About TRCLC
The Transportation Research Center for Livable Communities (TRCLC) aims to address the nation’s critical transportation challenges through the prism of livable communities. The TRCLC quarterly newsletter keeps you informed about past, present and upcoming center projects and activities and center-related news and performance assessments. Please distribute this newsletter widely within your local and regional transportation communities.

The TRCLC’s primary goal is to improve affordable and environmentally sustainable transportation options for conventionally underserved communities with special attention paid to non-motorized travel, pedestrian and bicycle safety, employment accessibility and ‘smart’ transport technologies.

TRCLC at 2014 TRB Conference
The Transportation Research Board (TRB) 93rd Annual Meeting was held in Washington, D.C. January of this year. Several TRCLC researchers participated in the more than 4,500 presentations, 800 sessions and workshops at the conference. We are extremely pleased that the winner of this year’s Patricia F. Waller Award as the most outstanding paper submitted to the Pedestrian Committee in 2013 was the Effects of High-Visibility Enforcement on Driver Compliance to Pedestrian Yield Right-of-Way Laws by TRCLC researcher Ronald Van Houten and co-authors Brad Huitema, Louis Malenfant and Richard Blomberg.
TRCLC at 2014 TRB Conference (cont.)

Other research papers presented at the meeting by TRCLC researchers include:

- “Establishing Performance Standards for Federally Funded Traffic Enforcement in Michigan” by Valerian Kwigizile, Jun-Seok Oh, and John Darrow
- “Cultural, Perceptual and Educational Factors on Non-Motorized Traffic Safety” by Matthew Clark, Jun-Seok Oh, Valerian Kwigizile, and Ron Van Houten
- “Effects of Rain on Traffic Operations on Florida Freeways” by Michelle Angel, Thobias Sando, Deo Chimba, and Valerian Kwigizile
- “Investigating Crash Frequency and Injury Severity at Freeway Weigh Stations in Michigan” by Fathi Alkhatni, Valerian Kwigizile, and Jun-Seok Oh
- “Safety Performance Functions for Partial Cloverleaf On-Ramp Loops for Michigan” by Elisha Wankogere, Valerian Kwigizile, and Jun-Seok Oh.

TRCLC Inaugural Meeting

In spite of the record cold and snow, we had a terrific showing for the TRCLC inaugural meeting at Western Michigan University’s (WMU) Fetzer Center 12 March 2014. WMU President John Dunn together with two invited speakers—Charlie Zegeer, Director of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) and Paul Wojciechowski, Senior Associate at Alta Planning and Design—made for an entertaining and educational event. Charlie Zegeer discussed “Pedestrian Safety around the World”, drawing from international research to show a wide range of context-sensitive pedestrian designs. Charlie also highlighted PBIC’s redesigned website (www.pedbikeinfo.org) and resources for transportation educators. Charlie recommended that all TRCLC universities establish a pedestrian and bicycle transportation course that focuses on experiential/service learning. Paul Wojciechowski drew from his 30 years of experience as a transportation planner and engineer to discuss the challenges associated with advancing complete streets policies and projects.
TRCLC Projects (Spring 2014)

By far the most challenging activity over the past several months has been the development, review and funding of research proposals. A total of 51 problem statements were submitted this past January by TRCLC researchers. These problem statements were then presented to the TRCLC Research Advisory Committee and ranked low, medium and high. Eighteen proposals were then submitted for funding consideration and subjected to a three-part ranking process. The initial ranking was established by external review such that each proposal was rated with regard to six criteria: (1) significance of the proposed research problem; (2) relevance of the proposed research to the Center’s theme, livable communities; (3) originality of the proposed research; (4) potential scientific contribution of the proposed research; (5) achievability of the proposed research; and (6) recommendation for funding. The final ranking was established by the Research Advisory Committee composed of local and regional transportation professionals. The final list of twelve funded selected projects, principal investigators and institution and associated funding amounts is provided below.

- Explorations into the Equity Dimensions of US Bicycle Sharing Systems (C. Scott Smith, WMU)—Project ID 14-1
- Developing Performances Measures to Capture the Effects of Transportation Facilities On Multiple Public Health Outcomes (Colleen Casey, UTA) —Project ID 14-2
- Developing Performances Measures to Capture the Effects of Transportation Facilities On Multiple Public Health Outcomes: A Case in Michigan (Jun Oh, WMU) —Project ID 14-3
- Conditions that Influence Drivers’ Yielding Behavior at Uncontrolled Crossings and Intersections with Traffic Signal Controls (Robert Emerson, WMU) —Project ID 14-4
- Development of Decision Support Tools to Assess Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety: Focus on Population, Demographic and Socio-economic Spectra (Deo Chimba, TSU) —Project ID 14-7
- Big Data Analytics to Aid Developing Livable Communities (Li Yang, WMU) —Project ID 14-8
- Alternatives for Providing a Safe Passage for Non-Motorized Traffic across an Existing Highway Bridge (Upul Attanayake, WMU)—Project ID 14-9
- Innovative Park-and-Ride Management for Livable Communities (Song, USU) —Project ID 14-10
- Travel in Adverse Winter Weather conditions by Blind Pedestrians (Kim, WMU). —Project ID 14-11
- Capacity Analysis of Pedestrian Facilities Involving Individuals with Disabilities (Keith Christensen, USU) —Project ID 14-12

In total, the TRCLC awarded $888,511 in funding. More information concerning the expected research, education, technology transfer and collaboration outcomes for all funded projects were sent to all principal investigators in addition to reporting guidelines.
TRCLC will be hosting its first conference in Kalamazoo, Michigan. This meeting will provide important opportunities for researchers to meet one another, discuss current projects and plan future proposals. The schedule for this meeting follows.

1. Registration (10:00 – 10:30)

2. Opening (10:30 – 10:40) – Jun-Seok Oh, Director of Transportation Research Center Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research, Western Michigan University

3. Session 1 (10:40 - 12:00) – People with Disability and Transportation Services Moderator: Dr. Richard Long, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Western Michigan University

4. Lunch (12:00 - 1:00)

5. Session 2 (1:00 – 2:20) – Health and Environmental Issues in Transportation Moderator: Scott Smith, Geography and Community and Regional Planning, Western Michigan University

6. Break (2:20 – 2:30)

7. Session 3 (2:30 – 3:50) – Non-motorized Transportation and Safety Moderator: Valerian Kwigizile, Civil and Construction Engineering, Western Michigan University

8. Closing (3:50 – 4:00)