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**Oct 2021 - How Does Transportation Access Impact Physical Health?**

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### **Measuring Perceptions of Social Environments for Walking**

A 2021 article in *Health & Place*, "Measuring Perceptions Of Social Environments For Walking: A Scoping Review Of Walkability Surveys," was authored by Nicole Iroz-Elardo, Arlie Adkins and Maia Ingram of the University of Arizona. The neighborhood pedestrian environment is an important determinant of physical activity and health. Despite widespread acknowledgment that neighborhoods' social and physical characteristics contribute to a walkable place, constructs and metrics remain focused primarily on the built environment. This scoping review documents the current state of the practice to measure perceived social elements of pedestrian environments in

order to identify measurement strategies to understand and support walking, particularly in socially diverse neighborhoods.

**READ THE RESEARCH**

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### **How Does Transportation Access Impact Self-Perceived Physical Health?**

What is the relationship between access to transportation and our own perception of physical health? University of Texas at Arlington researchers explored this question in the latest NITC report, "Examining the Impact of Transportation- Related Barriers on Self-Perceived Physical Health among Adults in the United States." Specifically looking at household car ownership and new NHTS data, they found that having access to a vehicle correlated with better self-reported health. Among the other modes, respondents who used buses or paratransit were more likely to report their physical health as poor, while those who walked, biked or rode the train were more likely to report better physical health. Researchers Philip Baiden and Godfred Boateng will share more in a webinar next week.

**READ THE RESEARCH**

**REGISTER FOR OCT 12**

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## Translating Research to Practice: Five New NITC Projects Launch

With the extension of the FAST Act, we're able to fund five new projects at five universities, building on previous accomplishments by NITC researchers with the goal of translating research to practice and have an impact. These efforts include:

- Applying a Mt. Mazama Volcanic Ash Treatment as a Trail Accessibility Improvement
- Using Maps and Online Tools to Operationalize Equity
- Enabling Decision-Making in Battery Electric Bus Deployment through Interactive Visualization
- Implementing a Community Transportation Academy
- Communicating Research through Comics: Transportation and Land Development

Stay tuned next month for an interview with researchers Nathan McNeil (PSU) and Keith Bartholomew (UU) on their project to launch a Community Transportation Academy in Salt Lake City, Utah!

[SEE THE NEW PROJECTS](#)

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## **NITC Dissertation Fellow Joey Iuliano Conducts Naturalistic Study on Bicycling in Tucson, AZ**

The latest NITC dissertation: "Pedal the Old Pueblo: A Naturalistic Study on Bicycling in Tucson, AZ," comes from Joey Iuliano of the University of Arizona. "This dissertation work highlights the need to understand how different types of cyclists interact with the built environment and their experiences with other road users. Utilizing video cameras helps fill in this gap by capturing their lived experiences throughout the course of a ride. Coupling this footage with larger datasets, such as annual bicycle counts or Strava, can show planners where there are issues with safety and infrastructure design, how many others may be experiencing those issues, and helps with targeted improvements," shared Joey Iuliano.

**READ THE RESEARCH**

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### **Student Spotlight: Jaclyn Schaefer, Portland State University**

"I really enjoy working in a project office and could see myself as a project engineer someday. I also have an interest in transportation demand management, which could enable me to combine my passions for transportation engineering and human behavior analysis. Ultimately, my goal is to improve the quality of life of my community and beyond through safe, efficient, and multimodal transportation options."

Jaclyn Schaefer is a graduate of the civil engineering master's program at PSU. A former Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellow, she is now a Transportation Engineer 2 in training at the Washington State Department of Transportation. During her time at PSU, Jaclyn worked as a graduate research assistant and was awarded two NITC scholarships.

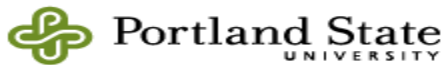
#### **MEET JACLYN SCHAEFER**

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### **NITC Research and Partner Updates**

- [Transportation, Race and Equity: a Syllabi Resource List for Faculty](#) - Alongside researchers Kendra K. Levine and Jesus M. Barajas, NITC Director Jennifer Dill of PSU has updated this living resource for transportation faculty to teach equity in the classroom.

- [New to the NITC Family](#): Incoming faculty member Alyssa Ryan of the University of Arizona will be presenting research in a PSU Friday Transportation Seminar on **Nov 12, 2021**.
- [PSU Announces Fall Lineup of Friday Transportation Seminars](#): The PSU fall term is under way – Check out the rest of the upcoming presentations on transportation topics.
- [Cities need heat governance to plan for extreme temperatures and protect those most at risk](#): NITC researcher Ladd Keith of UA was the lead author of this article in *Nature*. He is principal investigator for a forthcoming NITC [project on heat resilience](#), with a related [article in the APA Planning Magazine](#) just released.



The [National Institute for Transportation and Communities \(NITC\)](#), is a program of the [Transportation Research and Education Center](#) (TREC) at Portland State University. NITC is one of seven U.S. Department of Transportation national university transportation centers. Led by [Portland State](#), the partnership includes [Oregon Institute of Technology](#), [University of Arizona](#), [University of Oregon](#), [University of Texas at Arlington](#) and [University of Utah](#). We pursue our theme—improving mobility of people and goods to build strong communities—through research, education and technology transfer.



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