

Pedestrian, Bicyclist, and Micromobilist Safety (PBM)

(PBM-01) Vulnerable Road User Safety: Examining Issues & Solutions

Deaths among pedestrians, bicyclists and other vulnerable road users have been on the rise in the U.S. for more than a decade. More troubling is the fact that the burden of these deaths is not shared equally, with American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Black people being overrepresented in traffic deaths. Many potential causes for this increase in deaths include speeding, vehicle size and design, and roadway design, among others. Learn about road safety trends with a focus on vulnerable road users, unpacking national data and exploring the risks that most significantly impact people who are walking and bicycling. Presenters will also offer solutions to these problems and propose ways that communities can begin reversing these trends.

(PBM-02) The Bigger the Better? Not So Much! Vehicle Size & Vulnerable Road User Safety

Research from NHTSA and GHSA has documented the role of vehicle size and weight in determining the likelihood of a pedestrian or bicyclist severe injury or death. With SUVs and trucks becoming more popular over the past decade, there is concern among road safety professionals about the impact of these vehicles on vulnerable road users. This panel will explore the issue of larger vehicles as it relates to safety for those traveling outside of motor vehicles: pedestrians, bicyclists, and micromobility users. Panelists will highlight compatibility issues, mechanisms of injury, and considerations for first responders, as well as current research and successful strategies for preventing crashes involving large vehicles and vulnerable road users.

(PBM-03) Older Population Pedestrian Safety - Addressing Challenges & Meeting Their Needs

One of the major concerns as people age is their loss of mobility, especially if they can no longer drive and lack access to safe places to walk and bike. Streets and sidewalks, intersections, and many other parts of the built environment are not often designed to the needs of older populations. This panel will discuss current research about the safety and mobility needs of older populations, as well as recommendations for making changes to the built environment and safety programs that protect older pedestrians.

(PBM-04) Engaging Underserved & Marginalized Adults

Though pedestrians and bicyclists are often discussed broadly as road users, there are many unique populations and groups who walk and bike that may be more vulnerable to crash impacts and outcomes. These are often underserved and marginalized populations who are not typically engaged in transportation decisions, yet may be more reliant upon non-motor vehicle travel than the population as a whole. This panel will discuss engagement with specific populations including unhoused people, individuals with disabilities, and those living on tribal lands to support goals to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety.

(PBM-05) Engaging & Improving Safety for Young Pedestrians

Many young people want or need to walk, bicycle or use transit. However, few transportation agencies take steps to engage with, listen to, and prioritize the needs of younger underserved and marginalized people. Furthermore, sharing safety messages and helping them develop skills for safe walking and bicycling can be promising ways to get youth more involved in road safety. Panelists will share their experience engaging with children and teens and offering strategies that other agencies and organizations can use to support safe, active travel for youth.

(PBM-06) Improving Network Connectivity, Access & Safety for Bicyclists

Developing safe, comfortable and connected bicycle networks is a top priority for many transportation agencies, especially in places where there is demand for more opportunities to take trips by bike. Electric bicycle (e-bikes), in particular, are enabling more people to incorporate bicycling into their everyday lives. Understanding the needs of all types of bicyclists is essential for making improvements to the transportation network that will allow users of all ages and abilities to take advantage of bicycling. Panelists will share success stories and tips for assessing network quality, making improvements, and enabling more people to access e-bikes for transportation.

(PBM-07) Improving Safety for E-scooter & Micromobility Users

E-scooters and other forms of low-speed micromobility devices are relative newcomers to the transportation systems in many parts of the country. Transportation agencies are often catching up when it comes to planning and designing for e-scooter users and may be unsure about how to safely accommodate them in the transportation network. Learn about findings from new and emerging research on e-scooter and micromobility users, as well as examples for planning and designing streets that meet the needs of people using these devices.

(PBM-08) Context Is Everything: Framing Road Safety in Media & Reporting

Media outlets offer transportation professionals an excellent platform for sharing information with the public about road safety. However, there has been a documented tendency in media reports following crash events to focus on individual behaviors, rather than systemic design or policy issues that may have contributed to crashes. Identify how to work with media to properly frame safety problems in a way that can help generate support for safety improvements, including how to work collaboratively with reporters and other media members to help advance safety goals.