APBP 2023 Webinar Series

Webinars are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 3:00pm Eastern.

January 18th

From Complete Streets to Complete Networks: A Data-Driven, Performance-Based, Multimodal Planning Tool

Presenter:
Jenya Abramovich, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
Matt Galbraith, MDOT
Cullen McCormick, Fehr & Peers

Moving beyond complete streets to complete networks - entire networks of continuous and connected facilities for transit, bike, auto, freight, and pedestrians - involves conducting a larger review of networks for each mode. Then the design of individual streets follows the larger modal network vision with performance measures aligned with the priority mode for the subject street. Planners from the Michigan Department of Transportation and Southeast Michigan Council of Governments join us to share a set of tools - one GIS tool for the network analysis and another for analyzing the multimodal and safety performance of individual streets - they have built to evolve the state of the practice for complete streets planning and design.

February 15th

Strengthening Community Connections Through Bike Infrastructure, Transit Integration, and Local Tourism

Presenters:
Kevan Marshall, Region of Waterloo
Jessica Kinser, City of Marshalltown, Iowa
Kersten Elverum, City of Hopkins
Sam Kessel, Bolton & Menk, Inc.

Improving access to multi-modal transit facilities and building public support for such projects through community engagement can have a transformational impact on residents and visitors of all ages. Three North American case studies, including Marshalltown Iowa, Hopkins Minnesota, and Waterloo Region Ontario, show how key destinations in small to medium-sized communities are reinvigorated through thoughtful design of accessible and appealing active transportation corridors. This presentation will discuss how connecting destinations and managing community safety concerns with proper surfacing, lighting, and amenities, seamlessly combines walking and cycling with everyday transit. Integrating transit and active transportation to connect destinations within a community creates strong opportunities for economic growth. In addition to creating safe and accessible facilities, trail use is also greatly impacted by the attractiveness of the trail and its environment. The use of pavement surface enhancements, tailored maps and branding, and public art within corridors is attractive but also creates a sense of place and identity for communities. Placemaking in these communities impacts economic growth and tourism in the short term while sustainable designs that last in the future allow communities to grow and build around that identity.

March 15th

Data storytelling for multimodal pathways

Presenters:
Mitali Gupta, Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Emily Duchon, Alta Planning + Design
Mike Sellinger, Alta Planning + Design
Donny Donoghue, Alta Planning + Design

This session will explore how data analysis and scenario planning tools can go from jargon to storytelling that is both accessible and digestible to a wide range of audiences. We will explore three California multimodal pathway corridors that will show how data can be used to build, describe and validate pathway planning and design decision making. We will begin by reviewing California's 300+ mile Great Redwood Trail and explore how to gather your data and build your story. We will then discuss Santa Clara Valley's Central Bikeway, a Bike Superhighway, to explain how to assess your data and tell your story. We will close with the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority's eight mile LA River Path and describe what tools can be used to effectively test your data and help you validate your story. Data analysis methods presented will include appropriate corridor data gathering techniques, projecting future user demand, assessing how much space is required to accommodate various levels of use and assessing user comfort along a proposed multimodal pathway corridor. This session will help practitioners translate their data-heavy findings into something that is compelling and understandable to all.

April 19th

Give Your Bus a BOOST!

Presenters:
James L Llamas, TEI Planning + Design
Kelsey Walker, Toole Design (Previously with TEI Planning + Design)
Yuhayna Mahmud, Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO)

Houston METRO has undertaken an ambitious program to BOOST its busiest bus lines. Organized around the customer-oriented goals of "A Better Walk, a Better Stop, a Better Ride," BOOST encompasses a suite of infrastructure and operational improvements designed to make local buses faster, more accessible, and more reliable. Doing so not only enhances the transit experience for thousands of current riders, but also delivers operating cost savings that METRO can reinvest in more service, attracting additional ridership. In this webinar, we will discuss the planning process, design and implementation experience, and expected outcomes of the first three BOOST corridors (one completed pilot segment, two corridors in construction, one in design). Special focus will be placed on the internal and external coordination required to deliver an atypical capital project that involves numerous agencies and departments. While rail and BRT projects usually capture headlines, METRO's commitment to BOOST in the METRONext transit plan will cost-effectively and equitably attract new riders in a shorter time and at a lower cost than most major investment projects. This low-hanging fruit approach can be applied by transit agencies and cities of all sizes, especially in the wake of nationwide ridership drops and the transit operator shortage.

May 17th

Active Mobility for Older Adult Communities through Planning and Implementation

Presenters:
Carol A. Kachadoorian, dblTilde CORE, Inc.
Yongping Zhang, Ph.D., P.E., California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Wen Cheng, PhD, PE, TE, PTOE, CalPoly Pomona
Donna Briggs-Murphy, Allen Temple Arms Senior Apartments
Manuel Cordona, OakDOT
Joan Brodovsky, Sunset Estates
Brandon Whyte, Active Transportation Planner, Mountain View, CA

The webinar will share a study of ten older adult communities (OACs) in California, as part of the SB-1 program managed by the Mineta Transportation Institute. Communities studied were active living and tiered living, with a mix of residents' household income and race. The project assessed the presence of and planning for active transportation facilities available to older adults both onsite and nearby, called active mobility infrastructure (AMI). Project work included city and OAC staff interviews, and a resident survey of active mobility habits. Existing conditions assessments were

supplemented through desktop reviews due to COVID concerns, and by reviewing reports and plans identified through city staff interviews. Two tools developed during the project are: one to assess AMI for OAC residents; and one to assess how well local governments include OACs in active mobility planning. Additionally, interviews with two developers - a housing authority executive director and a private developer - highlighted how different goals result in different resident mobility outcomes. Project advisors included the California Transportation Agency, the California Department of Aging, and the Safe Routes Partnership. The webinar will include a moderated discussion with representatives of two OACs and cities, depending on the webinar date.

June 21st

More than a cycle lane: How investment in better walking and cycling networks improves accessibility for people with disabilities

Presenters:
Melissa Bruntlett, Mobycon
Maya Levi

When planning for universal access design, focus is often on technical guidelines, HOW to design more inclusive streets for people with disabilities. Perhaps less often discussed is understanding WHY investment in accessible public spaces is vital for their greater inclusion in daily life. Without this, plans with good intentions can miss critical elements that may unintentionally hinder someone with mobility challenges. In this webinar Melissa Bruntlett, urban mobility advocate and advisor with Mobycon, and Maya Levi, a dietician researcher who has Multiple Sclerosis and uses a combination of mobility scooter and elbow crutches for her daily mobility, discuss how communities with well-connected networks of traffic calmed streets, cycleways, and pedestrian spaces allow for greater inclusivity for people with varying abilities. Combining Maya's lived experience with Melissa's research into accessible and inclusive communities they will discuss public spaces that enable more human-scale travel and the benefits they offer, including improved physical, mental, and social health. Participants will gain a better understanding of the importance of ensuring people with disabilities maintain autonomous access to mobility, and how sustainable networks, especially for walking and cycling, improve their inclusion in daily civic life.

July 19th

Evolution of Bikeways - How Cities Have Progressed with the Ever-changing Design Guidance and Research

Presenters:
Cody Christianson, Bolton & Menk, Inc. (Moderator)
Paul Benton, City of Charlotte DOT
Nathan Koster, City of Minneapolis
Jimmy Shoemaker, City of Saint Paul

Active transportation corridors play a crucial role in how the public interacts with their communities. Guidelines and standards for bikeways are continually evolving and improving based on research and evaluation of applied techniques. In practice, implemented projects can reveal issues and challenges associated with design, materials selection, or maintenance. By revisiting completed projects, we will investigate achievements as well as issues that can sometimes be overlooked, and we will discuss approaches to mitigate these concerns. This will show how bikeways have evolved over time as cities have continually learned from past projects. Common operational expectations, including materials and maintenance, will be addressed by explaining how corridors can remain long-lasting alongside routine maintenance tasks, such as sweeping, mowing and snow plowing. Along with the technical aspects of bikeway design, city personnel will be able to discuss how bikeway and multimodal corridors are being used to invest in and reconnect communities that have historically been underrepresented, underserved or marginalized. This presentation will include real world examples of various bikeways from Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and Charlotte. City personnel will discuss how projects are meeting or exceeding expectations, as well as lessons learned.

August 16th

Systemic Safety – From Analysis to Implementation

Presenters:
Jesse Cohn McGowan, Montgomery County Planning Department
David Anspacher, Montgomery County Planning Department
Carrie Modi, Fehr & Peers
Sheila Marquises, City of San Leandro
Nicole Castelino, City of San Leandro

As agencies work to advance Vision Zero, they must determine both which improvements could improve safety within their communities as well as how to design, fund, and implement those improvements. This webinar will share two case studies of agencies seeking to answer these questions through a systemic safety lens. Montgomery County, MD, will present their data-driven safety study, the Predictive Safety Analysis, which allows the county to prioritize where and how to most effectively invest in safety improvements. San Leandro, CA, will describe their efforts to get to zero utilizing corridor strategies focused on student safety and featuring youth participation and demonstration projects. The presentations will highlight the roles of both analysis and engagement in advancing our Vision Zero goals.

September 20th

Community-led Temporary Demonstrations & Partnerships

Presenters:
Alina Borja, Southern California Association of Governments

Community partnerships are key to meaningful engagement strategies that showcase temporary street redesigns. In this session, speakers from community-based organizations will discuss how they leveraged traffic safety funding and utilized resources from an MPO-hosted lending library to provide meaningful and creative visioning opportunities for impacted and frontline communities. The session will explore the challenges and successes of temporary safety demonstrations, including garnering community buy-in, navigating the permitting process, and moving a temporary project toward implementation. Speakers will discuss how creating local connections to support community engagement can lead to a better understanding of the traffic safety needs of a community. They will detail their experiences with demonstration projects using the Kit of Parts (Kit) lending library of safety materials from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). The Kit enables partners to test temporary street re-designs projects in their jurisdictions and generate critical support for permanent infrastructure improvements. They will also discuss how they leveraged SCAG traffic safety funding and messaging materials to expand the reach of their demonstration for greater impact.

October 18th

Tactile Walking Surface Indicators to Aid Wayfinding for Pedestrians with Vision Disabilities

Presenters:
Dr. Billie Louise (Beezy) Bentzen, PhD, COMS, Accessible Design for the Blind
Alan Scott, PhD, Accessible Design for the Blind
Kevin W. Jensen, AIA, CSI, San Francisco Public Works
Sarah Worth O'Brien, UNC Highway Safety Research Center

Pedestrians with vision disabilities face particular wayfinding challenges at skewed intersections, at midblock crossings, in large open spaces that must be traversed, in transit facilities, and in quick-build street and intersection modifications. The findings from five research studies will be presented to share what was learned regarding the detectability, discriminability, and usability of individual and systems of tactile walking surface indicators (TWSIs) to provide guidance across a range of diverse transportation settings, including at quickbuild curb extensions and floating transit stops.

This webinar will begin with Beezy Bentzen clarifying the important differences between these three types TWSIs for pedestrians who are vision disabled, and continue with brief summaries of research conducted in Raleigh NC, Sarasota, FL, Alexandria, VA, and Seattle, WA, on use of TDIs for finding hard-to-find crosswalks and aligning to cross, and research in San Francisco to identify a surface to be used as a delineator between pedestrians and bicycles at separated bicycle lanes at sidewalk level. Kevin Jensen will present examples of installations of TWDs in San Francisco. Sarah O'Brien will introduce work on two projects, TCRP B-46 Tactile Walking Surface Indicators to Aid Wayfinding for Visually Impaired Travelers in Multimodal Travel, and FHWA TOPR HEPH210023PR Informational Report on Accessibility at Innovative New and Quick- Build Pedestrian and Bicycle Designs. Alan Scott will summarize the results of research under these projects, which was conducted in Chapel Hill, NC, Seattle, WA, Charlotte, NC and Washington, DC.

November 15th

How to keep a statewide plan off the shelf; pedestrian planning in Minnesota

Presenters:
Jacob Rueter, MnDOT Central Office
Hannah Pritchard, MnDOT
Cole Norgaarden, MnDOT

So, MnDOT has its first pedestrian plan; now what? We'll cover implementation activities on increasing safety, developing climate resilience for people walking, and keeping facilities usable year-round. Each of these initiatives advances a critical part of MnDOT's Statewide Pedestrian System Plan. Between 2016 and 2018, nearly half of pedestrian crashes occurred in Minnesota's highest priority need areas for improvements to walking. This is even though the highest-need areas are only 0.2% of the state's geographic area. MnDOT is working with its districts on pedestrian safety action plans that address high need locations in the next decade. Minnesota's climate is changing, and these changes will have the greatest impact on vulnerable users, especially those who are walking. MnDOT does many things that promote resiliency, but not often together in coordination. This collaborative project will identify how to tie critical elements together to improve pedestrian system resilience to high heat and flash flooding. The top item on Minnesotans wish-list during pedestrian plan engagement was improved winter maintenance. MnDOT is engaged in a pilot project to understand the cost of maintenance needed to keep the system clear year-round, and avenues for getting this maintenance done. This pilot will eventually be expanded statewide.

December 20th

Lighter, Faster, Drier: Beyond Quick-Build Towards Resilient Treatments for High-Quality Active Transportation Infrastructure

Presenters:
Becky Katz, City of Toronto
Patrick Zerr, McElhanney Ltd.

In the past fifteen years, cities across North America have been constructing quick-build bike- and pedestrian-focused projects. In more recent years, some of these older quick-build projects have reached the end of their lives. This presentation explores the performance of quick-build treatments for active transportation corridors, and what comes next after flexible posts and pavement markings. More permanent installations such as raised cycle tracks and protected intersections offer a range of benefits but require thorough consideration of drainage design and reconstruction of existing infrastructure. The presenters will draw upon their experience delivering active transportation infrastructure in Toronto and Vancouver, discussing how projects in each city have balanced lighter, faster, and cheaper designs with more extensive reconstructions and their attendant impacts. This will include discussion of how different treatments vary in their need for reconstruction of adjacent roads and sidewalks, maintenance impacts for snow, rain, and debris, and how these considerations can lead to selection of varying treatments along a corridor to provide an optimal balance of cost, user comfort, and other factors.