing Competitive Applications for the SS4A Program](#)** (The United States Conference of Mayors)
March 17, 2026, 2:00 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
- **[Leveraging Unobligated Funding: How to Fund Your Trail with Unspent Federal Funding](#)** (Rails to Trails Conservancy)
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
- **[How to Create a Simple, Streamlined Safe Routes Project Action Plan: Part 2](#)** (Safe Routes Partnership)
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
- [Trailblazers Wanted: Intensive Training for Tomorrow's Trail Technicians](#) (American Trails)
April 23, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- [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 Proposals: [Oregon Active Transportation Summit](#) (The Street Trust and Transportation Research and Education Center (TREC)), April 22 - 24, 2026, Portland, OR
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 Proposals: [NCHRP 07-35A Improving Crash Data for Active Transportation Users](#) (Transportation Research Board Cooperative Research Programs)
Deadline: March 13, 2026

Call for Applications: [2026 Trails Accelerator Grants](#) (International Mountain Bicycling Association - IMBA)
Deadline: March 15, 2026

Call for Applications: [Vision Zero Recognition](#) (Vision Zero Network)
Deadline: March 31, 2026

Call for Abstracts: [APHA 2026 Annual Meeting and Expo](#), November 1 - 4, 2026, San Antonio, TX
Deadline: March 31, 2026

Call for Session Proposals: [2026 Safe Routes to School National Conference](#) (Safe Routes Partnership), October 20 - 22, 2026, Minneapolis, MN
Deadline: April 1, 2026

Call for Films: [Great Trails State Film Festival](#), August 10, 2026, Winston-Salem, NC
Deadline: June 30, 2026

Upcoming Events

- [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
- [Planning Tools & Training Symposium](#) (Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO))
April 20 - 23, 2026, Lexington, KY
- [Oregon Active Transportation Summit](#) (The Street Trust and Transportation Research and Education Center (TREC))
April 22 - 24, 2026, Portland, OR
- [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
- [Road to Zero Annual Meeting](#) (National Safety Council)
May 19, 2026, Washington, DC
- [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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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 Safety Research Center with funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration.

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