



PBIC Messenger August 2026

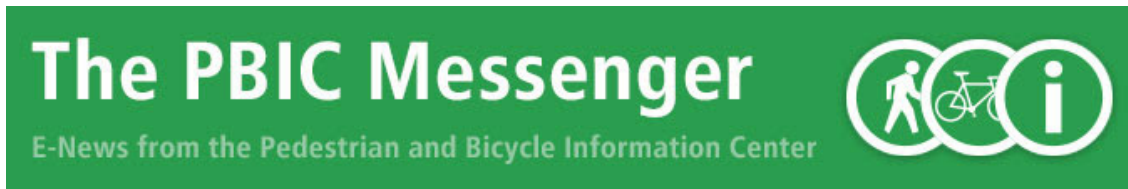
1 message

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Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 12:17 PM



Monthly Newsletter — August 26, 2026



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Announcements

USDOT Updates National Roadway Safety Strategy

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) released an [updated National Roadway Safety Strategy \(NRSS\)](#) that organizes its roadway safety efforts around three core objectives: Safer People, Safer Roads, and Safer Vehicles. The revised structure differs from the previous NRSS framework, which organized the Safe System Approach around five elements and included Safer Speeds and Post-Crash Care as separate components. The updated

strategy continues to draw from the Safe System Approach while emphasizing law enforcement and public education, rural and Tribal roadway safety, roadway design and traffic management, commercial vehicle safety, and vehicle technology.

GAO Recommends USDOT Address Risks Related to Limited Driver Visibility

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) [released a report](#) examining how vehicle characteristics and limited driver visibility may affect pedestrian and bicyclist safety. The report identifies several steps USDOT could take to better understand and address these risks. GAO recommends developing a method for measuring areas around vehicles that drivers cannot see, more fully analyzing how vehicle size, design, and turning movements affect visibility and crash risk, and developing responses to identified risks. GAO found that larger vehicles, certain design features such as thicker A-pillars and longer, blunt-shaped hoods, and turning maneuvers may limit driver visibility and increase risks to pedestrians and bicyclists. The report also examines technologies manufacturers are using to address visibility limitations, including side bicyclist alerts and pedestrian automatic emergency braking, and reviews driver visibility standards adopted in the European Union and London, England.

GHSA Reports Third-Year Decline in Pedestrian Fatalities, Still Above 2019 Levels

The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) [released preliminary data](#) projecting that 6,732 pedestrians were killed on U.S. roadways in 2025, a 7 percent decrease from 2024 and the third consecutive annual decline. Despite the decrease, pedestrian fatalities remained 5 percent above 2019 levels. The report also provides an analysis of 2024 data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System. Findings show that SUVs and pickup trucks were involved in more than half of pedestrian fatalities, three in five pedestrian deaths occurred at locations without sidewalks, and nearly one in four resulted from a hit-and-run crash. Most pedestrian deaths occurred in urban areas, although pedestrian crashes in rural areas were more likely to be fatal.

Plan and Register for Walk & Roll to School Day

The annual [National Walk & Roll to School Day](#) takes place this year on October 7, 2026, bringing schools and communities together to celebrate walking, biking, and rolling to school. Communities can make the day their own, with activities that get students and families involved, encourage active travel, and draw attention to safer routes to school and other community destinations. Schools and local organizers can [register their 2026 events](#) and find [event ideas](#), [planning resources](#), [downloadable graphics and materials](#), and [talking points](#) to support outreach and participation. Events can take place on October 7 or on any other day in October that works best locally.

News

Maryland: Marks Two Years of Complete Streets Improvements (Maryland DOT)

Reports that fatal crashes declined 18 percent statewide in 2025 compared with 2024 and highlights implementation of the State's Complete Streets Policy. Improvements include more than 1,300 crosswalk upgrades, new and reconstructed sidewalks, Pedestrian Safety Action Plan projects, and quick-build safety projects.

Ohio: Invests \$72 Million in Roadway Safety Projects (Ohio DOT)

Highlights 33 projects in 23 counties funded through the Highway Safety Improvement Program, including \$25.3 million for 20 pedestrian and roadway departure projects. Planned improvements include high-visibility crosswalks, sidewalks, shared-use paths, intersection upgrades, signs, and pavement markings.

Pennsylvania: Awards \$38 Million for Municipal Signal Improvements (PennDOT)

Announces funding for 86 municipalities in 31 counties through the Green Light-Go Program. Projects include accessible pedestrian signals, pedestrian signal upgrades, curb extensions, and other traffic signal improvements.

South Carolina: Completes More Than 700 Crosswalk Improvements (South Carolina DOT)

Highlights pedestrian crossing improvements completed across six Lowcountry counties between 2019 and 2026. The regional initiative includes high-visibility crosswalk markings, accessible curb ramps, pedestrian signals, signal timing improvements, and pedestrian pushbuttons.

Hawai'i: New Law Establishes E-Bike and Micromobility Rules (Big Island Now)

Explains a **new State law** that establishes definitions and operating requirements for electric bicycles and other micromobility devices. The law addresses age requirements, operating locations, registration, manufacturer labeling, and enforcement related to illegal or noncompliant devices.

Montana: Highlights Air Quality Considerations for Walking and Bicycling (Montana DOT)

Provides guidance for people walking and bicycling when wildfire smoke affects air quality, including checking current conditions and forecasts before traveling. Includes recommendations to shorten or postpone trips, choose a less strenuous route, or use another form of transportation when smoke levels are elevated.

Final Mile Program Shows Longer-Term Results in Five Cities (PeopleForBikes)

Reviews progress in five cities following a two-year program that provided financial resources and technical assistance to accelerate development of

connected bicycle networks. The five cities built more than 300 miles of new bikeways during the program, with additional projects continuing after it ended.

Chicago, IL: Expands Accessible Pedestrian Signal Installations (Smart Cities Dive)

Reports that Chicago installed accessible pedestrian signals at 78 intersections during the first year of a court-ordered implementation plan, exceeding the required 70 installations. An independent review also identified technical issues with signal placement, functionality, maintenance, and other requirements for the city to address as implementation continues.

San Diego, CA: Begins Implementing Comprehensive Speed Management Plan (Inside San Diego)

Describes the first speed limit reductions under the city's Comprehensive Speed Management Plan, beginning in designated school zones. Recent changes in California law allow cities greater flexibility to lower speed limits based on roadway context, including school zones, business activity districts, safety corridors, and areas with high pedestrian and bicyclist activity.

United States Votes Against UN Global Road Safety Declaration (Forbes)

Reports that the United States was the only country to vote against a United Nations General Assembly road safety declaration. The declaration calls for reducing road traffic deaths and injuries by at least half by 2030, funding lead agencies for road safety, improving public transportation, and advancing other road safety measures. The U.S. representative cited concerns that the declaration extended beyond road safety into broader environmental policy and international requirements.

Resources

Proven Safety Countermeasure Resources (National Association of City Transportation Officials)

Provides access to resources and related guidance on roadway configurations, bicycle lanes, speed limits, speed safety cameras, and variable speed limits. Also includes a link to **Making Our Roads Safer One Countermeasure at a Time**, which summarizes all 28 Proven Safety Countermeasures.

Safe System Success Stories (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety)

Features a collection of case studies developed by transportation safety organizations and practitioners. Highlights how local and State agencies are applying Safe System principles through approaches to risk assessment, street design, speed setting, and funding decisions.

Complete Streets, Stronger Economies (Smart Growth America)

Examines economic outcomes associated with Complete Streets investments through national research and case studies from six communities. Highlights findings related to business activity, jobs, tax revenue, property values, financial costs of crashes, and downtown investment.

[Making Strides: 2026 State Report Cards](#) (Safe Routes Partnership)

Provides interactive State report cards examining policies, funding, and implementation related to walking, bicycling, and Safe Routes to School. Includes State-specific scores and a national overview to support planning and comparison across States.

[Transportation and the Shape of Cities](#) (Island Press)

Explores how pedestrian travel, micromobility, cars, trains, and transit function as transportation networks and influence urban design. Discusses the geometry, space requirements, network characteristics, and role of each mode within the transportation system.

[Portland, OR: Connects Neighborhood Routes Across Busy Roads](#)

(National Association of City Transportation Officials)

Explains how Portland, Oregon, uses half signals where neighborhood walking and bicycling routes intersect with larger roads. Describes how the signals operate, where they are used, and technical resources available for agencies considering similar intersection treatments.

[Electric Bike Laws and Resources](#) (PeopleForBikes)

Provides information on the three-class electric bicycle system and electric bicycle laws in each State, along with resources on Federal policies, research, and where electric bicycles can be used. Includes one-page State guides to help explain how electric bicycles are classified and regulated.

[2025 Shared Micromobility State of the Industry Report](#) (North American Bikeshare and Scootershare Association)

Summarizes shared bicycle and scooter trends across North America, including 237 million trips in 2025 across more than 400 cities. Examines ridership, vehicle types, system operations, and connections with public transportation.

[Massachusetts: New Driver Education Resources Address Bicycle Safety](#)

(Massachusetts DOT)

Provides new driver education materials covering interactions between drivers and people bicycling, including the State's four-foot passing law, turning practices, and other roadway safety considerations. The resources are intended for use in driver education programs for new drivers.

[State of Carpooling 2026: Global Trends, Case Studies, and Implications](#)

(Association for Commuter Transportation)

Examines carpooling programs through a review of research, expert input, and case studies from 10 programs in six countries. Includes a diagnostic framework to help agencies, employers, and other organizations assess program strengths, identify gaps, and consider future investments.

[Transportation Alternatives and Recreational Trails Annual Report](#)

(Federal Highway Administration)

Provides information on Transportation Alternatives and Recreational Trails Program applications received and projects selected in Federal fiscal year 2024. Includes archives for prior years. Also see **[Bicycle and Pedestrian Funding Information](#)**.

Research

Pedestrian-Focused Infrastructure Can Boost Safety (University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies)

Evaluates temporary and permanent pedestrian treatments at 12 intersections in Minneapolis and St. Paul, including curb extensions and pedestrian refuge islands. Finds that both temporary and permanent treatments generally increased driver yielding and reduced vehicle speeds, while results varied by treatment type and intersection conditions.

Evaluating Pedestrian Route Choice and Delay at Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHBs) on an Arterial Corridor (Travel Behaviour and Society)

Examines how pedestrian hybrid beacon placement influences whether people alter their route to use a designated crossing on a multilane arterial. Finds that relatively few pedestrians were willing to walk farther to reach a beacon, suggesting that PHBs may be most effective when located close to existing pedestrian travel paths and desired crossing locations.

Yield Decisions and Perceived Right-of-Way at Junctions (Journal of Transport & Health)

Examines how crossing markings, warning signs, pedestrian behavior, and knowledge of traffic rules influence drivers' decisions to yield at urban intersections in the United Kingdom. Finds that headlight technology, sensor configuration, pedestrian movement, ambient lighting, and other vehicle and environmental factors influence system performance. Newer lighting and sensor technologies showed improved pedestrian detection.

Effectiveness of Pedestrian Crash Avoidance Technologies: Comparing Day vs. Night Performance (Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety)

Evaluates pedestrian automatic emergency braking systems using field-test data to compare pedestrian detection and braking performance during daytime and nighttime conditions. Finds that vehicle and environmental factors, including headlight technology, sensor configuration, pedestrian movement, and ambient lighting, influence system performance, with newer lighting and sensor technologies showing improved pedestrian detection.

An Analysis of Pedestrian Safety and Injury Severity at Bus Stops Using the CRSS Database (Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety)

Analyzes nationally representative crash data to identify characteristics associated with pedestrian crashes at bus stops and factors related to injury severity. Finds that bus stop-related crashes frequently occurred on higher-speed roads, at midblock and uncontrolled locations, and during off-peak hours. The findings can help inform infrastructure, vehicle, and policy considerations for safer access to transit.

OKI Vulnerable Road User Crash Analysis 2015–2024 (Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments)

Analyzes 10 years of pedestrian and bicyclist crash data across the Greater Cincinnati region. Finds that although vulnerable road user crashes accounted for fewer than two percent of all crashes each year, they made up about 12

percent of fatal or serious injury crashes, with speed, lighting, and arterial roadway design strongly associated with more severe outcomes.

A Misclassification Framework for Identifying Systematic Error in Pedestrian Crash Prediction: Evidence from Seattle, WA (Accident Analysis & Prevention)

Develops a framework to identify locations where pedestrian crash prediction models repeatedly produce systematic errors rather than random misses. Applies the approach to 13,706 intersections in Seattle and finds that reviewing high-priority locations revealed missing roadway context, including visual obstructions, surrounding land uses, and network complexity, that could improve model performance.

Infrastructure Matters: A Systematic Review of Bicycle Infrastructure Design Influencing Cycling Crash and Injury Risk (Journal of Safety Research)

Reviews 104 peer-reviewed studies examining how bicycle infrastructure design affects crash and injury risk. Finds that physically separated bicycle facilities generally provide the strongest safety benefits, while outcomes for painted lanes, intersections, and other treatments vary depending on roadway and traffic conditions.

Improving Bicycle Volume Estimation at Intersections (Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board)

Examines methods for improving bicycle volume estimates when local count data are limited, using data from 308 intersections in several Canadian communities and Pima County, Arizona. Finds that calibrating existing models with even a small number of local bicycle counts substantially improved accuracy, with one method reducing estimation error by 56 percent using data from five local sites.

What Drives Urban Transportation Safety? Exploring the Role of Modal Composition and Travel Exposure (Journal of Transport and Sustainability)

Examines relationships between travel patterns and fatality rates across 227 U.S. urban areas. Finds that a lower share of commuting by car and fewer vehicle miles traveled were strongly associated with lower per capita fatality rates, and discusses walking, bicycling, transit, and multimodal infrastructure as ways to expand travel options alongside roadway safety strategies.

Webinars

Upcoming Webinars

- **Celebrating Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day 2026: Ideas and Inspirations for Every Community** (Safe Routes Partnership)
August 26, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Using Simulation to Evaluate Driver Blind Zones** (Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety)
August 26, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free

- **Turning Trail Work Into Measurable Impact: Trailfunds in Action** (American Trails)
August 27, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **Intro to the Outdoor Recreation Access and Participation Survey** (Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals)
August 27, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **2026 U.S. Federal Policy Webinar - 3rd Quarter** (APBP)
September 2, 2026, 3:00 pm ET, free
- **Choose Your Own Adventure: Welcoming & Preparing Trail Users with Disabilities** (American Trails)
September 3, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **When Driving Isn't an Option: Steering Away from Car Dependency** (Cities for Everyone with Gil)
September 8, 2026, 11:00 am ET, free
- **Safe Routes to Libraries Virtual Learning Series** (Safe Routes Partnership)
September 8, 2026, 3:00 pm ET, free
- **From Grant to Groundwork: Funding Accessible Trails** (Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals)
September 9, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Safe Systems Success Stories** (Vision Zero Network and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety)
September 10, 2026, 3:00 pm ET, free
- **Visitor Use Management Community of Practice** (Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals)
September 16, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Planning Complete Streets for Neurodivergence** (APBP)
September 16, 2026, 3:00 pm ET, fees apply
- **How 11th Street Bridge Park Connects Recreation and Community** (Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals)
September 23, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **TrADE Talk: Transportation Alternatives Lessons Learned and Future Guidance** (Rails to Trails Conservancy)
September 24, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Celebrating National Preparedness Month – Build Back Better: How to Rebuild Trail Infrastructure for Resilience After Disaster Strikes** (Rails to Trails Conservancy)
September 30, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Food and Culture Along the Trail** (Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals)
September 30, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Urban Feasibility and Breaking Down Barriers** (American Trails)
October 1, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated
- **Research-Driven Visitor Management at Niagara Glen** (Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals)
October 7, 2026, 2:00 pm ET, free
- **Prescription Trails: Leveraging the Science of Trail Therapy** (American Trails)
October 29, 2026, 1:00 pm ET, free, donations appreciated

Archived and Recorded Webinars

Call for Proposals, Presentations, Abstracts

Call for Applications: [Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day Mini-Grants](#) (Safe Routes Partnership)

Deadline: September 4, 2026

Call for Presentations: [2027 International Trails Summit](#) (American Trails), April 13 - 15, 2027

Deadline: September 15, 2026

Request for Proposals: [National Bike Summit & Advocacy Organization Day](#) (League of American Bicyclists), March 9 - 11, 2027, Washington, DC

Deadline: September 21, 2026

Call for Applications: [Vision Zero Network Recognition Program](#)

Deadline: September 30, 2026

Call for Applications: [National Recreational Trails and National Water Trails Designation](#) (National Recreation Trails)

Deadline: November 1, 2026

Call for Submissions: [2027 Safe Mobility Conference](#) (Safety21), March 22 - 24, 2027, Boston, MA

Deadline: November 9, 2026

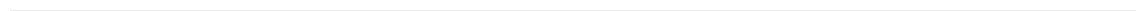
Upcoming Events

- [Trail Development and Operations Institute](#) (American Trails, West Virginia University, and the National Training Center)
September 13 - 17, 2026, Wheeling, WV
- [Mpact Transit + Community Conference](#) (formerly Rail~Volution)
September 14 - 17, 2026, Toronto, Canada
- [Placemaking: Making it Happen](#) (Project for Public Spaces)
Tuesdays & Thursdays, September 15 - October 1, 2026, Virtual
- [AASHTO Safety Summit](#) (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials)
September 28 - 30, 2026, Hartford, CT
- [National Recreation and Parks Association \(NRPA\) Annual Conference](#)
September 29 - October 1, 2026, Philadelphia, PA
- [Veterans Outdoor Recreation Summit](#) (Association of Outdoor Recreation & Education)
October 1 - 3, 2026, Park City, UT
- [Week Without Driving](#) (Nondrivers Alliance and America Walks)
October 1 - 8, 2026
- [International Society for Physical Activity and Health \(ISPAH\) Congress 2026](#)

- October 5 - 8, 2026, Mérida, Mexico
- [Walk & Roll to School Day 2026](#) (National Center for Safe Routes to School)
October 7, 2026
- [World Trails Conference 2026](#) (World Trails Network)
October 19 - 22, 2026, Perth, Australia
- [2026 Safe Routes to School National Conference](#) (Safe Routes Partnership)
October 20 - 22, 2026, Minneapolis, MN
- [1st Global Convening on Informal and Shared Mobility](#) (Shared-Use Mobility Center)
October 26 - 28, 2026, Bangkok, Thailand
- [2026 Vision Zero Cities Conference](#) (Vision Zero Network)
October 28 - 29, 2026, New York City, NY
- [APHA 2026 Annual Meeting and Expo](#) (American Public Health Association)
November 1 - 4, 2026, San Antonio, TX
- [14th International Cycling Safety Conference](#)
November 3 - 5, 2026, Knoxville, TN
- [World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims](#) (WDoR)
November 15, 2026
- [TransportationCamp DC](#) (Transportation for America)
January 9, 2027, Washington, DC
- [2027 National Bike Summit](#)
March 9 - 11, 2027, Washington, DC
- [2027 Safe Mobility Conference](#)
March 22 - 24, 2027, Boston, MA
- [International Trails Summit](#)
April 13 - 15, 2027, Durham, NC
- [Designing Cities Conference](#) (NACTO)
May 11 - 14, 2027, Nashville, TN
- [Velo-city](#) (European Cyclists' Federation)
May 25 - 28, 2027, Matsuyama, Ehime Prefecture, Japan
- [CNU 35](#) (Congress for the New Urbanism)
June 15 - 18, 2027, Twin Cities (Minneapolis & St. Paul), MN

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The PBIC Messenger is brought to you in partnership with CenterLines, 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 Safety Research Center with funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration.

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