CUTR Connections [July 2021]

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July 26, 2021, marks the 31st anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The civil rights law prohibits discrimination based on disability.

CUTR’s Planning and Corridor Management program created the Transportation Equity Toolkit. The Toolkit incorporates methods and tools to identify transportation needs and evaluate proposed projects from an equity lens. The toolkit was developed to advance transportation equity for traditionally underserved populations, including persons with disabilities.

For example, the Transportation Equity Scorecard Tool includes weighted criteria to determine if a project significantly improves accessibility in areas identified as a high priority for access improvement/compliance in an ADA Transition Plan or in areas with a high percentage of persons with disabilities. The Transportation Equity Toolkit will be available for download soon. Visit the project page to learn more.

The Transportation Equity Scorecard User Guide, which defines the equity categories, factors, and criteria used in the screening and prioritization process, is currently available for download.

Image credit: ADA National Network (adata.org) 1-800-949-4232

Upcoming Webcasts

Webcasts begin at 12 PM EDT. Registration is required.

July 29, 2021: Bill Eisele, Ph.D., "Highlights of the 2021 Urban Mobility Report"

August 12, 2021: Alberto M. Figueroa Medina, Ph.D., "Pricing Mechanisms for Managed Lanes"

August 26, 2021: Susan Shaheen, Ph.D., "What Role Can the Built Environment and Incentives Play in Supporting Pooling with Shared Mobility? A Photovoice Study in the San Francisco Bay Area"

Learn more and subscribe to the National Institute for Congestion Reduction (NICR) newsletter
Tampa iCan Bike Camp assists new cyclists

The first-ever Tampa iCan Bike Camp was held June 14 - 18, 2021. iCan Shine, Bike/Walk Tampa Bay, the Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida, the University Area CDC and FDOT District Seven hosted the five day camp for 23 riders.

iCan Bike Camps are held throughout the United States to teach individuals with disabilities to independently ride two-wheel bicycles. Each rider is paired with volunteers for their 75 minute session. Throughout the week, iCan Bike specialists manipulate the bike’s stability to teach riders how to control the bikes through balance and control.

On June 16, Bike/Walk Tampa Bay Board Chair and former Tampa Bay Lightning player Dave Andreychuk spoke to the press in hopes of expanding the camp in the future and the importance of community in the Tampa Bay region. Other speakers included Richard Moss, FDOT District Seven Transportation Development Director, Sarah Combs, executive director of University Area CDC, Luis Viera, Tampa City councilman, Jon Dengler, WellBuilt Bikes and University Area CDC board member, and Rob Zimprich, Bike/Walk Tampa Bay board vice chair and University Area CDC chief financial officer.

Community members volunteered to assist with the camp and raised funds for the camp. The operating room team at Moffitt Cancer Center raised $1,232 in cash for the iCan Bike Camp. Karen Rogers with Perioperative Services said, “We are happy to help out!”

iCan Shine is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to provide quality learning opportunities in recreational activities for individuals with disabilities. Learn more at icanshine.org
Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition works towards energy equity in Florida

On June 22, 2021, CUTR’s Austin Marie Sipiora joined Florida Agricultural Commissioner Nikki Fried and other community members to discuss the importance of energy equity in Florida. Sipiora is a researcher with the Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition, a program focused on implementing alternative fuels, fuel-saving technologies and practices, and new mobility choices.

“As the coordinator for the federally-designated Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition at the USF Center for Urban Transportation Research, we seek to support the Tampa Bay region’s energy, economic, and environmental security by building partnerships to advance energy efficient mobility, part of which involves encouraging the adoption of clean, efficient transportation and energy solutions for low-income communities,” said Sipiora. “We see these trends with household transportation energy needs, as well. A recent study from Argonne National Laboratory found that household transportation energy burden alone varies significantly by census tract. This variation is in part due to household income levels (lower-income households spend a lot more of their budget on fuel), on top of added energy costs in total. This has demonstrated need for more equitable access to clean transportation and clean energy solutions, such as outreach and investment for energy efficiency, solar, and access to clean transportation technologies including alternative fuels, electric vehicles, and charging equipment.”

Learn more about Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition or read about the statewide energy equity study.

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CUTR National Transit Standards Working Group

CUTR's National Transit Standards Working Group met on June 29th and 30th in Tampa. The stakeholder group includes transit agency representatives from across the nation (WMATA, SEPTA, NYCT, MBTA, MARTA, Cap Metro, TriMet, LA Metro, BART, MATA, Detroit DOT and Broward Co. Transit); industry association groups, such as APTA, CTAA, and National RTAP; and the Amalgamated Transit Union.

Campus Peer to Peer Campaign needs YOUR input

The Campus Peer to Peer Campaign is a Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Education program. Sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), four Florida universities are partnering together to educate the public about bicycle and pedestrian safety. The University of South Florida, Florida State University, University of Central Florida, and the University of Florida have joined together to inform their campuses and communities about safety initiatives.

"It's great to see the students involved with projects bettering their areas. We hope to continue this project in the future and involve more universities. We are grateful to FDOT for their support," said CUTR Senior Research Associate Jason Jackman, project manager.

If you live in one of the communities involved with the project (Gainesville, Orlando, Tallahassee, or Tampa), please consider sharing the questionnaire on social media, newsletters, and with college students!

Peer to Peer Questionnaire

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate

Julie Bond earned the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate from the University of South Florida.
Congratulations!

For more information, please visit www.cutr.usf.edu

CUTR was established in 1988 in the College of Engineering at the University of South Florida, in Tampa, Florida. CUTR’s mission is to proactively support implementation of innovative multimodal transportation solutions and develop leaders through research, education and action. Our work supports transportation agencies, the transportation profession and community, policymakers, and the public. CUTR provides high quality, objective expertise in the form of insightful research, comprehensive training and education, effective technical assistance and in-depth policy analysis, that translates directly into benefits for CUTR’s project sponsors. CUTR’s 45 research faculty, 60 students and post-docs combine academic knowledge and extensive “real world” experience in developing innovative, implementable solutions for all modes of transportation. The multidisciplinary research faculty includes experts in engineering, planning, computer science, economics, public policy, public health, and geography. CUTR logs nearly $20 million per year in expenditures through contracts and grants to support its research, education, training and technical assistance missions.

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