

# TR NEWS

NUMBER 299

SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2015



## Public Health and Transportation

*Innovation, Intervention,  
and Improvements*



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# TR NEWS

NUMBER 299

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## PUBLIC HEALTH AND TRANSPORTATION

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#### **Public Health and Transportation: Innovation, Intervention, and Improvements**

*Ed Christopher and Eloisa Raynault*

The connections between the worlds of public health and transportation are manifold, built on a growing base of evidence encompassing safety, air quality impacts, physical activity, noise pollution, and access to the goods and services that support health. The issues are complex and multidisciplinary, and collaborations are under way.

### 4 Why Public Health and Transportation: Setting the Stage

*Andrew L. Dannenberg and Ipek N. Sener*

Integrating health-enhancing choices into transportation policy has the potential to save lives and money by preventing chronic diseases, reducing motor vehicle–related injury and deaths, and improving environmental health, while stimulating economic development and ensuring access to opportunity and to goods and services for all.

#### **9 Glossary of Public Health Terms**

### 11 Health Impact Assessment: Considering Health in Transportation Decision Making in the United States

*Megan L. Wier, Michael Schwartz, and Andrew L. Dannenberg*

The health impact assessment is a tool for considering the potential health effects of policies, programs, and projects before implementation, to mitigate the adverse impacts and to leverage the health benefits. The authors present characteristics of the process in the United States, as well as lessons learned from an interdisciplinary collaboration.

#### **17 The Health Impact Project: Fostering Safer, Healthier Communities**

*Bethany Rogerson*

### 18 Measuring the Health Benefits of Walking and Bicycling: Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Applies the Findings

*Leslie Meehan*

The Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization has addressed chronic public health problems stemming from physical inactivity by shifting the transportation policy focus to public transit, walking, and bicycling. The systematic approach included a scoring and selection system for transportation projects, household surveys, and more.

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*Don Kostelec*

### 22 Incorporating Health into a Metropolitan Planning Organization's Technical Process: Innovative Approaches for San Francisco Bay Area Projects

*Sean Co*

The San Francisco Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission developed performance metrics for its 2040 Regional Transportation Plan that included measures of the effects of physical activity and transportation. The author describes the measures, the findings, and the outcomes.

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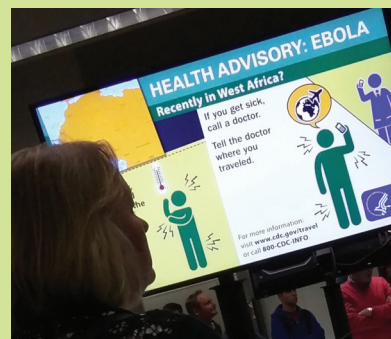
*Nancy McGuckin*



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COVER: Golden, Colorado, received a commendation for the walkability of its downtown area in 2012. The link between active transportation—walking and bicycling—and health is a growing area of research. (Photo: Toole Design Group)

# TR NEWS

features articles on innovative and timely research and development activities in all modes of transportation. Brief news items of interest to the transportation community are also included, along with profiles of transportation professionals, meeting announcements, summaries of new publications, and news of Transportation Research Board activities.

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*Mark Gendreau*

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