

Council on Active Transportation Strategic Plan

As approved by the Strategic Management Committee, September 22, 2018

Goal 1: Safety: support the reduction in pedestrian and bicyclist serious injuries and fatalities.

The Council will undertake activities to increase awareness and promote appropriate infrastructure, operational and educational strategies to support the reduction of pedestrian and bicycle serious injuries and fatalities.

Strategy 1a: Communicate pedestrian and bicyclist safety in appropriate AASHTO publications and initiatives.

- Collaborate with the Committee on Safety and the Committee on Communications to raise awareness of active transportation safety issues.
- Work to integrate pedestrian and bicyclist safety measures into appropriate AASHTO publications.
- Work with the Committees on Safety and Data Management and Analytics to identify needed tools and resources to assist State, regional, and Federal agencies to monitor and report active transportation safety information.
- Coordinate with AASHTO committees, appropriate federal agencies and external partners to support the development of resources and research on bicyclist and pedestrian safety.

Goal 2: Communication: broadly communicate the value of active transportation to the transportation system, the environment and communities.

Communicating the value of active transportation to the transportation system, the environment, communities and their residents will support investment in active transportation.

Strategy 2a: Develop a definition of “active transportation” that will be used by AASHTO.

- Review State DOT, AASHTO, FHWA, and other relevant websites and documents to identify any existing definitions.
- Coordinate with relevant AASHTO committees and councils on the definition.
- Develop a definition of “active transportation” that is within the purview of AASHTO.

Strategy 2b: Communicate the value of active transportation.

- Work with the Committee on Communications on messaging, branding, and communicating the value of active transportation as an important component of national mobility, accessibility, sustainability, health, and economic vitality. Include work by States on active transportation initiatives, including partnerships with agencies responsible for economic development, public health, and related topics, as well as data on active transportation costs and benefits.
- Review AASHTO publications and messaging to ensure appropriate inclusion of active transportation.

Goal 3: Data: define voluntary systematic and consistent approaches to collecting, managing, analyzing and monitoring pedestrian and bicyclist safety, mobility, cost, facilities and system utilization data.

Collecting, managing, analyzing and monitoring this data will enable the Council and the state DOTs to achieve their safety goals (outlined in Goal #1) and inform active transportation investment decisions (outlined in Goal #2).

Strategy 3a: Identify data needs and gaps.

- Work with TRB and FHWA to conduct a literature review of reports, papers, and research needs statements by agencies and active transportation groups, both nationally and internationally, on the subject of active transportation facilities and usage data needs and gaps.
- Collect information about data needs and gaps from State Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinators and their partners (e.g., MPOs, localities, other State agencies).

Strategy 3b: Work with the states and appropriate Federal agencies to develop a State transportation department voluntary approach for collecting, validating, analyzing, and updating pedestrian and bicyclist data.

- Inform states about the FHWA USDOT Traffic Monitoring Analysis System (TMAS), a national repository of pedestrian and bicycle traffic volume data that is available for State, regional and local transportation agencies.
- Coordinate with FHWA and the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) to develop approaches.

Strategy 3c: Support the development of tools and resources to assist State, regional, and Federal agencies to collect, validate, manage, analyze and monitor active transportation related safety, mobility, facilities, cost (quantitative and qualitative), and system utilization data.

- Work with the Committee on Data Management and Analytics and the Committee on Safety to identify needed tools and resources.
- Work with AASHTO technical services programs, NCHRP, FHWA and other partners to support the development of these tools and resources.

Goal 4: Partnering, Publications, Research and Member Resources: within existing funding limitations or controls, support the appropriate inclusion of active transportation in transportation program and project development and delivery.

Active transportation safety and mobility should be considered across the full spectrum of state DOT functions, including planning, environment, design, construction, operations, and maintenance. Integrated decision making calls for effective partnerships with local, regional, and Tribal governments that own and operate much of the existing active transportation infrastructure.

Strategy 4a: Collaborate and coordinate with appropriate AASHTO committees on active transportation topics.

The ongoing work of several AASHTO groups cover topics related to active transportation. The Council can provide helpful input and coordination with committees/councils and initiatives, including:

- Council on Highways and Streets and Committee on Design
 - Engage in Green Book and the Low Volume Roads Book updates
 - Engage in Bicycle and Pedestrian Guide updates
 - Engage in additional appropriate publication updates
- Committee on Safety
 - Engage in updates to the Highway Safety Manual on inclusion of active transportation topics.
- Committee on Planning/Multimodal Task Force
 - Support the work of the Committee on Planning’s Multimodal Task Force
 - Work with the Committee on Planning to identify gaps that prevent people from accessing a complete, connected network for walking and bicycling.
 - Coordinate and assist with Task Force research on relevant priority topics
- Committee on Environment and Sustainability
 - Collaborate on topics related to health and transportation
- Center for Environmental Excellence
 - Partner on tasks and encourage the development of future resources and products

Strategy 4b: Ensure priority research needs are met.

- Develop priority research needs related to safety, data, communication, policy, network analysis, and other important active transportation topics; develop research statements and guide research statements through the various research funding programs.
- Work with other committees/councils to include active transportation needs in their research needs statements.
- Review AASHTO publications and identify areas of needed research for inclusion in future publication updates.

Strategy 4c: Seek Opportunities to support active transportation training, forums for knowledge transfer, and general capacity building for planners, engineers, and other transportation practitioners.

- Through NCHRP, AASHTO technical services programs and/or FHWA, develop web-based training and other tools for active transportation practitioners.
- Promote and encourage technology and knowledge transfer among State DOTs on active transportation topics.
- Collaborate with partners such as FHWA and AMPO on active transportation capacity building initiatives for transportation planners and engineers.

Strategy 4d: Communicate/coordinate with external stakeholders on active transportation activities.

- Coordinate with external stakeholders on active transportation topics.
- Build international knowledge and partnerships on active transportation.

Goal 5: Policy: provide policy leadership on active transportation.

The Council provides a multidisciplinary source of policy expertise on active transportation.

Strategy 5a: Lead AASHTO policy activities related to active transportation.

- Monitor and inform AASHTO members regarding development and adoption of key laws, regulations, and guidance related to active transportation.
- Review and provide input on proposed federal policies related to active transportation.
- Develop active transportation policy positions for the Transportation Policy Forum and Board of Directors consideration.
- Identify key policy areas and emerging issues related to active transportation and provide input to the Transportation Policy Forum on active transportation topics.

Goal 6: Technology: monitor and share information related to new technologies that may impact active transportation.

New technologies are changing the provision of transportation infrastructure and services across all modes. The committee will study how technology can be leveraged to improve decision making, increase safety, and/or enhance the user experience.

Strategy 6a: Monitor and evaluate the impacts of new technologies/business models on active transportation.

- Monitor the potential impacts of automation, automated vehicles, connected vehicles, electric bicycles, bike share, other personal mobility devices, mobility as a service, smart phone apps, drones and other technologies on active transportation.
- Monitor new technologies available to capture and analyze data and support decision making processes related to active transportation.
- Coordinate with the Committee on Transportation System Operations, the Committee on Planning and other AASHTO committees on new technologies and business models.
- Coordinate with other appropriate associations and stakeholders involved with new technologies and business models that may include consideration of bicyclists and pedestrians as part of planning and funding transportation infrastructure.
- Communicate information regarding significant new technologies and potential impacts to member states and provide a forum for discussion among the states.