



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration



Manual on Pedestrian and Bicycle Connections to Transit

Background

Improving safe access to transit for pedestrians and bicyclists can expand the reach of transit, improve transit riders' door-to-door travel experiences, and promote greater levels of physical activity and well-being for those who walk and bike to transit. Increasing the connectivity of multimodal networks by improving infrastructure and filling gaps can create both safer and more accessible transportation systems for all users, while providing access to a greater number of opportunities for jobs, education, and other essential services.

Objective

This manual connects public transportation and other transportation professionals to best practices, innovations, and key resources to support the work of improving pedestrian and bicycle safety and access to transit.

Findings and Conclusions

Information and case studies of innovations to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and access to transit are presented to support the work of public transportation and other transportation professionals.

This manual provides a compendium of best practices to help transit and other transportation professionals improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and access to transit, including information on evaluating, planning for, and implementing improvements to pedestrian and bicycle access to transit. In addition to covering key concepts such as access sheds, connected multimodal networks, and station area comfort, safety, and legibility, the manual covers needs specific to pedestrians, such as complete sidewalks and safe, convenient crossings, and to bicyclists, such as bicycle parking and on-transit accommodations.

Topics covered include integrating bike share with transit and making bike share and transit more accessible to people who are unable to ride standard bicycles. The manual features a detailed section on implementation that covers funding, marketing, interagency coordination, and data collection. References are provided throughout the manual to existing guidance and research documents, along with experiences of other cities, which were collected through a literature review, interviews with professionals, and three case studies of regions that are taking innovative approaches to integrating pedestrians and bicycles with transit—Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Among the key takeaways are the following:

- Safety, comfort, and convenience are pillars of inspiring people to want to walk and bicycle to transit.
- Collaboration is key. Transit agencies, transportation departments and other agencies and organization must work together to make walking and bicycling to transit safe, comfortable and convenient.
- Broader cultural messaging is important to encourage more people to embrace walking and bicycling to get to transit.
- Technology offers a great opportunity to help people understand and actualize the potential benefits of walking and bicycling.
- Planning is a key element in knowing where change and improvements are needed and being prepared to take advantage of opportunities to implement change.

Benefits

Walking and bicycling are important tools for making it easier and more convenient for riders to access public transportation, giving riders more options and supporting multimodal trips. Well-connected multi-modal network can help alleviate transit overcrowding, and serve as backstops in cases of outages. This manual supports the work of public transportation and other transportation professionals in improving pedestrian and bicycle safety and access to transit.

Project Information

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This report was developed by the Transportation Research & Education Center (TREC) at Portland State University. For more information, contact FTA Transportation Management Specialist Edwin Rodriguez at (202) 366-0671, Edwin.Rodriguez@dot.gov. All research reports can be found at <https://www.transit.dot.gov/about/research-innovation>.